

Adaptation knowledge management for capacity development by Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN)

Daisuke Sano and Pooja Sawhney
IGES Regional Centre

*Workshop on a Low Carbon Development and Resilient Society in Asia:
Elements for Qatar and the Future Regime*
Bangkok, 4 September 2012



Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN)



Many challenges in climate change adaptation

- **Uncertainties in future climate forecasts and possible impacts;**
- **Limited resources;**
- **Access to finance, financing long-term projects;**
- **Cross-sectoral planning and informed decision making;**
and many more

Difficulties in cross-sectoral planning

- Myths or facts?

- *“If resources are limited, better decisions can be made.”*
- *“If common goals are shared, better resource allocation is possible.”*
- *“Visions and goals are set in the plans, then the rest is just to implement them.”*



Question

How can knowledge management (knowledge generation - sharing) as a tool evolve to enhance capacity development in adaptation planning/ policy making?



Many learning opportunities exist, but...

More and more information is available on the web.



Numerous face-to-face learning opportunities (meetings, workshops, training, seminars, etc.) are offered.

Gaps between service recipient and provider

Service recipient:

- Sectionalism, mandate of coordinating agencies
- Insufficient assessment data
- Undocumented knowledge/wisdom
- Aid fatigue
- Rapid changes in situations



Service provider:

- Insufficient knowledge in the local context
- Difficulties in accessing data
- Racing to quick unscientific solutions
- Limited project period
- Conventional mode of technical assistance



APAN at a glance

- First regional adaptation-specific network, established in 2009 under UNEP
- A growing network supported by the governments of Sweden and Japan, ADB, USAID in close collaboration with as 8 sub-regional and technical institutes in the A-P region
 - Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (**CAREC**)
 - Climate Action Network South Asia (**CANSA**)
 - Local Governments for Sustainability (**ICLEI**)
 - Environmental Innovators Program of **Keio University**
 - Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (**SPREP**)
 - Global Water Partnership (**GWP**) **South Asia**
 - International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (**ICIMOD**)
 - Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (**SEARCA**)

APAN's menu of services

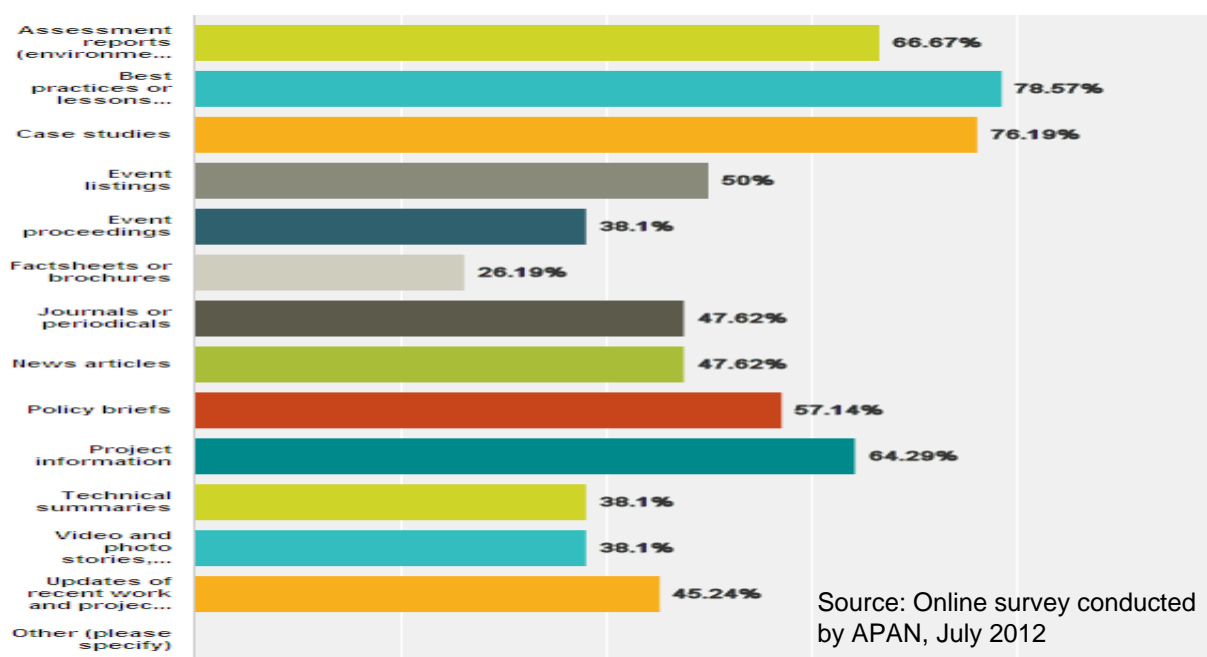
- Programmatic approach operated and implemented by UNEP-ROAP, RRC.AP, SEI, IGES and other partners
- Services include:
 - **Knowledge management**
 - Knowledge generation/production
 - Training/workshops
 - Annual Adaptation Forum, networking
- URL - <http://www.apan-gan.net/>

APAN's knowledge management

- **Knowledge Depository**
 - Good adaptation practice database, etc.
- **News Centre**
- **Community of Practice (CoP) – more interactive feature**
 - Pilot with themes on adaptation financing and adaptation project preparation supported by USAID's ADAPT Asia-Pacific project;
 - CoP to discuss a really focused topic, like financing;
 - CoP can discuss cross-sectoral matters leading informed-decision making and faster action
- **APAN's new website**



Demand for knowledge products such as best practices



Peer-to-peer learning through specialized network

- Specialized information and knowledge
- Can mobilize fresher evidence/experience-based lessons rather than those out of a textbook
 - More chances to learn from other than one-size-fits-all solutions
 - Not prescriptions but good practices to learn from
 - South-south and peer-to-peer learning
- Can offer services at lower entry cost in a more sustainable manner than time-bound projects
- Network will be powered by input from practitioners/users.

Summary

- More active role by knowledge management
 - Going beyond knowledge sharing
 - Towards creation of impacts by providing *peer-to-peer learning environment*
 - Inducing the development of more effective / newer way of technical assistance
 - Encouraging practitioners in developing countries to document findings and share for more tailored policy making

