



ADAPTATION
KNOWLEDGE
PLATFORM

E-COMMUNIQUÉ

Issue 1
January-May 2010

Highlights | p2

Activities at the
National level | p3

Collaborations
and Partnerships | p4

Invitation | p5

CCA Events &
Conferences | p6

CCA News | p6

CCA Information
& Knowledge
Products | p7

New Initiatives | p8

The e-communiqué is part of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Knowledge Platform for Asia's efforts to share its activities, topical climate change adaptation news and initiatives from Asia and the Pacific and beyond. The e-communiqué is a bi-monthly issue for those working and interested in climate change adaptation.

The first issue is a recap of happenings from January-May 2010.

The e-communiqué encourages you to share your activities, announcements, events and new initiatives. Please send your submissions to info@cliamteadapt.asia.

HIGHLIGHTS

Joint partnerships and way forward



Asia Pacific Adaptation Network Steering Committee Meeting Members and Participants

The Regional Climate Change Adaptation Knowledge Platform for Asia (Adaptation Knowledge Platform) deliberated on synergies and collaborations at the first Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (Adaptation Network) Steering Committee Meeting, held on 8-9 March in Bangkok, Thailand.

Adaptation Knowledge Platform is the sub-regional nodes for South and Southeast Asia for the Adaptation Network and have several joint knowledge management and communication activities like the bi-monthly learning & sharing seminars, the online portal-Climate change adaptation in Asia and the Pacific, and the Asia Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum, 21-22 October 2010, Bangkok, Thailand.

The Adaptation Network, part of the Global Adaptation Network, builds climate resilience of vulnerable human systems, ecosystems and economies through the mobilization of knowledge and technologies to support adaptation capacity building, policy setting, planning and practices. The Adaptation Network is facilitated by UNEP, Institute for Global Environment Strategies (IGES), United Nations Environment Programme Regional Resource Center for Asia and the Pacific (AIT/UNEP RRC.AP), Asian Development Bank (ADB) in partnership with other key actors in the region with support from the Ministry of Environment of Japan and the Swedish Environment Secretariat for Asia.

Adaptation Knowledge Platform Advisory Panel Meeting

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform for Asia held its first Advisory Panel Meeting on 10 March in Bangkok, Thailand. The distinguished Advisory Panel members include Prof. Masataka Watanabe, Dr.



Advisory Panel Members and Participants

Richard Welford, Chairman ASOEN, ASEAN, Dr. Louis Lebel, Dr. Saleemul Huq, Mr. George Varughese, Prof. Said Irandoust, Asian Development Bank, Ms. Christein Loh, SAARC, China Representative.

The panel members were informed about the progress made in 2009, the inception year of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform. Advice, suggestions and guidance were sought from panel members to fine tune planned activities for 2010-11 and to enhance the overall implementation approach on identified climate change adaptation research areas, knowledge generation, networking and outreach activities at national and regional levels.

Adaptation Knowledge Platform's Sharing & Learning Event

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform held the first of a series of bi-monthly Knowledge Sharing & Learning Seminars on 31 March in Bangkok, Thailand.

The seminar provided an informal setting that enabled over seventy adaptation, development and environment practitioners, and representatives of national, regional and international organizations from 38 organizations based in Bangkok, to meet, network, share and learn from discussions and debates.

The theme of the first seminar was Linkages between Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA). Ensuing deliberations with active participation from the floor focused on four guided questions:

- *What is the difference between CCA and DRR?*
- *Adaptation and DRR: two distinct communities?*
- *What are the arguments for stronger linkages?*
- *What is the way forward? How do we organize ourselves?*



The discussion was facilitated by Dr. Lisa Schipper, Stockholm Environment Institute, Asia Centre and Dr. Jerry Velasquez, UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, Bangkok.

The summary includes reflections from the discussion, covering linkages between CCA/DRR and ecosystem & development, complementarities between CCA and DRR, action points for CCA practitioners, DRR practitioners, Adaptation Knowledge Platform and way forward: data needs and information & data availability & communications. [More...](#)

ADAPTATION KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM ACTIVITIES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- **Establishing a National Climate Change Knowledge Management Platform in Nepal: A Brainstorming Workshop, Kathmandu, Nepal, 18 January**
Adaptation Knowledge Platform representatives actively participated in the brainstorming workshop on establishing a national climate change knowledge management platform in Nepal. The workshop brought together 90 representatives from government, media, civil society, international organizations, and development partners to conduct a cursory identification of knowledge gaps in adaptation planning and actions, to map the landscape of climate change knowledge generation and applications and to consult stakeholders on the design of the national climate change knowledge management platform in Nepal and the role of participating institutions.
- **Adaptation Knowledge Platform's research collaborations and initiatives, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 17-20 April**
The International Conference on 'Building a Collaborative Research Platform to Support the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan', and the launch of the International Center for Climate Change & Development (ICCCAD) was attended by the representatives of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform. Significant contributions on strengthening knowledge management will be made to the initiative -Action Research for Community Adaptation in Bangladesh (ARCAB) with various adaptation stakeholders.

- **Cambodia:** The Adaptation Knowledge Platform is in discussion for potential collaborations with the Cambodia Climate Change Alliance (CCCA) on coastal climate change adaptation and to address Climate Change and Disaster Risks in Cambodia. It aims to: i) enhance capacity of institutions/ ministries to preparing for and mitigate Climate Change risks, and ii) directly helping vulnerable communities by enhancing their resilience to Climate change and other natural hazards. The CCCA is anchored in the government's National Climate Change Committee (NCCC), and Climate Change Department (CCD) in the Ministry of Environment.

COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

- **International Expert meeting on DRR and Climate Change in Education and Sustainable Development context, Bangkok, Thailand, 17-19 February**
The Adaptation Knowledge Platform presented linkages between Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) at the UNESCO meeting that brought together participants from the Ministry of Education from countries in the region.
- **Fourth International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) to Climate Change in Africa, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, 21-27 February**
The CBA conference, attended by 200 international experts from over 20 countries shared lessons learnt, experiences, knowledge on community-based adaptation from Africa and other parts of the world. Dr. Satya Priya, senior Climate Change Coordinator of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform presented a paper on Weather Risk Insurance for Agriculture and chaired a session on Micro-Insurance. Ms. Roopa Rakshit presented the Knowledge management component of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform.
- **SENSA Annual Retreat, Chiang Mai, Thailand, 17-19 March**
The Adaptation Knowledge Platform attended the seventh SENSA annual retreat that examined the merits, regional solutions to the many environmental challenges in the region.
- **4th Micro Insurance Round Table (MiRT) Meeting, Singapore, 6-10 April**
Dr. Satya Priya attended the MiRT Meeting that was jointly organized by Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore and Risk Management Solutions (RMS), Inc., California, USA. The meeting discussed linkages and integration of micro-insurance and the lower groups of the income pyramid in the developing countries.
- **International Symposium on Coastal Zones and Climate Change: Assessing the impacts and developing strategies, Melbourne, Australia, 11-15 April**
Adaptation Knowledge Platform representative attended the symposium which addressed topical and challenging issues related to coastal zone management and climate change, shared knowledge and expertise in comprehensive impact assessment of climate change in coastal zones.
- **Exploring synergies, New Delhi, India, 21-28 April**
Possibilities of working with Disaster Management Dept, Govt. of Bihar in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation were explored by the Adaptation Knowledge Platform. In Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, deliberations were made on Climate Change Action in Semi-arid areas in a workshop held on 27-28 April, Bundelkhand. In Delhi, bilateral meetings with Development Alternatives and Ministry of Environment and Forest, Govt. of India were held to explore possible collaboration in the area of climate change adaptation.



INVITATION

The Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum
21-22 October 2010, Bangkok, Thailand

Core Organizers
The Adaptation Forum is organized by the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Knowledge Platform for Asia (Adaptation Knowledge Platform) and the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (Adaptation Network).

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform responds to the demand for effective mechanisms for sharing information on climate change adaptation and developing adaptive capacities in Asian countries. The Institute supports research and capacity building, policy-making and information dissemination, governance, management and implementation activities. The Adaptation Knowledge Platform has been jointly established by the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), the National Institute of Environmental Studies (NIES), the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

The Adaptation Network part of the Global Adaptation Network aims to build climate resilience of vulnerable human systems, ecosystems and ecosystems through the combination of knowledge and technologies to support adaptation capacity building, policy-making and practice. The Adaptation Network activities will be undertaken by its regional hubs, sub-regional nodes and partner institutions in the Asia Pacific region. The Adaptation Network is facilitated by UNEP Institute for Global Environmental Research (IGER), AIT/UNEP JUSCALI Asia Development Bank (ADB) in partnership with other key actors in the region.

Contact
Adaptation Forum 2010 Secretariat
Room 401, 10th Floor, 1000
Ratchaprasong Road, Bangkok 10500, Thailand
Tel: +66 2 524 5366/5367 Email: adaptationforum@ait.ac.th

First Announcement
Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum 2010

MAINSTREAMING ADAPTATION INTO DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

21-22 October 2010
Bangkok, Thailand

Why will:

- Stimulate regional knowledge sharing and facilitate networking among participants to maximize synergy;
- Add value to existing country/regional level knowledge platforms and activities to enhance and support cooperation and coordination;
- Link local level adaptation initiatives with those at national and regional level.

The Target Group
The Adaptation Forum aims at gathering 200-300 adaptation practitioners at regional, national and sub-national level. These could include government representatives from regional level ministries, researchers, practitioners, NGOs, international organizations, regional level agencies connected to development and the private sector.

Partnership
The Adaptation Forum is currently seeking collaboration with partners to help organize and run various parallel thematic sessions. Partners interested in supporting and co-organizing the Adaptation Forum are invited to contact us.

You are warmly invited to the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum (Adaptation Forum 2010), 21 & 22 October, Bangkok, Thailand. Appreciate the continued interest.

The Adaptation Forum 2010 will provide opportunity to share practices, knowledge and experiences on mainstreaming adaptation to climate change into development planning in Asia and the Pacific.

The event presents a venue through which tools and mechanisms that support the process of adapting to climate change and current findings from frontline development and adaptation challenges can be showcased.

The participatory format of the Adaptation Forum 2010 will include plenary and keynote sessions, panel discussions, business roundtables, thematic side events, market place, photo & poster exhibitions and film festival. The sessions will be facilitated by eminent climate scientists, adaptation experts and development planners from the region.

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- Add value to existing country/regional level knowledge platforms and activities to enhance and support cooperation and coordination;
- Link local level adaptation initiatives with those at national and regional level.

For details on e-registration, agenda, side events, market place, pls visit the Adaptation Forum 2010 Website www.asiapacificadapt.net/adaptationforum2010

CCA Events & Conferences

Symposium on Sustainable Water Resource Management and Climate Change Adaptation, 16-17 June 2010, Nakhon Pathom, Nakhon Pathom, Thailand

This symposium served as a trigger for Thai academic stage in which the academic persons, researchers, authorized officers or students can exchange ideas, knowledge, experience and skills to handle sustainable water resources management. Organized by: Nakhon Pathom Rajabhat University, Thailand and Department of Geohydraulic and Engineering Hydrology, The University of Kassel, Germany.

International Conference Workshop on Livelihood and Health Impacts of the Climate Change: Community Adaptation Strategies, 24-25 August 2010, Khon Kaen, Thailand

This event will tackle the impact of current and future climate change on community livelihood and health. The conference invites international and regional experts/organizations to deliver and exchange their vision and expertise, research results and field experiences on current climate change, its assessment and adaptation strategies, tools and methods. Contact: Yanyong Inmuong, Contact: Yanyong Inmuong, yanyong@kku.ac.th



International Symposium: Benefiting from Earth Observation-Bridging the Data Gap for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region, 4-6 October 2010, Kathmandu, Nepal. For inquiries please send email to symposium2010@icimod.org

Strategic Planning of Climate Change Adaptation 2-6 August 2010, Dhurakij Pundit University (DPU), Bangkok, Thailand

The workshop is aimed to establish a systematic national framework of the causal chains between

climate change, ecosystem responses, socio-economic impacts, and management options.

CCA News

Adaptation fund ready to start disbursing money: The Adaptation Fund is ready to disburse money to support concrete projects in developing countries to cope with and prepare for the impacts of climate change. Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, said he thought it “extremely positive and encouraging” that the Adaptation Fund is up and running. “However, USD 53 million is far too little, and I urge developed countries to start to deploy the USD 30 billion in fast-track finance that they committed in Copenhagen to fund urgent developing country climate action up to 2012”.

Thimphu statement on climate change: The Sixteenth Meeting of the Heads of State or Government of the Member States of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in Thimphu, Bhutan, on 28-29 April 2010.

GMA says Filipinos must fight climate change: Manila, Philippines-President Arroyo said that Filipinos must fight climate change because the Philippines is one of the countries most vulnerable to natural disasters. Arroyo said the Philippine government has completed a Climate Change Framework that contains adaptation and mitigation measures against climate.

Agro biodiversity key to adaptation: “The Use of Agro biodiversity by Indigenous and Traditional Agricultural Communities in Adapting to Climate Change”, put together by a consortium of researchers, farmers and policy-makers united as the Platform for Agro biodiversity Research, provides examples from all over the developing world.

CCA Information & Knowledge Products

Report from the Climate Change Adaptation Programme of Global Cities Research Institute at RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia.

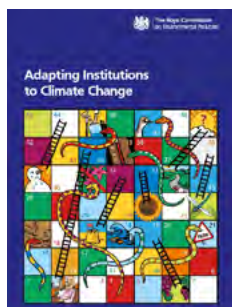
Report: Adapting to Climate Change: A Call for Federal Leadership:



The report examines the role of U.S. federal government in reducing the climate vulnerability and strengthening the resilience of its economy. In so doing, it highlights many adaptation actions that have been taken in other nations (e.g., Australia, UK).

Report: Adapting Institutions to Climate Change – Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (RCEP), UK:

The report explores the challenges facing institutions in adapting to climate change by examining existing institutional arrangements in UK for three exemplar areas: freshwater, biodiversity and nature conservation, and coastal zones.



Technical Primer: Climate Change in the Philippines

The report discusses what is expected to happen in the Philippines as climate change progresses, and what appropriate courses of action must be taken to address its adverse effects. In the context of the Philippines, the report addresses: (i) the direct effects of climate change, such as sea level rise, rainfall, public health; and (ii) responding to climate change, including adaptation, responsibility, strategic roles.

Paper: Behavioral Adaptation and the Use of Environmental Controls:

The paper investigates the possible linkage between the use of controls and the thermal comfort of occupants of apartments in Hyderabad, India. It analyses (1) the use of various personal environmental controls, (2) the behavioral adaptation methods undertaken, and

(3) the hindrances faced by the occupants in their adaptation efforts.

Proceedings: Exploring Linkages between Adaptation & Development: Climate Change Adaptation: Enabling People Living in Poverty to Adapt:

The report draws on case studies from around the world. It sets out what is needed to enable people living in poverty to adapt to climate change, and a range of interventions that are available.



Publication: Community-based adaptation to climate change:

This special issue focuses on recent approaches to climate change adaptation which are community-based and participatory, building on the priorities, knowledge, and capacities of local people. It discusses how community-based approaches (CBA) to climate change have emerged, and the similarities and differences between CBA and other participatory development and disaster risk reduction approaches.



No Trust Without Respect: Adaptation Quick Start Funding at the Cross Roads.

Policy Brief on Water Storage and Climate Change Adaptation:

The report highlights a spectrum of water storage options, including groundwater, soil moisture, tanks, ponds and reservoirs. It outlines the risks from climate change facing each of these options and calls for developing flexible and complementary water storage systems. The report notes that water storage is only one of many components in adapting agriculture to climate change.

Disaster Risk Reduction for Climate Change Adaptation as Strategic Objective:

The UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Secretariat (UN/ISDR) has released its 2010-2011 "Biennial Work Programme: Invest Today for a Safer Tomorrow," which includes the acceptance and application of disaster risk reduction for climate change adaptation as one of its four strategic objectives.

New Initiatives

Climate and Development Knowledge Network

The Climate and Development Knowledge Network aims to help decision-makers in developing countries design and deliver climate compatible development. We will do this by providing demanded research and technical assistance, and channeling the best available knowledge on climate change and development to support policy processes at the country level. The Climate and Development Knowledge Network is a new initiative designed to support developing countries in tackling the challenges posed by climate change. It was launched on 11 March 2010 by the UK government. <http://www.cdknetwork.net/>

Sumernet (the Sustainable Mekong Research Network) is a programme intended to build a long-term research network that informs and influences policy development on sustainable development issues in the Mekong region. The first phase of the programme was launched in 2005 with support from the Swedish Government and currently the programme is in its 3 years second phase (2010-2012). For more information please contact Sumernet Secretariat based at Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI-Asia) or visit <http://www.sumernet.org>

Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) is implementing a project entitled "Adaptive Capacities to the Impact of Climate Change in Resources-poor Small Scale Aquaculture and Aquatic Resources-Dependent Sector in South and South east Asian Region. <http://www.enaca.org/>

New Website: Southeast Asia Network of Climate Change Focal Points



Brown University's professional development initiative:

Brown International Advanced Research Institutes (BIARI) new program is designed to provide professional development opportunities for young faculty in the early stages of their research and teaching careers in Climate Change and Its Impacts: Resilience and Adaptation to Changes in Precipitation from June 13 - June 26 2010. Major themes will include regional variations in changes to the hydrologic cycle; resilience of existing ecological, agricultural, economic and social systems to likely changes; the potential of CDM and REDD to increase the resilience of these systems; and what can be learned from one region to inform effective design of adaptation policies in other regions. http://brown.edu/Administration/International_Affairs/initiative/2010climateandwater.html

Concept note - Regional Institutional and Policy Mapping for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation, for use at the 4th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction October 2010, Incheon, Republic of Korea.

Template to collect information: Institutional and Policy Landscape on DRR and CCA in Asia and Pacific region. For more information, pls contact Jerry Velasquez at velasquezg@un.org.

Secretariat

AdaptationKnowledgePlatform

AIT/UNEP Regional Resource Center for Asia & the Pacific
Outreach Building, P.O. Box 4, Klong Luang
Pathumthani 12120, Thailand
Tel: +662 524 5386 / 5384; Email: info@climateadapt.asia
www.asiapacificadapt.net