

ACTIVITY BRIEF

4th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum

1-3 October 2014 | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

BACKGROUND

The 4th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum was organised by the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN), a collaborative network between the United Nations Environment Programme, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, the Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific, and the Stockholm Environment Institute.

The Forum was hosted by the Office of the Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of Malaysia, with technical support from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's Southeast Asia Disaster Prevention Research Initiative (SEADPRI-UKM). The Forum was supported by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan; the Asian Development Bank; the Korea Environment Institute; and the Rockefeller Foundation.

The Forum brought together more than 500 policymakers, scientists, donors, researchers, and representatives from NGOs, international organisations and regional intergovernmental bodies from around 50 countries in Asia and that Pacific and beyond. It was designed with various activities such as plenary sessions, panel discussions, side events, and a marketplace to promote greater interaction.

The Forum was structured around the theme "New Partnerships for Resilient Development: Government, Business and Society" and it focused on the following five topics:

1. **Mainstreaming and transformative change:** policy; trade and finance; technology/knowledge transfer; public-private partnerships; ethics and values; gender sensitive development; community involvement; and poverty alleviation
2. **Development and the food-water-energy nexus:** agricultural land; water use; water resources; infrastructure/reconstruction; private investment; and energy/water/food security
3. **Disaster risk reduction and human security:** loss and damage; insurance; risk communication; risk management and adaptation; reconstruction; health; conflict; migration; and poor and vulnerable groups
4. **Forestry, biodiversity and ecosystems change:** livelihoods; traditional ecological knowledge; conservation; and community-based and ecosystem-based adaptation
5. **Cities with an emphasis on coastal development and sea-level rise:** urbanisation; tourism; heat waves; mangrove protection; sea-level rise; and Small Island Developing States



Plenary sessions at the 4th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

FORUM HOSTS



Office of the Science Advisor
to the Prime Minister of Malaysia



Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's Southeast Asia
Disaster Prevention Research Initiative

ABOUT APAN

APAN is a leading climate change adaptation network in the Asia-Pacific region. Our primary goal is to assist countries to build climate change resilient and sustainable human systems, ecosystems, and economies. Our initiatives turn knowledge into policy action and trainings into tangible benefits.

APAN PARTNERS



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OBJECTIVE

The Forum's broad objective was to assist decision-makers at all levels of government, private sector, and communities to be more strategic and effective in addressing the challenges of development in a changing climate.

OUTCOMES

The Forum provided an excellent opportunity for a range of actors to share their experiences and efforts addressing and adapting to climate change, which, in turn, generated new opportunities for collaboration.

The Forum induced many discussions on shifting adaptation to be more cross-sectoral and integrated into the broader scope of sustainable development. Some sessions discussed transformative change and others dealt with linkages among food, water, energy, disaster risk reduction, human security, biodiversity, cities, and coastal development.

The Forum also demonstrated that adaptation calls for multi-stakeholder engagement. While government agencies are the ones taking the leading roles, there is a lot more that needs to be done and that can be done with other stakeholders, including development agencies, the private sector, academia and research communities, and civil society organisations.

Solutions to many specific adaptation challenges are available but need to be shared, accessible, and affordable. Science and practical experience are both important sources of knowledge relevant to adaptation. The Forum provided direct opportunities for knowledge sharing as well as for strategising on how to improve knowledge sharing beyond the Forum.

SELECTED KEY MESSAGES

- The key to just or fair adaptation – given diverse interests and values and unequal power relations – is the empowerment of marginalised and vulnerable people.
- Long-term recovery following disasters remains a challenge. A key reason is that interventions often do not address underlying drivers of vulnerability, such as political marginalisation and insecure rights.
- Infrastructure solutions are about getting the right technology in the right place. Solutions should be safe-to-fail, not assumed to be fail-safe.
- The potential private finance available for adaptation is huge and uncounted. While governments should enable these flows, so can individual investors and shareholders.
- Businesses face increasing risks of damages and losses. Adaptation is also a business opportunity. Businesses will need to work together. New partnerships are therefore needed, and that demands attention to communication, incentives, and roles.
- Adaptation is one of many agendas and not the immediate priority for countries. For many, climate change is still just an environment, not development, issue.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.asiapacificadapt.net/adaptationforum/2014/>