

Adaptation planning and enhanced capacity in the Asia-Pacific? - barriers of adaptation measures -

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Climate related impacts including hurricanes, flood, and droughts are highly related to the vulnerability of local people and it has been widely agreed that developed countries have better capacity to adapt to climate change than the developing countries. Therefore, the adaptation to climate change has been focused on developing countries and adaptation issues should be integrated into the development plan of developing countries. Developed countries are often asked question “how to contribute to enhance the adaptation capacities in developing countries?” Though there has been a consensus that they can contribute with financial support, there should be discussion in the literature on the strengths and weaknesses about capacity development and technological transfers from developed countries.

For example, Japan has good experiences in water resources and food / agricultures. Water resource managements will be useful for in the region where drier climate is expected to progress due to climate change. Japanese experiences also contribute both hard and “non-market” adaptation technologies in an agricultural sector. Japan has advance irrigation drainage technologies mainly on the rice cropping, agricultural facilities general including paddy field establishment. At the same time, Japanese has one of the largest if not actually the largest farmers’ cooperatives namely Japan Agricultural Cooperatives or JA that has strong political power.

Look through the measures currently available, it is easy to recognise there are water and agricultural related measures in other sectors. For example, hygienic after floods is important measure not only as a water resource management, but also as a human health management to prevent infectious disease in a human health sector. Also planting, vegetation recovery technique in an ecological system sector has strong connection with an agricultural sector including forestry. It is important to recognise that these adaptation measures and associated impacts are inter-related across the sectors.

Good experiences in developed countries do not grantee the success of the same approaches and technologies in developing countries where physical and human resources are limited and impacts from

the climate changes are likely to be different in different situations. When we priorities adaptation measures, it is important to consider, applicability, cost, and effectiveness. These factors are likely to be different between countries. For example, extending time to drainage pounded water and moving a cropping season is effective as an adaptation plan, but these may not be effective if customs on water supply are not used to do so. It will be hard to enforce adaptation plans needing many looking after because of declining national population and aging societies in developed countries. However, the situation is likely to be different in developing countries where there are excessive labour forces. As long as these pieced of limitation in the transferability issues are recognised, supports from developed courtiers will be useful to enhance the adaptation capacities in developing countries. What the developed countries offered should be matched with needs from developing courtiers.