

ISAP SESSION SUMMARY 4

PL-9: Adapting to Climate Change: Experience and Challenges for Asia

Wednesday, 24 July 2013, 10:00

This session provided both in-country experiences and regional perspectives on addressing and planning for climate change adaptation in the Asia-Pacific region. It allowed participants to exchange lessons learned and share best practices from both developing and developed countries in the region. Discussion was exchanged on how climate change adaptation could be further improved with the latest scientific findings of the climate change impacts assessment and the experience from other countries. The discussion further focused on how information and knowledge on adaptation can be shared by countries to develop such strategies.

The session started with three key note speeches on “Projected Climate Change Impacts in Asia and Japan”, “Introduction of National Climate Change Adaptation Plan of Korea” and “Measures to Produce National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change in Japan”. This was followed by four presentations by panelists on adaptation planning in Thailand, lessons from national and local adaptation from Korea, local adaptation experience in Nepal and national impact assessment from Japan as well as the role of international knowledge networks. Information was exchanged on current and future climate change impacts in each country and their efforts on adaptation.

Discussion focused on the importance of scientific knowledge and its linkage to policy making, top-down and bottom-up approaches for developing national and local adaptation plans, integration with development planning and investment, and coordination and collaboration with relevant sectoral ministries and stakeholders as well as international cooperation especially south-south cooperation.

Some challenges highlighted at the session included the need to consider differences in geographical landscape and local activities, especially agriculture, which would require adequate localised climate change adaptation planning. In addition, the importance of involving diverse stakeholders including communities, local governments and NGOs was also stressed.

Key messages of the session

- Building resilient human, natural environments is an important objective of green economy and adaptation to climate change can help achieve the same. Though the research has proven early adaptation to be cost effective, notwithstanding the several advances made to date, large gaps still exist in policy development and implementation.
- Several important lessons can be drawn from the local-level experience that emphasised the need for greater links between policy making and science, in particular vulnerability assessment, public participation and a need for greater understanding of concepts such as risk and vulnerability.
- Networks play an important role in sharing good practices, experiences and scientific knowledge to relevant stakeholders and in building capacity for better adaptation planning.

