

Workshop for Capacity Building on Climate Change Impact Assessments and Adaptation Planning in the Asia-Pacific Region:

Needs and challenges for designing and implementing climate actions

October 1-2, 2015, Sukosol Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

Introduction

As part of the Adaptation Initiative launched by Japan's government, the "Workshop for Capacity Building on Climate Change Impact Assessments and Adaptation Planning in the Asia-Pacific Region: Needs and Challenges for Designing and Implementing Climate Actions" provided a platform for knowledge sharing and learning. Participants included representatives of ministries of the environment of 14 countries in the Asia-Pacific region¹, as well as representatives of international organizations, development partners, expert practitioners and academic researchers. The workshop aimed to identify the status of and needs for adaptation planning and climate change impact assessments at the national level in the Asia-Pacific region.



¹ Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam

Workshop outline

On the first day of the workshop, government representatives of the 14 countries in the Asia-Pacific region shared their major needs and challenges on National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). Those from Cambodia, Malaysia and Mongolia identified the need of capacity building, and the lack of education and public awareness, as well as the need on prioritization of implementation on adaptation planning. Fiji, Indonesia, Philippines and Samoa highlighted the insufficiency of policy framework, the overlapping or conflicting policies on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation (CCA), the unavailability of information and the need of monitoring and evaluation. Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka indicated the lack of sensitization to climate change, poor coordination between stakeholders and so on. Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam mentioned the poor accessibility to information, the needs of transparency in data collection, coordination between agencies and investment to infrastructure systems, and weak public participation, and the need of greater human resources development. Each country has a different perspective on their needs and challenges based on their country context, which can make impacts on adaptation planning.

On the second day of the workshop, international donors, implementation agencies and research institutes shared the information about their resources and experiences on assistance for adaptation planning, approaches and technologies related to climate change impact assessments. They provided detailed information on climate finance, data modelling and downscaling, mapping and forecasting risk and vulnerability, and adaptation policy implementation at the national level, as well as CCA-related tools, technologies and technical assistance programs. Then, major needs and challenges on climate change impact assessments were discussed. Cambodia, Malaysia and Mongolia specified the need of improvement on capacity building, weak public awareness and education on the impact assessments. Fiji, Indonesia, Philippines and Samoa emphasized too many relevant guidelines, interpretations and models to address uncertainty to climate change, low ability on climate change impact projection, quantification and application, the difficulty of gathering baseline data and impact modelling and the lack of sufficient capacity at local level. Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka presented limited research and technical capacity, the lack of seasonal and localized climate forecasting, and the need of education. Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam described the needs of coordination between the national and sub-national level and integration of climate change into local plans, and weak governmental supports. As the result, these findings highlighted the importance of building capacity, sharing knowledge and pooling expertise to meet the needs and challenges associated with adapting to climate change.

Current status on NAPs

The results from the workshop show that 3 countries out of the 14 countries in the Asia-Pacific region (21%) have a completed NAP, and 8 countries (57%) have an equivalent national plan that addresses CCA while the 3 countries (21%) do not have both completed and equivalent plans (Fig. 1. (a)). The results also demonstrate that 8 countries for each have completed 1) analysis of current climate and future climate change scenarios; 2) assessment of climate vulnerabilities and identification of adaptation options at appropriate levels; and 3) review and appraisal of adaptation options. To complete the above assessments, 8 countries in total (57%) have used climate change impact assessments, and 11 countries in total (79%) have utilized vulnerability assessments. On the other hand, the usages of scenario analysis of future socio-economic projections (2 countries: 14%) and cost-benefit analysis or cost-effectiveness analysis of adaptation options (2 countries: 14%) are still very low (Fig. 1. (b)).

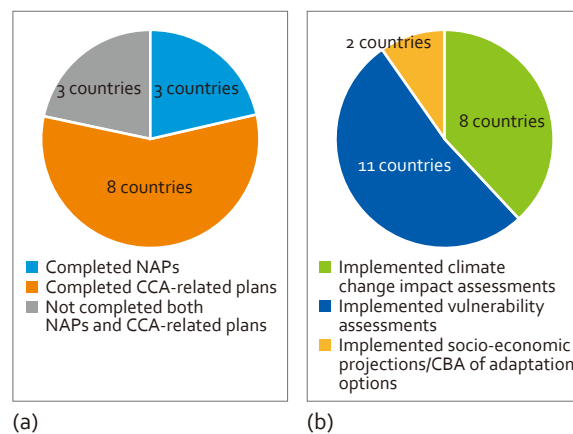


Fig. 1. Current status of 14 countries in the Asia-Pacific region: (a) NAPs; (b) Climate change impact assessments

For details and presentation materials, please see:

<http://www.asiapacificadapt.net/events/workshop-capacity-building-climate-change-impact-assessments-and-adaptation-planning-asia>

Acknowledgement

The workshop was conducted under Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan (MOEJ) commissioned work of "Adaptation Initiative" for the fiscal year of 2015. MOEJ will continuously conduct NAP-related workshops in order to support promoting actions to address climate change in developing countries.