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Proceedings

Securing Asia and the Pacific in the Climate Crisis

Proceedings of the International Workshop on Climate Security in Asia-Pacific

30-31 January 2025

Securing Asia and the Pacific in the Climate Crisis: Proceedings of the International Workshop on Climate Security in Asia-Pacific

IGES organised the Asia Pacific Climate Security (APCS) International Workshop, together with its partner - the Institute for Future Initiatives of the University of Tokyo, and our collaborators from Sasakawa Peace Foundation. The two-day workshop gathered a wide range of knowledge on climate security from researchers and practitioners across the Asia-Pacific. APCS project members and 12 external speakers from around the world contributed their expert insights under the overarching theme of climate security.

The workshop was structured around two key objectives: first, to identify the climate-related security risks, challenges and opportunities that are unique to local contexts in the Asia-Pacific region; and second, to discuss possible solutions and potential policy applications of the knowledge being produced.

The first day of discussions focused on traditional and national security issues. During this session, speakers highlighted the accelerating impact of climate change on human security, and how it is disproportionately affecting certain areas of the world, leading to population displacement and economic instability. In this context, the discussion pointed out that tensions over key resources and the growing geostrategic interest in the Arctic are pressing concerns that must be addressed in the frame of international security.

On the second day, non-traditional and human security concerns were the focus of the discussion. The keynote speaker's presentation on climate security in Southeast Asia incorporated a comprehensive approach that identified gaps in policy responses, evidencing a need to identify priorities. In this context, regional perspectives were shared, with three speakers sharing their insights on local climate security challenges in the Philippines, the Pacific and the Hindu Kush Himalaya region. The following session examined policy implications for Japan and its potential to lead development assistance in the Asia-Pacific by integrating climate security considerations—particularly in addressing regional challenges such as food insecurity and disaster risk management.

The concluding session identified some aspects of climate security that are under-researched, such as loss and damage from climate change, finance for mitigating climate security risks, and setting a timeframe for activities. Various perspectives, challenges and shortcomings were shared, providing valuable insights for further research in this area that allowed the workshop to conclude on a positive note.

This report aims to give a comprehensive summary of the intensive discussions and wide-ranging views among workshop participants. It presents 4 key points and 6 options for future consideration to provide policymakers, practitioners and other stakeholders with a snapshot of the discussion. Readers can find detailed information on the examples or cases cited in each bullet point in the following proceedings section.

Key Points

- 1. Climate Change as an Integral Part of Security Concerns:** Climate change is no longer a peripheral but an integral part of security concerns. This necessitates a paradigm shift in security policy and defense strategies. For instance, the Pacific Island Forum leaders consistently identify climate change as the most significant threat to their people's livelihoods, security and well-being. The French Armed and Security Forces have developed a comprehensive Climate and Defense Strategy to integrate climate considerations into all military operations, recognising climate change as a critical security challenge.
- 2. Complex Interconnections of Climate and Security:** Climate change impacts various security aspects, including national security, human security, as well as energy and food security. These different areas are interconnected and must be addressed holistically. Moreover, climate change can exacerbate social and economic inequalities, leading to conflict and instability. In the Philippines, climate change is increasing displacement, livelihood disruptions and resource competition, worsening existing tensions and the potential for violence in conflict-prone areas like Maguindanao in the Philippines. The melting of Arctic ice opens new maritime trade routes and impacts energy and resource security, transforming global shipping dynamics and geopolitical power balances.
- 3. Diverse Perceptions and Sensitivities to the "Security" Narrative:** The concept of "security" and the use of the term "climate security" are perceived differently across regions and cultures. The securitisation of climate issues can help mobilise resources and policy attention. On the other hand, in some contexts, there is reluctance or resistance to framing climate change as a security issue due to concerns about politicisation, potential for external interference, or a preference for alternative framings. These views express reservations about the term "climate security," preferring to focus on the specific impacts of climate change on different sectors. Especially regarding migration, security framing can lead to the perception that incoming migrants are threats. Meanwhile, Japan has been promoting the notion of human security, which can be a promising approach to holistically address climate insecurity.
- 4. Regional Variations and the Importance of Context-Specificity:** The impacts of climate change and the associated security risks vary significantly across regions and localities. This necessitates tailored responses, regional cooperation and localised solutions. The Pacific Island region faces unique challenges such as more frequent and intense cyclones, sea-level rise and ocean acidification, requiring specific solutions such as the Climate Mobility Framework and the Pacific Resilience Fund. In Southeast Asia, key concerns include energy security and geopolitical tensions over resources like nickel. The Hindu Kush Himalaya region faces vulnerabilities related to food security, hydropower and migration, requiring transboundary cooperation and a focus on the interconnectedness of risks.

Options for Future Consideration

- 1. Promote Understanding and Address Sensitivities:** Invest in efforts to foster a shared understanding of the diverse perceptions and sensitivities surrounding the concept of “security” in different regions and cultures. Tailor communication strategies to specific contexts and utilise alternative framings, such as “climate-related security risks” or “nexus of climate impacts and security concerns,” when necessary to facilitate dialogue and cooperation. In the ASEAN context, the term “climate-related security challenges” was used instead of “climate security” to address sensitivities and facilitate dialogue.
- 2. Breaking Down Silos and Fostering Integrated Governance:** Integrate climate resilience into all aspects of policymaking, including defense, environment and development sectors. Foster collaboration between different ministries and agencies to address the interconnected nature of climate security challenges. For instance, Japan’s approach to climate security has evolved from focusing on human security to a more comprehensive approach, with the Ministry of Defense now involved in climate security discussions.
- 3. Promoting Regional Cooperation and Knowledge Sharing:** Strengthen regional cooperation mechanisms to address shared climate security risks. Develop joint strategies, share best practices, and facilitate knowledge exchange between countries in vulnerable regions. There are emerging practices—the Pacific Islands Forum adopted the Boe Declaration on Regional Security, recognising climate change as a major security threat and outlining regional actions to address climate-related security risks. ASEAN is exploring cooperative solutions to address energy security challenges, such as distributing processing plants for critical minerals like nickel, to avoid further securitisation and promote economic security.
- 4. Investing in Anticipation, Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction:** Prioritise proactive measures such as climate-resilient infrastructure, early warning systems and scenario planning to build resilience and prevent future crises. For instance, the French Defense Infrastructure Service mapped the climate-related exposure of over 4,000 sites to develop an adaptation plan for critical infrastructure. UNDP and partners in the Philippines support the Climate, Peace and Security initiatives by integrating climate resilience into governance, promoting sustainable livelihoods, and strengthening early warning and disaster response systems.
- 5. Empowering Local Communities and Ensuring Inclusivity:** Support local communities in adapting to climate change and building resilience. Ensure their participation in decision-making processes, and provide access to resources and information. In the Philippines, pilot projects include solar-powered ice machines for fisherfolk, climate-smart farming systems, and sustainable livelihood programmes for former combatants and marginalised groups. ICIMOD’s research emphasises the importance of understanding vulnerability pathways and intersectionality at the ground level to inform policies and improve adaptation strategies. IGES research emphasised that the definition of food security should be expanded to incorporate sustainability, agency and resilience.
- 6. Bridging Science, Policy and Traditional Knowledge:** Strengthen the link between scientific research, policymaking and traditional knowledge systems. Translate scientific findings into actionable policies, foster dialogue between scientists, policymakers and local communities, and integrate indigenous knowledge into climate action. ICIMOD is creating spaces for scientists, practitioners and policymakers to interact and ensure that scientific findings are translated into policy decisions. There is a need for a structured mechanism to collect, evaluate and integrate traditional knowledge and techniques into modern development projects, as seen in the use of locally sourced materials for landslide protection in Nepal.



Proceedings

Day 1: 30 January 2025

Opening Session (13:00-13:10)

Speakers:

- **Tsuyoshi KAWAKAMI**, Acting Managing Director, IGES
- **Seita EMORI**, Vice Director, Institute for Future Initiatives, University of Tokyo
- **Hiroki MATSUI**, Director, Climate Change Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Keynote Speech on Climate Change from National and Traditional Security Perspective (13:10-13:30)

Christophe PIPOLO (La Vigie – LittOcéan)

Overview:

The French Armed and Security Forces are adapting to climate change by integrating climate resilience into military operations, infrastructure and strategic planning, recognising it as a critical security challenge that demands innovation, international cooperation, and long-term adaptation to maintain operational capabilities.

Key points:

- The French Armed Forces Ministry's Climate and Defense Strategy aims to integrate climate considerations into all aspects of military operations. Key areas of focus include:
 - **Knowledge and Anticipation:** Raising awareness, providing training, and anticipating the effects of climate change on missions, skills, support and capabilities.
 - **Adaptation of Armed Forces:** Developing a strategy to adapt to climate change at international and national levels, including resilient infrastructure, updated doctrines, climate-informed capability and innovation approaches, and adapting the operational readiness of forces to more demanding and abrasive environments.

- Environmental Protection and Energy Transition: Continuing efforts to protect the environment and biodiversity, as well as reducing energy consumption and promoting mitigation.
- Cooperation at all levels: Sharing knowledge and best practices within the Ministry, with national and international partners, including NATO, the EU and strategic partners in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The Orientation and Action Plan adopted in 2022 lays the groundwork for long-term climate resilience in defense through five key workshops addressing topics—impact of climate change on the use of force, adaptation of capabilities and innovation, resilience of military infrastructure, regulatory and energy considerations, and international cooperation. Specifically, the Defense Infrastructure Service mapped the climate-related exposure of over 4,000 sites both in mainland France and overseas, to draw an adaptation plan for the most critical infrastructures.
- The Climate Fresco, an interactive war game tool, is widely used to raise awareness on climate security and provide training for military personnel from all ranks.
- France contributed to establishing NATO's [Climate Change and Security Centre of Excellence](#).
- The speaker also highlighted the importance of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, particularly with Japan and within the context of the South Pacific defense ministerial meeting.
- Adapting armed forces to climate change is a long-term undertaking that requires contributing to sustainable development and mitigation while maintaining defense capabilities.

Localised Challenges and Solutions to Climate Security Issues (13:30-14:10)

Speakers:

- **Surichai WUN'GAEO**, Chulalongkorn University [Online]
- **Michael CROWE**, Pacific Islands Forum [Online]

Surichai WUN'GAEO (Chulalongkorn University)

Overview:

The presentation called for urgent and collective action to address the climate crisis, emphasising the need for a holistic approach that considers the interconnectedness of environmental, social and economic issues, as well as a shift in mindset from competition to collaboration and from short-term thinking to long-term sustainability.

Key points:

- Called for a broader understanding of security that goes beyond traditional national defence to encompass climate security and human security. Additionally, climate change can exacerbate existing social and economic inequalities, leading to conflict and instability.
- Emphasised the importance of inclusive governance and local participation in addressing climate change. An example was given of a proposed industrial complex in southern Thailand to illustrate the potential for conflict when development projects do not consider the needs and livelihoods of local communities.
- Called for a “transformative responsibility” approach, urging individuals, communities, and nations to take ownership of the climate crisis and work together to find solutions. Also emphasised the need for a shift in mindset from short-term thinking to long-term sustainability.
- Highlighted the role of technology and digital tools in addressing climate change. Stress was put on the importance of capacity building and knowledge sharing to empower individuals and communities to take action.

Michael CROWE (Pacific Islands Forum):

Overview:

The presentation emphasised the urgency of addressing climate change as a security issue for the Pacific Island region, highlighting the need for regional cooperation, international support, and innovative solutions to protect the livelihoods, security and well-being of Pacific peoples.

Key points:

- The Pacific Island Forum leaders consistently identify climate change as the most significant threat to Pacific peoples’ livelihoods, security and well-being. This surpasses traditional security concerns like military threats.
- The presentation outlined the various ways climate change affects the region:
 - More frequent and intense cyclones: Causing devastation to infrastructure and communities.
 - Sea level rise: Threatening to inundate low-lying island nations and erode coastlines.
 - Ocean acidification and land degradation: Impacting food security and livelihoods by harming fisheries and agriculture.
- In 2018, the Pacific Islands Forum issued [the Boe Declaration](#), a key regional security document that recognises climate change as a major security threat. [The accompanying action plan](#) outlines seven key actions to address climate-related security risks, including improving understanding and contextualising the impacts of climate change.

- The Pacific Island Forum Secretariat, in partnership with various organisations, developed a guide to assess climate security risks. [This assessment](#) identified five key pathways through which climate change impacts security:
 - Threats to livelihoods and the blue economy: Climate change harms fisheries and other marine resources, impacting economies and food security.
 - Threats to land availability and usability.
 - Exacerbated disasters and reduced resilience: More frequent and intense disasters strain the capacity to respond effectively.
 - Changes in mobility patterns: Traditional migration and adaptation strategies are becoming more challenging due to climate change impacts.
 - Increased urgency in securing maritime boundaries: Rising sea levels threaten maritime boundaries and exclusive economic zones, which are crucial for Pacific Island economies.
- Highlighted several regional initiatives aimed at mitigating climate security risks:
 - Climate Mobility Framework: Provides guidance for addressing climate-related migration and displacement.
 - Pacific Resilience Fund: Aims to provide more accessible funding for climate resilience projects.
 - Declarations on Preserving Maritime Zones and Statehood: Seeks to protect the rights and interests of Pacific Island nations in the face of sea level rise.
 - Legal Proceedings: Supports submissions to international courts to clarify the obligations of states in relation to climate change.

Workshop Discussion on Energy-related Climate Security Risks in the Region (14:15-15:30)

Moderator:

- **Kentaro TAMURA**, IGES

Speakers:

- **Akihisa MORI**, Kyoto University [Online]
- **Yasuko KAMEYAMA**, University of Tokyo
- **Nandakumar JANARDHANAN**, IGES

Key points:

Yasuko KAMEYAMA (University of Tokyo)

- Climate security discourse and its measures can be categorised into four approaches:
 - Global planetary changes → focus on mitigation
 - Abrupt risks to individuals → adaptation measures
 - Conflict and violence risks → reducing social instability
 - Impacts on military and defense → infrastructure adaptation
 - Energy security concerns relate mostly to mitigation and geopolitical risks rather than adaptation.
 - APAC accounts for nearly half of global GHG emissions. Major contributors: China (1/3 of global emissions), India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea and Viet Nam.
 - Japan's emissions come from electricity generation, industry (steel, cement, paper), transport and households. Comparable emission sources are identified in other countries in Asia. As such, decarbonisation efforts should target power generation (from coal combustion), industrial processes and transport electrification.
 - The decarbonisation of steel production will be a determining factor to leading the competitive global automobile industry and economic growth.
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Akihisa MORI (Kyoto University) [Online]

- Japan may gain a trade surplus from net-zero energy shifts by reducing fossil fuel imports, but China's market dominance in clean energy tech (solar, batteries, wind, hydrogen) poses risks for Japan's industrial competitiveness.
- Southeast Asia is increasingly reliant on Chinese investments for energy transition, impacting Japan's regional influence.
- Japanese businesses are exploring alternative technologies (hydrogen, ammonia co-firing) to maintain energy security, but China's lead in green hydrogen and electrolyzer production could undermine Japan's efforts.
- Japan must find alternative competitive advantages where China is not dominant, particularly in smart grid and decentralised energy systems rather than large-scale centralised grids.

Nandakumar JANARDHANAN (IGES)

- Climate security is a fragmented concept, ranging from military concerns to economic security risks.
- Extreme weather events threaten renewable energy infrastructure, affecting production and grid stability.
- Geopolitical competition over critical minerals needed for clean energy further complicates energy security.
- Japan's energy security strategy should focus on climate-proofing energy infrastructure and adopting decentralised energy systems.

Key points from the discussion:

1 Interlinkages Between Traditional and Non-Traditional Climate Security

- **Mely CABALLERO-ANTHONY:** The use of “security” with climate has political implications.
 - Energy security is often classified as non-traditional security, but industrial competition over clean energy can shift it into national security (traditional security).
 - It is important to recognise the intersections and dynamic nature of climate security rather than creating artificial divides.
- **Nandakumar JANARDHANAN:** There is a clear link between traditional and non-traditional security, particularly through geopolitical relationships.
- **Yasuko KAMEYAMA:** The dynamic definition of climate security is the reason for preferring the term “climate AND security” rather than just “climate security.”

2 Energy Transition and Political Stability in Fossil Fuel-Dependent Economies

- **Takashi SEKIYAMA:**
 - What are the political and security implications of energy transition, particularly for small fossil fuel-producing nations like East Timor and Brunei?
 - As the world shifts away from fossil fuels, these countries may experience economic downturns and political instability.

- **Yasuko KAMEYAMA:**

- Energy security typically implies a lack of energy resources, but in this case, the concern is too much fossil fuel dependence.
- These countries may resist international climate policies, but they are gradually adapting to a decarbonised world.

- **Akihisa MORI:**

- Our research on oil, gas and coal industries suggests that oil and gas may transition within 1–2 decades, but coal faces a much more uncertain future.
- The risks of energy transition vary by country, rather than being a region-wide challenge.

- **Nandakumar JANARDHANAN:** Energy transition challenges in the Asia-Pacific vary significantly by country, with climate vulnerabilities, economic stability and geopolitical factors shaping risks differently, highlighting the need for context-specific policy approaches.

- **Kunal SINGH:** Energy transition challenges in the Pacific Islands differ significantly from global definitions, as local realities, such as land ownership disputes and infrastructure constraints, complicate decarbonisation efforts. Using Fiji’s delayed water security project as an example, it was highlighted how funding availability is not always the primary barrier—social, cultural and governance issues can create long-term bottlenecks in implementing climate security solutions.

3 Japan’s Energy Security Strategy

- **Yukari TAKAMURA:**

- Japan is expanding onshore and offshore wind power, but how does this impact national security?
- What are the most critical and unique climate risks for energy in APAC, and how should Japan respond?

- **Hiroki MATSUI:**

- How should Japan engage with China on mitigation efforts?
- How can Japan leverage Chinese technology while avoiding security risks?

- **Akihisa MORI:**

- Japan has an opportunity to lead in breakthrough energy technologies, such as radiating solar panels.

- The key is for Japanese businesses, government and institutions to apply localised innovations through Business Model Innovation.
 - Policy, regulation and institutional configurations should be strategically designed to support Japan's competitive advantage.
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4 Science and Academia's Role in Energy Transition

● Masashi TSUDAKA:

- How can scientists demonstrate that decentralised energy systems—which empower civil society and smaller energy ventures—would be more efficient and secure in the context of climate change, challenging the prevailing view that energy centralisation ensures stability?

● Nandakumar JANARDHANAN:

- Energy transitions always face bottlenecks due to corporate interests and regulatory barriers.
- Japan's geological characteristics and energy grid systems also pose unique constraints.

● Akihisa MORI:

- This is why gradual energy transition is better than abrupt changes.
- Carefully managed transitions can help mitigate risks to industrial competitiveness and security.

Workshop Discussion on Ocean-related Climate Security Risks in the Region (15:45-17:00)

Moderator:

- **Miko MAEKAWA**, Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Speakers:

- **Sandra MEERWEIN**, Johannes Gutenberg-University
- **Kazumine AKIMOTO**, Sasakawa Peace Foundation
- **Christophe PIPOLO**, La Vigie – LittOcéan

Key points:

Kazumine AKIMOTO (Sasakawa Peace Foundation)

1. Impact of Arctic Ice Melt on Indo-Pacific Security

- The melting Arctic ice opens new maritime trade routes, transforming:
 - Global shipping dynamics
 - Energy and resource security
 - Geopolitical power balances
- Conflict in the South China Sea could disrupt Japan's import routes for VLCCs and LNG, forcing detours that would significantly impact its economy.
- Japan must explore new secure trade routes, including the Arctic.

2. Strategic Implications of Arctic Maritime Expansion

- The Arctic Ocean could shift Indo-Pacific trade patterns, allowing direct APAC-EU maritime connections via the Arctic rather than Indian and Pacific Oceans.
- However, this also increases geopolitical tensions, as countries compete for control.
- US and Russia have established research centres and military presence in the Arctic to secure their interests.
- Multilateral governance frameworks are currently weak in managing these emerging challenges.

Sandra MEERWEIN (Johannes Gutenberg-University)

- Climate security should be viewed more holistically as environmental security, emphasising the interconnection between land and ocean, human and non-human actors, economic security and ecological protection.
- Energy security and territorial claims often contradict environmental protection efforts.
- The US Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) and Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific strategy highlight this tension.
- Policy frameworks on ocean use and governance remain unclear and politically contested.

Key points from the discussion:

1 Arctic and China's Strategic Interests

- **Kazumine AKIMOTO:** China has increased military and non-military activities in the Arctic, partly to counteract the activities of other countries. The US and other powerful nations are responding by expanding their own presence in the Arctic through military and non-military means. Future QUAD (Japan, US, Australia, India) discussions should include Arctic security considerations.
 - **Miko MAEKAWA:** How could the US administration changes affect Arctic policy?
 - **Sandra MEERWEIN:** Changes in the US administration could create policy uncertainties, but the international community has more leverage than often perceived.
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2 Food Security and Ocean Resources

- **Nandakumar JANARDHANAN:** The warming oceans are shifting global fishing areas, potentially causing conflicts over fishing rights and impacting food security.
 - **Christophe PIPOLO:** Industrial fisheries and changing ocean conditions have complicated global food security, but multilateral frameworks to manage these challenges remain weak.
 - **Kazumine AKIMOTO:** Agreed that warming oceans are shifting fishing zones, which could escalate conflicts over maritime food resources.
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3 Integrating Socio-Ecological Perspectives into Policy

- **Sandra MEERWEIN:** Climate security discussions often lean towards defense and economic risks, while socio-ecological risks remain underrepresented in policy dialogues.
- **Mikio ISHIWATARI:** How can socio-ecological factors be better integrated into international climate policy?
- **Sandra MEERWEIN:** Suggested that adaptation should start by aligning policy priorities with socio-ecological frameworks and making these collective efforts in multilateral discussions.

4 Strengthening Multilateral Negotiations

- **Kunal SINGH:** Pacific Island countries face climate, economic and developmental challenges but should still play a stronger role in ocean governance.
- **Sandra MEERWEIN:** A legal and policy shift is needed to account for changing ocean-land boundaries in governance.
- **Fumiko NOGUCHI:** How do Western governance models and security strategies impact indigenous people?
- **Sandra MEERWEIN:** Indigenous knowledge should be integrated into larger policy frameworks, rather than being replaced.



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Day 2: 31 January 2025

Keynote Speech on Climate Change from Human Security Perspective (13:00-13:20)

Mely CABALLERO-ANTHONY (RSIS, Singapore)

Overview:

The keynote highlighted ASEAN’s evolving approach to climate security, emphasising the need for a comprehensive security framework that moves beyond traditional conflict-centered narratives, while addressing key regional challenges such as food, water and economic security, geopolitical tensions over resources, and gaps in policy responses, with recommendations for strengthening cooperation and capacity-building with global partners.

Key points:

- **Introduction:** Recent research and policy work on climate security was presented, focusing on Southeast Asia/ ASEAN’s understanding, priorities, and responses, highlighting gaps in its agenda . The two main arguments were the importance of framing the concept of climate security, especially regarding “security for whom,” and the need for regional engagement in global climate security debates.
- **RSIS 2023 Report submitted to UN DPPA:** RSIS, with UN support, produced a [report mapping climate change’s impact on Southeast Asia’s peace and security](#). Commissioned by the UN to shape the ASEAN-UN dialogue agenda, the report addressed ASEAN officials’ reservations about “climate security” by focusing on climate change’s regional impact and its security implications, moving beyond a narrow conflict-centric view.
- **Comprehensive security in ASEAN context:** Comprehensive security within the ASEAN context extends beyond traditional military threats to encompass political, economic, social and cultural dimensions. This concept is a key part of the regional lexicon, used by ASEAN and its partners like Japan, China and the US. Climate change poses an existential threat, causing displacement by disasters and impacting food security by affecting access, availability and affordability, potentially leading to social unrest. Water security is also at risk due to water stress exacerbated by dam construction and shared waterways, creating potential geopolitical tensions. Furthermore, economic security is vulnerable due to climate change’s impact on various sectors, while health security faces increasing threats from vector-borne and zoonotic diseases, made worse by changing weather patterns. These interconnected challenges underscore the need for a comprehensive approach to security in the ASEAN region.

- **Comprehensive security and climate-related security risks:** Framing climate change as a comprehensive security issue in ASEAN, rather than solely a developmental one, faced resistance. While the concept of comprehensive security is accepted, some argued existing sectoral efforts were sufficient. Concerns arose that elevating climate change to a political and security issue could open doors to external interference. However, impacted nations like Indonesia and the Philippines advocated for multiple pathways to address climate security, emphasising that all sectors and stakeholders must be involved in adaptation and mitigation efforts.
- **Identified priorities:** Prioritised issues include energy security, particularly regarding renewables and electric vehicles. Indonesia's nickel deposits have attracted external interest, notably from China, creating geopolitical rivalry with the US. The region is exploring cooperative solutions, like distributing processing plants, to avoid further securitisation of the issue, as well as to promote economic security through job creation and new industries while moving away from fossil fuels.
- **Gaps in policy responses:** Key gaps in addressing climate change's security impacts include a need for downscaled, sector-specific studies to translate scientific findings into actionable plans. A siloed approach hinders effective responses, as sectors like environment and health do not adequately collaborate on climate issues. Furthermore, a lack of dialogue between policymakers and scientists, coupled with insufficient regional institutions for conflict resolution related to climate change impacts, presents significant challenges.
- **Recommendations and prospects for cooperation with partners:** The RSIS NTS report offers recommendations for ASEAN and its dialogue partners, focusing on capacity building, just transition through technology and financial assistance, and strengthening existing mechanisms. These recommendations span food security (e.g. climate-smart technology, rice reserves), health security (e.g. diagnostics, lab safety), economic security and water security. Leveraging the comprehensive security framework encourages cooperative security and facilitates partnerships to address climate change-induced challenges.

Key points from the discussion:

- **Christophe PIPOLO:** The presentation effectively reconciled traditional and non-traditional security, highlighting their interconnectedness within comprehensive approaches like climate and maritime security. It provided a clear answer to the question of whether these security domains could be disconnected, demonstrating they must be considered holistically.
- **Naoyuki OKANO:** What are the core reasons for ASEAN officials' reluctance regarding comprehensive security approaches, despite ongoing discussions? How can this reluctance be overcome and officials' mindsets effectively changed?
- **Mely CABALLERO-ANTHONY:** Reluctance stems from sensitivities around revealing weaknesses and potential interference, similar to confidence-building measures in the ASEAN Regional Forum. Countries, even large ones, may be hesitant to admit needing help, like during disaster relief. While some issues are addressed within the social-cultural community, they often involve political-security aspects. Officials may find it difficult to connect the dots between abstract concepts like climate change and their daily work, requiring patient engagement and continuous conversations.

- **Amina MAHARJAN:** Is “climate security” framing the core problem or the underlying facts? Should the framing be retained despite unease, or replaced with different terminology?

- **Mely CABALLERO-ANTHONY:** A compromise was reached with ASEAN officials to discuss “climate change and its security impact,” which resulted in a report titled “Climate-related security challenges.” This subtle shift in language demonstrates the importance of terminology in international discourse, even within the Pacific context. While this was a compromise, the agreement represented a significant win for advocates of the climate security concept.

Localised Challenges and Solutions to Climate Security Issues (13:20-14:05)

Speakers:

- **Judith DE GUZMAN**, UNDP Philippines
- **Kunal SINGH**, Pacific Community
- **Amina MAHARJAN**, ICIMOD

Judith DE GUZMAN (UNDP Philippines)

Overview:

The presentation discussed the intersection of climate change, conflict and peacebuilding, introducing a case study of [the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao \(BARMM\)](#), Philippines. Speakers highlighted the Philippines’ high vulnerability to climate disasters, with the country experiencing frequent typhoons, sea level rise, flooding and landslides. Emphasis was also put on the need for integrated solutions to address the compounded challenges of climate change and conflict in the region, focusing on peace dividends and long-term stability.

Key Points:

- Two tracks in the implementation of the Peace Agreement: Political transition (establishing governance structures) and normalisation (transforming conflict-affected areas and reintegrating former combatants).
- Climate change is increasing displacement, livelihood disruptions and resource competition, worsening existing tensions and increasing the potential for violence.
- [Case studies](#) from conflict-prone areas, such as Maguindanao, show communities facing repeated displacement due to both climate disasters and armed conflict.

- UNDP and partners support climate, peace and security initiatives by integrating climate resilience into governance, promoting sustainable livelihoods, and strengthening early warning and disaster response systems.
- Pilot projects include solar-powered ice machines for fisherfolk, climate-smart farming systems, and sustainable livelihood programmes for former combatants and marginalised groups.
- Efforts are also being made to embed climate security considerations into policy and legislation, ensuring sustainable, inclusive development.
- Opportunities for collaboration include climate-proofing peace agreements, resilience-building projects, and enhancing the role of women in climate and security governance.

Kunal SINGH (Pacific Community)

Overview:

This presentation focused on climate security from a local perspective, emphasising human security and the role of climate security in addressing key challenges. There was also a focus on what is happening on the ground, discussing initiatives to address climate security issues such as food security, water security and maritime boundary challenges, and outlining collaboration opportunities.

Key Points:

- Ground-Level Impact: Climate change is not abstract; it is about daily survival—whether there is enough food or the ability to fish.
- The 2018 Boe Declaration recognised climate change as the greatest security threat in the Pacific despite initial resistance.
- First-order impacts: Coastal erosion, food and water insecurity, and destruction of infrastructure. Second-order impacts: Economic loss, declining tourism (which makes up 65% of Fiji's GDP), and reduced government revenue from fisheries and resource extraction. Third-order impacts: Potential loss of statehood for nations like Tuvalu and Kiribati, as rising sea levels threaten their physical existence, cultural identity and sovereignty.
- Climate change is already driving displacement and relocation in Pacific nations, with Fiji having relocated three communities and 40 more earmarked for future relocation.
- Organisations like SPC work on climate finance, maritime boundaries and policy support, ensuring climate security is embedded across sectors.
- Challenges & Solutions:

- Limited Climate Finance: Governments are stuck in a cycle of recovery from disasters. Expanding access to climate funds is critical.
- Data & Policy Gaps: Efforts like the Pacific Data Hub help inform decision-making.
- Geopolitical Pressures: The region must navigate growing strategic competition while addressing its climate priorities.

Amina MAHARJAN (ICIMOD)

Overview:

The presentation introduced ongoing research examining how climate risks translate into security threats, using frameworks to move beyond perception-based analysis. Key vulnerabilities include food, energy and livelihoods. Mountain regions face food insecurity, hydropower is climate-sensitive, and declining subsistence livelihoods drive migration. Climate risks cross borders, requiring regional cooperation—e.g. a glacial lake outburst in Tibet impacted Nepal. Despite geopolitical tensions, transboundary risk management is crucial.

Key Points:

- The Hindu Kush Himalaya region is the world’s third pole, supplying water to 2.1 billion people across eight countries. Climate change, air pollution, biodiversity loss and demographic shifts (including depopulation in mountain areas) exacerbate risks to energy, food security, health, livelihoods and migration.
- As for climate security framing and challenges, introduced ongoing research (with IGES and UNDP Pacific) on linking climate change and security. Despite widespread agreement on climate risks, there is resistance to framing the issue through a security lens. More evidence is needed on how climate risks translate into security risks rather than relying on perceptions.
- Pointed out key vulnerabilities and interconnectedness between food security, energy security, livelihoods and migration/human mobility.
 - Mountainous areas face food insecurity due to dependence on subsistence farming, shifting diets, and climate-related disruptions.
 - Hydropower has potential but is threatened by climate variability. Reliance on biomass persists.
 - Traditional subsistence livelihoods are declining, pushing people toward tourism or migration. Rural-to-urban migration, cross-border movements (e.g. Nepal-India), and Gulf labour migration are critical concerns.

- Emphasised regional and transboundary collaboration. Climate risks transcend political boundaries, necessitating cooperation, e.g., a glacial lake outburst flood in Tibet caused damage in Nepal, highlighting the need for transboundary risk management. Despite of geopolitical challenges, addressing interconnected risks can enhance human security.
- Addressed intersectionality and vulnerability by pointing out that climate risks are not experienced equally; factors like location, identity (gender, caste, ethnicity) and institutional power influence vulnerability. Current research aims to generate ground-level evidence and inform policies.
- For future work, efforts should be made to better understand vulnerability pathways and intersectionality to improve policymaking and adaptation strategies. National consultations in India, Nepal and Pakistan have already been completed; a consultation in Afghanistan is currently being planned.

Key Points from the discussion

1 Policy Implications for Japan

- **Nagisa SHIIBA:** The term “climate security (CS)” is used differently by different actors reflecting diverse regional perspectives, e.g. understanding in regions in the Himalayas and the Pacific. This APCS project explores how Japan and its government can perceive CS and identify potential policy recommendations from an external perspective. The goal is to clarify what policies and objectives can be achieved through a security-focused approach to climate challenges.
- **Alice YAMABE:** The policy implications for Japan will be discussed in our next session. If you have any suggestions on how Japan can best contribute to addressing the issue, please share them in the next session.

2 Implications for Fund Accessibility

- **Nandakumar JANARDHANAN:** Are the difficulties in utilising the fund due to a lack of government capacity, or is it a definitional issue? Additionally, how does the limited recognition of climate security as a critical issue impact fund accessibility?
- **Kunal SINGH:** Accessing Green Climate Fund (GCF) financing is a challenge. It was highlighted that while innovative ideas are proposed, the technical capacity to meet GCF requirements is often lacking. The process involves developing a Concept Note, submitting it to GCF, waiting for a six-week review, addressing comments, and then waiting for the next board meeting to submit a full proposal. The review process itself takes about three months, sometimes longer, due to back-and-forth revisions. An example was shared of a project initiated in 2017 that is still not operational illustrating delays that can span several years. A regional climate finance advisor’s role involves handling multiple

responsibilities, including guiding proposals. However, due to resource constraints, their team can only manage three GCF proposals per year. The slow process and high effort required make it difficult for the region to access funding efficiently. It was noted that while GCF processes have improved, accessing funds remains a challenge due to limited regional capacity and complex requirements. Most climate finance in the region comes from bilateral loans (60%), with GCF contributing about 40%, alongside multilateral development banks funding. Not all good projects fit GCF criteria, and other funding sources are often more viable.

3 Inclusive Approach to Integrated Programming Implementation

- **Mikio ISHIWATARI:** How can marginalised populations be covered under BARMM?
 - **Judith DE GUZMAN:** Programming efforts focus on the intersection of vulnerability, marginalisation and disaster risks, particularly in areas heavily impacted by climate events. Indigenous communities, often located in ancestral domains, are disproportionately affected by both disasters and conflict. While peace agreements primarily target council communities, attention must also be given to marginalised groups, including women and former combatants, through gender-sensitive approaches. In island provinces excluded from the BARMM framework, former members of extremist groups remain vulnerable, with interventions focusing on agriculture and fisheries—sectors highly exposed to climate risks in coastal environments. Addressing these overlapping vulnerabilities requires integrating disaster risk reduction with inclusive peacebuilding efforts.
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Policy Implications to Japan – Discussion on Climate Security Risks in the Region (14:15-15:30)

Moderator:

- **Alice YAMABE,** IGES

Speakers:

- **Takashi SEKIYAMA,** Kyoto University
- **Mikio ISHIWATARI,** University of Tokyo
- **Kei KURUSHIMA,** IGES

Key points from presentations:

Takashi SEKIYAMA (Kyoto University) - Japan's Policy Integration of Climate and Human Security

1 Historical Background

- Japan's approach to climate security is rooted in the 1980s concept of comprehensive security, proposed by Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira. This concept broadened security beyond military threats to include issues like energy crises, food shortages and natural disasters, foreshadowing modern climate security thinking. While climate change was not explicitly recognised at that time, comprehensive security put a focus on these interconnected threats and thus, laid the groundwork for Japan's later integration of climate and human security. Consequently, climate security was often framed within the human security framework, emphasising individual protection from threats like environmental destruction. This focus meant that, until around 2021, climate security was rarely discussed in Japan, even academically, with significantly fewer publications compared to human security. Japan actively promoted human security internationally through initiatives like the UN Human Security Fund and the Friends of Human Security meeting.

2 Incorporation of Human Security into Japan's Climate Policies

- Japan has increasingly integrated human security into its climate policies since the mid-2010s, evidenced by its first Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2015) and the Climate Change Adaptation Act (2018). These policies address human security dimensions like food security, disaster prevention and community resilience by mainstreaming climate considerations across various sectors. Specifically, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) implements adaptation measures for food production, including developing climate-resilient technologies and species, and improving disaster prevention in farmland. The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) focuses on disaster prevention and community resilience, addressing increased flood and sediment risks, damage to infrastructure, as well as heat island effects, by reviewing infrastructure plans, strengthening weather monitoring and reinforcing defenses.

Mikio ISHIWATARI (University of Tokyo) - Integration of Climate Change Considerations in Japan's Development Assistance

1 Addressing Climate Fragility Risks - The Case of Dr. Nakamura

- Climate fragility risks, exacerbated by climate change, require a comprehensive and inclusive approach. The late Dr. Tetsu Nakamura's work in Afghanistan exemplifies this. Recognising that food insecurity was a root cause of conflict, he shifted from medical treatment to constructing irrigation systems. Using traditional Japanese technology, he transformed barren land into productive farmland, benefiting thousands. This case highlights the importance of understanding local contexts and utilising appropriate technologies to address climate-related challenges in fragile settings. Dr. Nakamura's approach demonstrates how addressing basic needs like food security can contribute to both climate adaptation and peacebuilding.

2 The Challenge of Integrating Climate Change, Development and Peacebuilding

- Climate fragility risks disproportionately affect vulnerable regions, impacting various development sectors like governance, environment, disaster management, agriculture, health and water. These impacts often lead to livelihood insecurity and migration. Integrating climate change considerations into development assistance and peacebuilding efforts is crucial but presents several challenges. A key gap lies in the differing timescales: climate change projections often look decades into the future, while peacebuilding requires immediate action to address pressing needs. Risk assessment methodologies also differ, with climate change assessments relying on scientific models, while peacebuilding assessments focus on socio-economic and political factors. Furthermore, the scale and nature of interventions vary, with climate adaptation often involving large infrastructure projects, while peacebuilding emphasises community-based initiatives. These discrepancies make integrated approaches complex.

3 Financing and Data Gaps - The Way Forward:

- Financing climate adaptation and peacebuilding efforts is a major hurdle. While estimates for future flood protection needs reach hundreds of billions of dollars, current ODA and humanitarian assistance budgets are significantly smaller. This gap highlights the need for increased investment and innovative financing mechanisms. Another critical challenge is the lack of comprehensive data on existing investments in areas like flood protection. Without such data, it is impossible to accurately assess current efforts and plan for future needs. Improving data collection, harmonising recovery and prevention efforts, and developing evidence-based justifications for funding are crucial steps. Exploring innovative approaches like green infrastructure and public-private partnerships can also help mobilise resources and bridge the financing gap. Ultimately, a comprehensive and integrated approach, combining development assistance, disaster management and peacebuilding, is essential to effectively address climate fragility risks.

Kei KURUSHIMA (IGES) - Redefining Food Security in the Asia Pacific

1 The Need for a Broader Definition

- Climate change significantly impacts food security, intertwining it with development challenges. The traditional definition of food security, focusing on availability, access, utilisation and stability, may not adequately address these complexities. Research conducted under the Asia-Pacific Climate Security Project, specifically sub-team three on food security, highlights the need for a redefined understanding. This research, involving policy analysis, case studies in Pakistan and the Philippines, and fieldwork on land and water issues, explores how climate change affects the balance of food security. A key question driving this work is whether a common understanding of food security exists within the research team and the broader field, leading to the development of a policy brief arguing for a broadened definition.

2 Incorporating Sustainability, Agency and Resilience

- The policy brief advocates for expanding the traditional four pillars of food security to include sustainability, agency and resilience. Sustainability refers to the ability of food systems to meet present needs without compromising future generations' capacity to produce and access food, thereby ensuring environmental, social and economic balance. Agency emphasises the capacity of food producers to make informed decisions affecting their well-being and communities, actively shaping food systems through their choices and actions. Resilience is the ability of food systems to anticipate, adapt to, and recover from shocks like climate change, conflicts and economic disruptions, ensuring long-term stability. These additions are grounded in existing literature and aim to integrate the concept of food sovereignty, prioritising people-centered solutions, and addressing structural inequities and vulnerabilities related to land and water access. The significance of these three dimensions lies in their integration of food sovereignty, understanding food security as an outcome of food systems, and addressing the mechanisms shaped by climate risks and complex socio-ecological processes.

3 Policy Recommendations for Japan and the Asia-Pacific

- Analysis of regional policy frameworks, including those of Japan, ASEAN, SAARC and PIF, reveals varying degrees of recognition of sustainability, agency and resilience. While many frameworks mention aspects of these dimensions, some, like SAARC, lack comprehensive coverage. Based on this analysis, policy recommendations are directed at both the Asia-Pacific region and Japan. Regionally, the brief recommends integrating the three dimensions into climate change adaptation and development plans, empowering smallholder farmers through climate-resilient agricultural practices, addressing structural inequalities in resource distribution and fostering regional cooperation. For Japan, the recommendations include incorporating the three dimensions into domestic agricultural policy, recognising the differing perceptions of inclusion between producers and importers, and incorporating the points from international initiatives on sustainable food systems into Japanese policies.

Key points from the discussion:

1 Japan's Climate Security Approach and Policy Framing

- **Fumiko NOGUCHI:** Does Japan's focus on human security in climate policy broaden or narrow its understanding of climate security? Does it risk overlooking non-human elements and complex human-nature relationships?
 - **Takashi SEKIYAMA:** Japan narrowly frames climate security through human security, limiting broader discussions within government. Additionally, Japan needs better communication and media engagement to improve public perception internationally.
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2 Multilateral Engagement and Regional Coordination

- **Kunal SINGH:** Japan, as a major ODA provider in the Pacific, should engage more with existing regional mechanisms like the Pacific Islands Forum rather than relying only on bilateral relationships. This approach ensures that even low-capacity nations receive support and improves alignment with regional interests (e.g. clearer communication on nuclear waste disposal).
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3 Food Security and Climate Policy Implications

- **Faris SALMAN:** Dr. Kurushima's policy recommendations on inclusive food security are notable. It remains to be seen how Japan implements them, particularly regarding consumer-centred sustainability requirements for food imports.
 - **Kei KURUSHIMA:** Focusing on imports necessitates international cooperation strategies, while domestic production requires strategies impacting Japanese farmers. Exporting companies must also be considered. Therefore, specific targets within food security will be addressed with tailored recommendations for maximum impact.
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4 Integrating Indigenous Knowledge into Development Assistance

- **Fumiko NOGUCHI:** How can international cooperation facilitate dialogue between scientific and indigenous knowledge, given that current JICA schemes focus on protecting communities from adverse development impacts rather than supporting such exchange?
- **Mikio ISHIWATARI:** Japan's development assistance focuses on Western technology transfer, making it difficult to integrate indigenous/local knowledge. However, Japan has successful examples, such as using locally sourced materials (bamboo, stone) in Nepal's landslide protection. A structured mechanism is needed to collect, evaluate and integrate these traditional techniques into modern projects.

Seeking Synthesis between Different Levels of Climate Security (15:45-16:45)

Moderator:

- Osamu MIZUNO, IGES

Speakers:

- Yukari TAKAMURA, University of Tokyo
- Miko MAEKAWA, Sasakawa Peace Foundation
- Naoyuki OKANO, IGES

Key points from presentations:

Naoyuki OKANO:

- There seems to be a reluctance to use the term “climate security.” The “nexus of climate impacts and security concerns” is presented as an alternative, more palatable framing in some regions. Thus, there is a need for a strategic approach to using (or not using) the term “climate security.” It can be useful for raising awareness and mobilising resources in some contexts, but counterproductive in others. The key is whether or not addressing the core issues is prioritised, regardless of the specific terminology.
- A major challenge is the separation of climate policy (UNFCCC) and security policy (UN Security Council). It is vital to break down these silos and address the interconnected nature of climate impacts and security concerns.
- While there are differences between climate security and adaptation policies, there are also similarities. One approach would be to integrate both within existing frameworks, like National Adaptation Plans, to maximise their potential and address the full scope of climate-related challenges. A recent paper was introduced, arguing that National Adaptation Plans have not reached their full potential and should integrate areas that cover climate security aspects.

Miko MAEKAWA:

- The term “climate security” can be valuable for Japanese policymakers to gain attention and weight in addressing climate change, as it is no longer solely an environmental issue but intersects with numerous sectors. However, there also concern about the potential for politicisation and societal division when using the term “security,” especially regarding migration.

- It is important for the Japanese security sector to take a practical approach when considering climate change impacts on its operations. There is even sometimes an “allergic reaction” to the term “human security,” a concept central to Japanese diplomacy. This necessitates a tailored approach to local responses and assistance.
- Key points from this workshop included the large-scale and fundamental impact of climate change and the need for rapid transformation. It is also vital to have region-wide cooperation across the diverse Asia-Pacific region, including localised and livelihood-focused approaches.
- One suggestion is for Japan to build on its strengths in disaster risk reduction and contribute to operationalising the Loss and Damage fund, leveraging its technology and knowledge. Loss and damage, financing aspects, and timescale considerations were identified as missing elements in the research.

Yukari TAKAMURA:

- Security is defined as protection from something failing or being lost, with the “something” being what society deems critical, essential or important.
- Connecting climate and security raises the importance of climate issues on the policy agenda and helps mobilise resources, including finance, for action. This is seen as a key value of the nexus.
- It was noted that the Ministry of the Environment, Japan, initiated climate security discussions in Japan in the mid-2000s, focusing on the impact of climate change on national security and inspired by similar discussions in the US. The discussion has evolved, incorporating the concept of human security.
- Securitisation of issues, like the climate-security nexus, can raise their importance and mobilise resources, potentially leading to increased government involvement. The Ministry of Defense’s involvement in climate security discussions in Japan is one such example.
- While a comprehensive approach to policymaking is generally good, it can become complicated. As such, raising the level of importance of an issue through securitisation can sometimes negatively impact administrative reform or the policy-making process within a country or region.
- To effectively utilise the climate-security nexus, it is crucial to have a forum, platform or process for considering, assessing and potentially revisiting what is critical for society, especially through a climate lens.
- The climate-security nexus highlights the interlinkages between climate and other issues, such as water security, which can then impact national security. One suggestion would be to further explore these “channels” of impact.

- It is also necessary to exercise caution when it comes to the security narrative, as it can be anthropocentric and may exclude non-human issues. There is also a concern about using security narratives for migration, as this can lead to migrants being viewed as threats, which is not a good solution for migration problems.
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Key points from the discussion:

1 Overcoming Siloed Approaches in Policymaking

Mikio ISHIWATARI:

- One question is how to overcome siloed approaches to policymaking, particularly in Japan. Japan has experience collaborating across sectors (like water and sanitation), but still struggles with siloed thinking. It is vital to explore ways to better connect and integrate policies from different sectors, as this would be a valuable contribution.
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Amina MAHARJAN:

- Emphasis was put on the importance of interconnectedness in understanding and addressing climate change. Siloed thinking prevents us from grasping the true gravity of the situation. One example that illustrates this urgent situation is “peak water” by 2050 in some regions. A key point is that loss and damage serve as a segue to security concerns. The cost of inaction increases loss and damage, eventually leading to system failures, which in turn can escalate tensions and conflict.
 - Academic and research communities should quickly build evidence of these connections, moving beyond theoretical concepts. Another suggestion was to focus on loss and damage as a practical way to push governments towards quicker support and action, potentially making the “climate security” framing less necessary if conflicts can be averted.
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Yukari TAKAMURA: To address compound risks, two approaches were suggested:

- Developing typical categories of compound risks and mapping their causal effects (using water and floods in National Adaptation Plans as an example), which can provide guidance and tools for countries to identify critical security risks.
- Acting at the regional level, but with a crucial bottom-up component involving local and national level assessments and reviews. Dealing with complex, interconnected risks is a common challenge, even for the Japanese government.

2 Defining and Framing “Climate Security”

Christophe PIPOLO:

- The term “security” has diverse meanings and can be strategically used to attract attention but may also politicise debates.
 - Researchers must establish a shared understanding to avoid these pitfalls.
 - This is contrast with the human security approach, which focuses on solidarity and cooperation between communities rather than geopolitical competition. It is important to be aware of the “tyranny of words,” where meanings and interpretations can be manipulated for competitive purposes.
 - There is a need for bottom-up, regional solutions, but also a need to connect with global funding mechanisms to support these solutions.
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Mely CABALLERO-ANTHONY:

- Like “human security,” “climate security” draws attention, mobilises resources and highlights the urgency of climate change impacts. It is particularly valuable in conveying the need to address climate-related threats to individuals and communities, not just states.
- It is possible to trace the evolution of the security concept, from a focus on state security to human security, and now to climate security. Each shift challenged traditional notions and faced controversy, but ultimately gained acceptance. While “climate security” has been controversial, particularly at the UN level due to its association with conflict narratives, it has become more accepted due to the increasing urgency of the climate crisis.
- The human security framework could be used to make a case for climate security, as climate change directly impacts human security needs (food, water, etc.).
- While geopolitical tensions exist, climate change transcends borders and affects everyone. Framing climate change as a security issue can help overcome geopolitical barriers and foster cooperation.
- There is a need for strategic communication and tailoring the approach to specific contexts. If “climate security” faces resistance, alternative framings like “climate change and security nexus” can be used.
- The establishment of the UN Climate Security Mechanism (CSM) demonstrates growing acceptance of the concept. It is vital to have interconnectedness between different UN agencies and actors.
- National agendas and lead agencies are crucial for connecting different aspects of climate security. A bottom-up approach is also necessary, involving local communities and governments.

- It is vital to engage with the private sector, which has a significant role to play through technology and resources. Incentives, such as financial benefits, can encourage private sector participation.
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Nandakumar JANARDHANAN:

- Securitisation brings the issue closer to home and makes it more immediate. By framing climate change as a security threat, policymakers and companies are more likely to take action. This is seen as a positive aspect of using the term “climate security.”
 - Instead of modifying climate policy itself, one suggestion would be to modify other policies, such as energy policy and food policy, to adapt to the changing climate impacts. This approach emphasises the interconnectedness of different sectors and the need for a comprehensive response.
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3 Regional and Bottom-Up Approaches and DRR

Yukari TAKAMURA:

- There is a need for a bottom-up approach to climate security, involving various levels of policymaking and it is important to avoid geopolitical elements in discussions on climate security, especially in the current context.
 - Discussions should be data-driven and science-based. In addition, tools and guides should be developed so that local regions and countries can identify and consider what is most important from a security perspective.
 - Disaster prevention is a potential common agenda for the Asia-Pacific region, given the significant economic losses caused by natural disasters.
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Miko MAEKAWA:

- Focus should be put on identifying regional “hotspots” of risk, like the Arctic, and analysing the specific implications for security and ecosystems. Another recommendation would be to develop scenarios and case studies, building on previous work that examined the impact of natural disasters on armed conflict in the Asia-Pacific region. It is important to avoid assuming a single narrative, as different scenarios can lead to escalation, de-escalation or no change in conflict.
- There is also a need for careful analysis and consideration of multiple potential outcomes.

Naoyuki OKANO:

- He stressed the need for greater representation of perspectives from the Asia-Pacific region in climate security debates, which are often dominated by Western viewpoints. Also highlighted that while conflict is a significant concern, the region has a different sense of priorities and realities compared to other regions. Thus he aims to establish a platform for voices from the Asia-Pacific region to contribute to the climate security discourse.
 - He emphasized the importance of addressing normative and policy questions alongside scientific evidence, particularly regarding who should be involved in decision-making and how to address transnational challenges.
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Mely CABALLERO-ANTHONY:

- DRR is vital as a regional public good in the Asia-Pacific region, referencing the Sendai Framework.
 - There is also a need to protect vulnerable communities during natural disasters, particularly in hard-to-reach and conflict areas. This could be integrated into existing programmes, such as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.
 - Scenario planning and anticipatory action should be encouraged, drawing parallels with security studies and early warning systems. It is vital to act before disasters happen, rather than reacting after the fact.
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Amina MAHARJAN:

- Scenarios should be developed with the participation of various stakeholders, including local communities, to ensure ownership and relevance. At the same time it is important to avoid scenarios created solely by scientists or a single group, as these may not resonate with or be understood by those affected. Plural perspectives in scenario development and decision-making are also necessary.
- Effective science-policy dialogue is vital to bridge the gap between research and action, as evidenced by ICIMOD's experience in creating spaces for scientists, practitioners and policymakers to interact and ensure that scientific findings are translated into policy decisions.
- There are various challenges when sharing data in some contexts, where sensitivity and restrictions can hinder collaboration and knowledge sharing.
- There is also a need for context-specific solutions, recognising that what works in one location may not be applicable in another. Defining the relevant context and bringing together diverse actors are crucial for effective climate action.

Mikio ISHIWATARI:

- It is a challenge to incorporate socio-economic and cultural factors into scientific assessments of climate-related risks. While tools like satellite data can provide valuable scientific information, understanding the social and cultural dynamics within communities is crucial for effective climate action. One suggestion would be to contribute to bridging this gap between science and social understanding.
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Prabhakar S.V.R.K.:

- The presentation shared experience in conducting focus group discussions with local communities, where providing even macro-level climate projections relevant to livelihoods proved empowering for community members. Access to this information, even with uncertainties, helped them plan their futures and ambitions.
- Scenarios should serve as a guiding point for policymakers, helping them make informed decisions based on a well-defined and realistic “most positive scenario.” Clear communication of this scenario is crucial for effective decision-making.



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Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

2108-11, Kamiyamaguchi, Hayama, Kanagawa, 240-0115, Japan

E-mail: iges@iges.or.jp

Website: <https://www.iges.or.jp/en/projects/climate-security>

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