

Closing Remarks at APAN side event at COP 19

18 November, 2013

Warsaw, Poland

Hironori Hamanaka IGES

1. Opening

- Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen. I would like to first take the opportunity to thank the Ministry of Environment, Japan for providing this opportunity and also for supporting the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) since its inception.
- As we all know, adaptation is a knowledge-intensive undertaking, and access to relevant and usable knowledge is an important prerequisite for successful adaptation efforts. The need for information and knowledge spans the interlinked stages of adaptation actions, from climate change impact assessment and vulnerability analysis, through policy making and planning, to piloting, demonstrating, and full scale implementation.
- Huge knowledge gaps are observed in many critical areas for adaptation such as autonomous adaptation processes, management of critical ecosystems, migration, human health, water management and financing mechanisms for risk management. In particular, due to the fragmentation of knowledge under different disciplines, knowledge in a packaged and ready-to-use form, integrating the different stages of adaptation, is rarely available. In addition, knowledge about adapting to climate change lies at an international level and is failing to reach those in the developing world who need it most.
- Since 2008, UNEP in partnership with key UN agencies and international organisations has been facilitating the development of a Global Adaptation Network (GAN). The four Regional Networks under GAN, APAN being the first, have been working to help build climate resilience of vulnerable communities, ecosystems and economies through the mobilisation of knowledge for adaptation.

2. Reflections from the Event

- The presentations and discussions which took place during this event presented and highlighted the catalyst role played by APAN in knowledge generation, knowledge management and in capacity building of the relevant stakeholders in Asia and the Pacific region.
- The partnership framework and the work conducted by APAN were demonstrated by the presentations made by partners and by the demonstration of the case study on Mongolia.
- Though the process of knowledge generation, knowledge management and in capacity building sounds simple, meeting the demands effectively from the region is a key for the success of the Network.

3. Closing

- APAN will continue to work with its partners in the region. APAN is expanding and strengthening its network and collaboration with key institutions, UN agencies, national governments, donor agencies and other initiatives on climate change in the region. It will also strive to forge closer ties with the Global Adaptation network and the other regional networks under its ambit.
- APAN has been working with its Sub Regional Nodes and Thematic Nodes to reach out to the region and continues to forge stronger collaboration and networks with particular focus on knowledge sharing and access to the adaptation fund, and associated capacity development through developing its web-portal, publishing newsletters, organising workshops, and trainings on various topics related to adaptation based on the demands from the countries.
- APAN through its work has scaled up the adaptation actions in the region .The network has also built capacity, especially of government officials to enable better policy formulation and integration of climate adaptation. It will continue to do so in the future.
- Thank you for your attention.