Proceedings

Asia-Pacific Climate Security (APCS) Project

International Symposium on Climate Security in Asia-Pacific

8 February, 2024 in Tokyo, Japan

IGES Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

Climate Security

Concept

As the climate crisis worsens, the nexus between security considerations and climate is attracting both policy and academic attention. Despite its socio-political importance, the significance of considering climate change from a security and diplomatic perspective has not yet been fully explored in the policy arena and on-the-ground actions. The interwoven nature of this nexus demands that policymakers be equipped with informed decision-making approaches to shape efficient policies.

Against this background, the Asia-Pacific Climate Security (APCS) project, a new initiative of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, has been established to investigate how we can and should utilise multiple security approaches in responding to climate change-induced uncertainties. This research project deals with some of the key thematic areas that interconnect with climate security, such as energy security, food security, climate-induced mobilities, climate change adaptation and maritime security. Such an integrated approach is crucial because climate change is an extremely cross-disciplinary issue, and it is essential to be aware of the linkages among the various fields in order to develop efficient responses.

IGES has organised an international symposium on climate security in Asia-Pacific to mark the launch of this initiative. Through interactive discussions with experts from Japan and abroad, it aims to strengthen the understanding of the necessary interventions needed in this dynamic policy area and to design research directions on how to respond to these challenges. In addition, this symposium facilitated discussions on the current issues within each of the key themes mentioned above and unravel the complex dynamics among them. For that, following the plenary session, which introduces the issue, three thematic sessions are planned to facilitate discussions on the overarching issues: resource diplomacy, climate security and geopolitics; migration, food and human security, and risks mitigation; ocean policy and maritime governance. Through these discussions, we aimed to gain insight into the relationship between climate change and security and possible policy responses.

Please refer to the website below for the program of the day, recordings, and some of the report materials. This proceedings summarizes the discussions to the main points.

https://www.iges.or.jp/en/events/20240208

IGES Institute for Global Environmental Strategies | Climate Security

Opening Remarks

Tsuyoshi Kawakami

Acting Managing Director, IGES

Together with our partner - the Institute for Future Initiatives of the University of Tokyo, IGES has organized this international symposium to mark the launch of the Asia-Pacific Climate Security Project. APCS aims to bring about a better understanding of the interventions needed in this dynamic policy area. This symposium gathers together researchers and practitioners from all over the world to encourage productive discussion on climate security in Japan and the Asia-Pacific region.

He shared his hope that participants at the symposium would discuss the challenges faced by the various interconnected topics, working to design research directions on how to respond to these challenges and unravel the complex dynamics among them.

Ichiro Sakata

Deputy Director, Institute for Future Initiatives and Special Advisor to the President of The University of Tokyo

The Institute for Future Initiatives (IFI) aims to improve society with stakeholders, which is unique among institutions in the University of Tokyo. It strives to connect the University of Tokyo with various stakeholders by taking an acceleration function to strengthen our efforts to address social issues.

The term nexus is the keyword for this symposium. IFI is aware of the nexus between academia and society. He shared his belief that the nexus between climate change and security is one of the most anticipated topics in society today, and concluded by wishing for the great success of the symposium.

Plenary: Climate Security Risks in Asia-Pacific

Hideshi Tokuchi

President, Research Institute for Peace and Security (RIPS)

Keynote speech: On Climate Security Risks in the Asia-Pacific

He underlined some of the key issues that should be kept in mind when debating climate security in the Asia-Pacific. He gave a summary of four points. First, geopolitical consideration occupies the mind of policy makers and practitioners involved in national security in some parts of the world including in Northeast Asia. This region, particularly Northeast Asia, is more of an inter-national society of sovereign states rather than of a global society without national borders. This region is at the forefront of intense rivalry of great powers.

Second, there is a lack of shared, region-wide understanding about climate security. For example, Japan is interested in natural disaster management for earthquakes, and in resilience building regardless of any relations with climate change. On the other hand, Japan has not experienced environmental immigration, and thus, it is difficult for the Japanese people to imagine a large number of displaced refugees flowing into Japan as a result of climate change. Lack of a regionwide holistic understanding of the entire security issues related to climate change would undermine promotion of climate security.

Third, there is a need for a whole-of-government approach for cooperation among relevant stakeholders. Climate security is not just a reduction of greenhouse gases, but it also responds to adaptation efforts combined with military security and others.

Finally, consideration should be given to the credibility of scientific knowledge. It is the basis of the entire efforts for climate security. Climate change and other environmental issues are often viewed as favourite agenda items for “liberals” and they are not favoured by the “conservatives,” but action against climate change is not a leftist movement or any other political movement in disguise.

Panel Discussion

Moderator

Naoyuki Okano

Policy researcher, Adaptation and Water Area, IGES

Guiding question 1: *What are the climate security risks you think are essential? Are there any particular risks and challenges for the Asia-Pacific region? And what kinds of policies and interventions are needed to mitigate such climate security risks?*

Lukas Rüttinger

Senior Advisor, Climate Diplomacy and Security Programme, adelphi

Over the past 10-20 years, our understanding of the links between climate and conflict has improved significantly. We can understand what the specific links are, and identify the context of the insecurity. In Asia-Pacific, there is a range of climate-related security risks that vary depending on the context. We can for example identify longer-term impacts of disasters and undermining the legitimacy contributing to political instabilty. Other examples include resource extraction and security risks, the role of land, risks in fishery, and risks in small islands. Addressing gender-based risks is also important. Scaling up technical, political and social adaptation, and addressing multi-dimensional climate-related security risks is important through adapting to a whole-of-government approach.

Yasuko Kameyama

Professor, Sustainable Society Design Center, Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, The University of Tokyo

Climate change and national security are essential. We see fewer cases of national security being threatened by climate change in Asia-Pacific than in other parts of the world. However, if global warming continues, countries close to the equator will be affected more, and people might be forced to migrate. There is also concern about the speed of warming across the world, and that this might become a threat. Because of migration, shutting down borders might also be a serious threat to security.

Hideshi Tokuchi

A decade ago, a political leader from the US said that the most serious security challenge in Asia-Pacific is climate change. That leader was correct in that climate change did indeed bring insecurity to this region. Holistic approaches to address climate change and promote scientific knowledge are important to gain public attention.

Michael Mehling

Deputy Director, Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Energy security is an important topic in the discussion, and he mentioned that there are efforts and cooperation on energy transition deploying heavy industrial policies. Green technology is being rapidly developed and there are efforts to cooperate, but the US and EU are having trouble on deciding how to make industry “green”. Consideration on industrial transition is also important, particularly in the defence industry.

Tomokazu Serizawa

Climate Security Specialist, Crisis Bureau, UNDP

The human security dimension is important, along with national and international security. Six Asian countries are among the top 10 countries that are most vulnerable to climate risks. Factors contributing to climate-induced vulnerabilities and insecurity in Asia and the Pacific are large populations/high population densities, long coastlines, low-lying islands, melting Himalayan glaciers and so on. UN Climate Security Mechanism (CSM) aims to strengthen the capacity of the UN on climate security and also to expand advocacy to stakeholders.

Guiding question 2: *How can climate security research contribute to national, regional and international security policies and actions? How can researchers contribute to the international climate change and security debates?*

Tomokazu Serizawa

The UN Security Council recognised that there needs to be more evidence on the causal relations between climate changes and security. Several institutes in the Asia-Pacific have already published reports on climate security, but of the volume of the researches in Asia and the Pacific still lags behind Africa and the Middle East.

He proposed that the following policies and actions be complemented and strengthened by further research on climate security: national development and security strategies as well as NDCs and NAPs to include climate security lenses, a climate security forecasting model, and development of climate security risk indicators.

Michael Mehling

For the research to be effective, it has to be close to policymaking, which is very challenging. Research also has to reach out to the Global South in order to be meaningful.

Hideshi Tokuchi

National security policymakers should pay more attention to the climate security trends of the international community. The scarcity of systemic research on climate security is affecting policy in Japan.

Yasuko Kameyama

To increase people's awareness, it is important to inform them that climate change is related to security issues. A symposium like this is a positive occasion for that, and this project should enhance the understanding of the general public in relation to this issue.

Lukas Rüttinger

It is important to address the research gap at the regional level in the Asia-Pacific region, but research at the national and local level is also important. Policies must be made together with the national government and regional organisations. This research must also be action-oriented. He also mentioned that we must address other environmental issues, such as biodiversity, along with climate change.

Thematic Discussion 1: Climate Security, Resource Diplomacy and Geopolitics

Moderator

Kentaro Tamura

Programme Director, Climate and Energy Area, IGES

He pointed out that the session focuses on three interconnected themes, viz, climate mitigation, resource diplomacy, and geopolitics, recognising their close association. Global decarbonisation efforts signal a significant shift away from fossil fuels. These changes pose a new set of challenges to energy and economic security, resonating with geopolitical tensions. Understanding these complexities is crucial for Asian countries, including Japan.

Jane Nakano

Senior Fellow, Energy Security and Climate Change Program, Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS)

She stressed that rapidly reducing greenhouse gas emissions is vital, and that clean energy technologies like wind and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles are essential, with growing attention to clean energy vehicles globally. However, the transition is mineral intensive. Clean energy technology demands minerals like lithium and cobalt, with supply chain risks and hence securing competitively priced resources is crucial for transition to clean energy. She also highlighted that the US focuses on diversifying supply chains through domestic mining and processing, aided by international cooperation. Its resource diplomacy engages mineral-rich countries, emphasising environmental sustainability and governance.

Kapil Narula

Senior Analyst, International cooperation , Climate Champions Team

He reiterated that climate change poses increasing risks, affecting both short and long-term horizons, leading to economic instability and national security concerns. This has prompted a shift towards renewable energy, with countries like Japan, China and India setting net-zero goals. However, despite increased investment in low-carbon technologies, fossil fuel supply investment still outpaces clean energy investment. Geopolitical power dynamics are shifting, with oil importers gaining influence while fossil fuel exporters face diminishing global significance. Moreover, competition for critical minerals intensifies, leading to fragmented global relations and trade barriers. Despite these challenges, international cooperation initiatives like the Breakthrough Agenda offer hope for sustainable solutions and cleaner energy technologies.

Nanda Kumar Janardhanan

Deputy Director, Climate and Energy Area / South Asia Regional Coordinator, Strategic Management Office, IGES

He pointed out that the urgency of climate change is alarming, with studies showing we are surpassing temperature goals faster than expected, necessitating a swift transition. This shift brings new dimensions to geopolitics, especially regarding critical minerals required for climate policies. Challenges arise from environmental and social impacts of resource extraction, technology access and financial flows. Asia faces the challenge of adapting to this evolving landscape, emphasising diversification of energy resources and collaboration on renewable technologies. Overcoming geopolitical differences is crucial for joint development efforts. He stated that Japan must envision a future considering its energy limitations and foster regional partnerships for a sustainable Asian future.

Key Messages:

- **The discussions delved into the urgent imperative of rapid decarbonisation alongside the escalating demand for critical minerals vital for clean energy technologies. The discussions touched on multiple themes, including the interplay of climate change, energy security and geopolitics, nuanced discussions on resource diplomacy, and the implications of climate action on international cooperation and resource governance.**

- **The speakers highlighted energy security, geopolitics, resource diplomacy and ESG considerations as critical points that demand global collaboration to mitigate the escalating physical and transitional risks associated with climate change. In discussing the Asian context, discussions pointed out that multilateral cooperation is pivotal, particularly to address burgeoning economic development and the surging need for resources in the backdrop of population expansion. The role of technology and resource diplomacy in curtailing environmental footprints, with various pathways proposed to tackle regional challenges effectively also emerged in the discussions. The speakers pointed out that unlike conventional resource diplomacy which was largely built to secure the fossil fuel sector, future resource diplomacy will need to consider the role of technology and critical minerals being at the centre of geopolitics.**

- **Additionally, discussions examined strategies for climate change mitigation in Asia, spotlighting the importance of policy integration and regenerative measures. The speakers underscored the significance of recalibrating energy policies to treat resources as common assets and promote joint technological development. Countries will also need to leverage on their competitive advantage to jointly address the challenges concerning scarcity of resources.**

- **A notable action item arising from these discussions is the need to strengthen Japan's international partnerships to facilitate resource diplomacy and establish transparent governance mechanisms. This in turn would support cleaner energy development and help address climate security concerns. Additionally, speakers also pointed out the need for Japan to leverage its innovation and technology prowess in fostering resource diplomacy and building cooperation in the energy sector.**

Thematic Discussion 2: Migration, Food and Human Security, and Risks Mitigation

Moderator

Nazia Hussain

Assistant Professor, Institute for Future Initiatives, The University of Tokyo

Nagisa Shiiba

Policy Researcher, Adaptation and Water Area, IGES

She started with an observation on the way the word “climate security” has been used: to attract political attention to climate actions, to involve security-related sectors into climate actions, to understand impacts more comprehensively, and so on.

She quoted a statement by the World Bank that “By 2050, 216 million people could move within their countries due to climate change”. Regarding the scope of climate mobility, she explained that it can be categorised in various types, such

as temporal, long-term, cross-border, internal, voluntary, and forced. She also pointed out the trigger of migration can be sudden-onset such as floods and cyclones, or slow-onset such as sea-level rise and degradation of soils.

The reason why climate mobility is seen as a security threat is because it can affect different levels of entities from local, national, regional and international. For example, the Pacific countries tend to suffer from institutional and social fragility due to being prone to sea-level rise, and historical experience of migration. The Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility was adopted last year at the Pacific Island Forum 2023, where discussions were held on how to achieve climate security following migration in the Pacific area.

She then explained that adaptation solutions can be 1) cross-border migration with dignity which include human rights protection and legal support, 2) well-designed planned relocation with livelihood rehabilitation. and 3) displacement risk reduction.

Her team on Human Mobility in the APCS project focuses on the process of planned relocation to investigate factors of stability and instability in relocated communities, and with a field trip to Vunidogoloa village in Fiji planned for March 2024.

She reported that Pacific leaders tend to present climate change as an issue of security, and they usually focus more on climate mobility because climate change can be and is a part of motivation for Pacific islanders to migrate across borders. Therefore, actions and commitments from the international community should not be undervalued.

Kei Kurushima

Policy Researcher, Adaptation and Water Area, IGES

She first acknowledged that climate change is the major threat to food security, and explained the four dimensions of food security, which are food availability, access, utilisation and stability,as per the definition of food security by FAO and WFP. She then stressed that it is important to look at food security from the viewpoint of the whole food system “Farm to Fork”.

However, it is equally important to pay attention to external factors contributing to food insecurity as we have seen disruptions due to COVID-19 and the Ukraine war, which have disproportionately affected the Asia-Pacific region. It is vital to adapt to external factors including rising inequality, climate change and demographic change. Furthermore, climate change can contribute to temperature rises, changes in precipitation patterns, and greater frequency of extreme events.

The Food Security team in the APCS project focuses on non-biophysical aspects of food security with a political approach. The team focuses on three topics: Land Security, Water Security and International Norm-making of Food Systems. She mentioned that she is in charge of land security, and investigates how land security is connected with climate security.

She carries out qualitative research with a particular focus on land insecurity in Thailand. One case study shows a community where villagers cannot make a living producing corn without private ownership of land, which requires purchasing pesticide, with any profits being made by large food processing companies. Her research deals with the phenomenon called “land tenure dualism”, which is characterised by divergence between the land system and the actual land use. In other words, it is a situation where a piece of land is used by local farmers but owned by the state, putting the local farmers in a vulnerable position. State-owned lands include community forests and agricultural lands, which are impacted not just directly by climate change but also by shifts in land use resulting from climate change and climate politics. She would like to start research at the local level, then expand to the national level and international level.

Ako Muto

Specially Appointed Research Fellow, JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development

She introduced the theory of adaptive peacebuilding, based on the chapter written by Cedric de Coning, Research Professor at the Norwegian Institute for International Affairs, from the book “Adaptive Peacebuilding: A New Approach to Sustaining Peace in the 21st Century” published by Springer Nature, which she co-edited. Adaptive peacebuilding is based on the premise that the desire for peace comes from within conflict-affected societies, and encourages the engagement of civil society leaders and grassroots citizens as well as parties to conflict in a variety of contexts.

Adaptive peacebuilding has multidimensional aspects: goal-oriented and problem solving; simultaneous implementation; variety of initiatives; selection; and iterative. The book explores the concept of adaptive peacebuilding through a series of case studies in Syria, which she is the author, Palestine, Colombia, Mozambique, Timor-Leste, China’s peacebuilding approach in South Sudan, and Japan’s peacebuilding approach in the Philippines. The case studies show that pathways to conflict resolution are diverse.

Adaptive peacebuilding is supported by the theory of complexity which presumes that improvement of the social system is not linear, and small and large changes will happen in the process of programming. The case studies in this book implied that peace and security programmes function better by facilitation than by control. How adaptive peacebuilding approaches can be helpful to enhance human security in the context of climate change is yet to be explored.

The adaptive peacebuilding practices identified in this book suggest we should embrace diverse perspectives on peace and encourage constructive competition. Adaptive peacebuilding also focuses on building self-organising social institutions and networks while respecting the limits of external knowledge and avoiding imposing solutions.

Panel Discussion

Hussain asked a question on what can be done to increase collaboration and partnerships. In response, Kurushima mentioned that the keyword is “local” because local government plays an important role in bridging the national government and the community. Also, it is important for the local government to translate national and international policies into local contexts and explain them to local communities. In order to do so, capacity development of local governments is important, and NGOs and other actors can providef support. Shiiba pointed out that climate refugees are not covered by the current refugee convention. International partnerships can play a crucial role to share experience and knowledge in dealing with climate-induced migration. Bilateral agreements of migration among some countries in the Pacific are good examples.

Okano raised a question on how the transition from traditional peacebuilding to adaptive peacebuilding is considered to happen and what can be the challenges to integrate climate change into peacebuilding.

Muto responded that a shift to adaptive peacebuilding could come from a critical examination of traditional peacebuilding while some conflicts continue to remain unresolved. Adaptive peacebuilding tries to support the UN’s agenda to shift peacebuilding more localised and adaptive to the context at a practical level. It is difficult to mainstream climate change in peacebuilding during times of conflict, but international cooperation can do a lot for the environment at the preventive stage of a conflict. Alternatively, it could be possible to incorporate the climate change aspect into a ceasefire agreement or development plan after the conflict has been resolved.

Key Messages:

- **In the Pacific islands, climate change is considered as a security issue, and human mobility induced by climate change needs to be addressed according to each situation whether short-term or long-term, crossborder or internal etc.**

- **Climate change is a major threat to food security, and a case study from Thailand shows that "land tenure dualism" is putting communities in a vulnerable position in adapting to climate change and securing their food production and livelihoods.**

- **An adaptive peacebuilding perspective can promote the integration of climate change elements into peacebuilding and international cooperation, and offer localised approaches for each context.**




Thematic Discussion 3: Ocean Policy and Maritime Governance

Moderator

Miko Maekawa

Senior Research Fellow, Asia and Middle East Program - Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF)

She explained that the focus of the session was on ocean policy and maritime governance. She introduced the issue that, due to climate change, more competition is expected over the use of common space in the ocean, ranging from shipping to natural resource extraction. She also pointed out that currently about 40% of the world's population lives within 100 kilometres of the coast, and coastal areas are at the frontline of increasing risks posed by climate change, including sea-level rise, flooding in low-lying areas and erosion. She discussed that ocean and maritime sectors can also provide solutions for climate change mitigation, adaptation and cooperation among countries for enhancing security.

Kazumine Akimoto

Special Research Fellow, Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI) - Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF)

He discussed the implications of the warming of the Arctic Ocean in terms of geopolitics in the Asia-Pacific region. He underlined that the security environment of the Asia-Pacific region is bound to change dramatically with the progressive melting of Arctic sea ice. As melting accelerates, the Arctic Ocean becomes a new maritime corridor that connects the world's oceans. By using the Arctic sea route, all major world sea lanes are uninterruptedly connected. A vessel could circumnavigate the seas around the Euro-Africa Continent and the American Continent endlessly like the Mebious Loop. Japan advocates the vision of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific. Considering the world security environment under the Free and Open Indo-Pacific vision, a geopolitical pivot, namely the new Heartland may emerge in the Asia-Pacific region. If the Arctic Ocean is well secured, the Arctic Maritime Corridor will bring prosperous and well-shaped governance to the Asia-Pacific. Conversely, the Arctic Ocean could become a corridor to bring another new security threat into the Asia-Pacific. In view of accelerating global warming and melting Arctic sea ice, security cooperation between Europe and Asia-Pacific through the Arctic Maritime Corridor is likely to become increasingly important.

Gabriel Dominguez Cespedes

Asia Correspondent / Defense Editor, The Japan Times

He discussed how to factor climate change into defence policy and explained what the stakes are . He underlined that climate change is not only impacting weather events but also affecting the global geopolitical landscape. He delved into the issue of how Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) can be affected by climate change. Storm surges, flooding, and scorching temperatures — climate change will bring more of all these phenomena to Japan, endangering military sites, personnel and gear, but also putting Tokyo and the Indo-Pacific at greater risk of geopolitical shocks. The more the SDF responds to natural disasters, whether in Japan or abroad, the greater the toll this will take on personnel and resources that would otherwise be needed for national defence. Japan's current strategy in response to this is to place heavy emphasis on innovation and energy development, setting a target to "research, develop, manufacture and procure" alternative fuels in Japan. Another important step was the revised National Defense Strategy to improve the sustainability and resilience of the country's defence facilities within a 10-year period. However, he stated that

these strategies are not enough, and further approaches are needed, such as ensuring budget increases or updates of installations, such as building energy infrastructure to power future military needs, and developing new sources of fuel.

Fabrizio Bozzato

Senior Research Fellow, Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI) - Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF)

He addressed the intertwined issues of climate change and asymmetrical security faced by Pacific Island nations. Due to their shared geographical characteristics, these nations share vulnerabilities to the environmental and societal impacts of climate change.

He highlighted various direct security impacts, including reduced access to fresh water, disruptions to local food supplies, and damage to coastal infrastructure. He stressed that climate-related sea level rise poses an existential threat, particularly for atoll island nations. Regional security in the Pacific is viewed through the lens of climate security, as emphasized by the Boe Declaration on Regional Security in 2018.

In terms of politics and diplomacy, Pacific diplomacy is often characterized by the “Pacific way,” emphasizing the importance of sharing diplomatic resources and associations among small island administrations.

He also introduced the concept of ecopoetics - which involves poetically addressing ecological processes, crises, and transformations - as a means of holistic engagement with environmental issues.

In conclusion, he emphasized the necessity of sustained commitment from external partners, such as Japan, to assist Pacific Island nations in addressing their climate security challenges.

Panel Discussion

Maekawa raised the question of whether climate change can be effectively addressed without the cooperation of major powers. Dominguez Cespedes responded by highlighting that major powers are significant contributors to pollution, emphasizing the necessity of their cooperation in solving global climate issues. Given the backdrop of increasing geopolitical competition, particularly concerning energy and resources, achieving such cooperation presents a considerable challenge.

Turning to the Pacific Island countries, the panel explored how diverse nations in the region can find common ground in diplomacy. Bozzato emphasized that despite the region’s diversity, climate change is universally recognized as a pressing issue that unites these countries. They share a common understanding of the urgency of climate change and the necessity of coordinated response measures.

There was also a discussion about the armed control issue by Tokuchi from the floor. Technology in response to climate change such as geoengineering can be used for multiple purposes, and risks involved in such technology should also be a part of the research agenda of climate security. Another comment from Lukas from the floor touched upon the crucial importance of deep-sea mining especially in the Pacific region.

Key Messages:

- **The security environment of the Asia-Pacific region is bound to change dramatically with the progressive melting of Arctic sea ice. If the Arctic Ocean is well secured, the Arctic Maritime Corridor will bring prosperous and well-shaped governance to the Asia-Pacific. Conversely, the Arctic Ocean could become a corridor to bring another new security threat into the Asia-Pacific.**

- **Climate change will cause more impacts to Japan, endangering military sites, personnel and gear, but also putting Tokyo and the Indo-Pacific at greater risk of geopolitical shocks. The more the SDF responds to natural disasters, whether in Japan or abroad, the greater the toll this will take on personnel and resources that would otherwise be needed for national defence.**

- **In terms of politics and diplomacy, Pacific diplomacy is often characterized by the "Pacific way," emphasizing the importance of sharing diplomatic resources and associations among small island administrations.**

Integrative Session: Bridging climate security debates with policy implications

Moderator

Osamu Mizuno

Programme Director, Adaptation and Water Area, IGES

Guiding question 1: *What is your understanding of the issue of climate security? What are the two key takeaways from today's symposium?*

Uttam Sinha

Senior Fellow, Non-traditional Security Centre, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

It was interesting to note the use of the Asia-Pacific as a geopolitical component as the theme of the seminar. I would like to point out the importance of the Indo-Pacific as a geopolitical unit for India.

Climate change is multidimensional and affects both traditional and non-traditional security; the interdependence of Development and Diplomacy is increasing as climate change progresses. The UN Security Council, the G7 and the G20, which India chaired last year, are important forums.

Addressing climate change is also an excellent opportunity to expand cooperation. Climate diplomacy can be a key element in this process. Climate diplomacy must be guided by the best available science and information sharing to enhance our overall adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability. It is also important to note that fragile countries already experiencing conflict, extreme poverty and weak governance structures are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Takashi Sekiyama

Associate Professor, Graduate School of Advanced Integrated Studies in Human Survivability, Kyoto University

Several hundred participants from around the world have registered for this symposium. This is an indication of the high level of interest in climate security among international visitors in the Asia-Pacific region. While climate security research is geographically concentrated in Africa, the Asia-Pacific region also faces a variety of climate security risks.

He emphasised that security needs to be viewed from multiple perspectives and reiterated the security risks of climate change mainly from two different perspectives. According to him, climate security can be defined as the protection of a country or society from conflicts caused by climate change. He pointed out there are two main types of climate change security risks. One is caused by the natural phenomenon of climate change, and the other is caused by mitigation and

adaptation policies to climate change. In this context, he focused on the evolution of industrial policies and the fact that the climate-related policy of geoengineering will become a new source of conflict between nations in the near future.

S.V.R. K. Prabhakar

Principal Policy Researcher, Adaptation and Water Area, IGES

The first takeaway from this symposium was that discussions tried to break down climate security into its various components and disambiguate it. Participants talked about food security and energy security, as well as linkages with other issues such as migration. The symposium showed the breadth of issues that researchers and practitioners in energy security and food security should be dealing with.

The second takeaway is that global issues are converging at the local level, and that local issues are becoming globalised. This paradigm shift, in which global issues increasingly affect local issues, is a new challenge that governments continue to face. As such, governments must build their capacity and strengthen their policy processes to address these issues.

Tobias Ide

Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Relations, Murdoch University

The first takeaway from the symposium is that climate security is an important issue in the Asia-Pacific region, including Japan, and needs to be taken seriously in both research and policy.

Second, climate security is not just an issue for poor countries. There is often talk about food insecurity in Thailand, migration problems in Indonesia, and potential conflicts in the Philippines. However, Discussions at this symposium have highlighted new issues, such as the fact that in Japan, not only the military but also other critical infrastructure is located very close to the coast and is vulnerable.

A third takeaway, which leads to a discussion of global-local interactions and their importance, is that climate risks and climate insecurity in the Asia-Pacific region can have global impacts and consequences. Climate insecurity, even if it occurs within the region, is not an issue that is confined to that region but has significant impacts on the rest of the world through global supply chains and other factors.

Guiding question 2: *How do climate change-induced security dynamics influence policy-making in Japan and in the broader Asian region? What are the challenges and opportunities in integrating the climate security debates into policymaking?*

Tobias Ide

In a recent study,[1] he examined 36 cases of disasters that struck conflict zones and assessed how they affected the incidence of conflict. Some of these cases showed that sometimes conflict decreased after a disaster because the disaster was very difficult for rebel groups and governments to deal with. When a climate change-related disaster occurs, it can be an opportunity to bring both sides in the conflict to the table and begin negotiations on aid.

What is needed in the future is to facilitate more research. While there is a body of knowledge on climate security, there are also significant knowledge gaps, and this project by IGES is important in generating policy-relevant knowledge on climate security.

He stated that it is also vital to leverage the knowledge that already exists on climate security in the Indo-Pacific and Asia-Pacific. While studies may not be as numerous as those in Africa or the Middle East, there are several excellent studies which can be referred to. For example, when considering the risks of human migration due to climate change, some may argue for increased border controls, but when considering the scientific findings on illegal immigration, such as smuggling, and urban slums, there is a need to invest in adaptation and coping measures and urban planning, rather than investing in border controls. The results of this study show that there is a need to invest in adaptation, coping measures and urban planning rather than in border control.

S.V.R. K. Prabhakar

One interesting area of intervention is the supply chain. Historically, supply chains have been rigid. However, as a result of COVID or due to new wars and security situations, countries are increasingly looking for alternative supply chains for the resources on which they depend. This is a very welcome change, and some of these shifts will have a significant security impact on global stability as well.

There are also signs of countries trying to engage more actively with other countries. However, the disappearance of traditional players and the entry of new ones has presented geopolitical centres with a very dynamic and interesting landscape. This makes global policymaking very interesting, even more so than before. This is a new and unique kind of evolution and dynamism.

He noted that one of the reasons the UNFCCC and other global policies are working so well is because these global frameworks are becoming increasingly successful and very accessible to local communities and local people.These frameworks have not evolved with climate security in mind. However, climate security experts will begin to examine these frameworks and consider what synergies they can bring to climate security and what additionality they need to bring to make them more failure-free and more open-ended.

1 https://mitpress.mit.edu/9780262545556/catastrophes-confrontations-and-constraints/

Takashi Sekiyama

With regard to the impact of climate change-induced security dynamics on Japanese policy, it is necessary to distinguish between domestic and foreign policy. Climate security has a significant impact on foreign policy. In some aspects, it is difficult for Japan to engage in international cooperation on traditional security issues due to constitutional constraints. But non-traditional security issues are relatively easy for Japan to address. In fact, Japan's national security policy and ODA policy guidelines make reference to climate risk.

On the other hand, climate security is unlikely to affect Japan's domestic policies. This is because Japan is not threatened by conflicts caused by climate change. The difficulty may be the lack of a sense of crisis. The Japanese business community, politicians and citizens have little sense of urgency about climate change, which is a big difference from Europe. This situation may change in the future if public opinion in Japan changes as a result of climate change-related disasters.

Uttam Sinha

There is no doubt that Asia will be greatly affected by climate change. Asia is subject to significant climate risks, both in terms of its vast land mass and its oceans. Climate change risks and stresses will manifest themselves in many ways. Inadequate policymaking, combined with these climate risks, represents a major risk to people. For example, erratic and severe disruptions in weather patterns will affect food productivity in areas vulnerable to flooding and rising temperatures. In addition, ocean acidification will have significant impacts on Asia, which relies heavily on marine protein as a major food source.

It is crucial to be aware of all these potential impacts and then take a preventive policymaking approach with a long-term perspective through a democratised and decentralised approach. He asserted that all aspects of the region's economy, immigration, financing, supply chains, etc., are likely to be reshaped and this will have a significant impact on policymaking.

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