

Capacity building elements addressed during the SBSTA 36 research dialogue

Notes for the SBSTA Chair

- I am pleased to report to this Forum on Capacity Building some outcomes from the research dialogue, which also addresses a couple of elements relevant to capacity building in developing countries related to research.
- The SBSTA research dialogue, which I had a pleasure to chair - at least for most of the time -, took place last Saturday, 19 May, in the afternoon.
- The research dialogue was initiated by the SBSTA in response to decision 9/CP.11, in order that Parties be informed on developments in research activities relevant to the needs of the Convention by regional and international research programmes and organizations. At the same time, the research dialogue allows to communicate Parties' views on research needs and priorities to the scientific community.
- One of the elements that the SBSTA, at its 26th session, has invited the research programmes and organizations to provide information about, is on research capacity-building activities, particularly in developing countries.
- In Durban, the Conference of the Parties adopted a decision asking Parties, in particular developing country Parties, and the regional and international research programmes and organizations, to, among others, utilize the research dialogue as a forum for discussing needs for climate change research and research-related capacity building, particularly those of developing countries, to support the work of the Convention.
- A number of regional and international research programmes and organizations and the IPCC have positively responded to the SBSTA's invitation to regularly provide information on developments in their activities that are relevant to the work of the Convention.
- At this year's research dialogue, information on research-related capacity building in developing countries were addressed by some organizations that participated in the dialogue, especially by some of the regional research programmes and organizations, in particular, the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) and the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI). Information by the global change System for Analysis, Research and Training (START) was provided through the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP), to which START is a partner.
- Let me briefly highlight some information that was provided during the dialogue by the research programmes and organizations that relate to research-related capacity building in developing countries:

- The IAI reported on efforts to provide training opportunities for young scientists, for example through fellowship programmes of the IAI's multinational Consortium for the study of ocean-related global and climate changes in South America (SACC);
 - The ESSP reported on efforts by START to provide fellowships and education opportunities. START fellows have participated in the work of the IPCC, in global change research, and in programmes relevant to adaptation.
 - The ESSP also reported on efforts to support the participation of young scientists in international research conferences, such as the recent major science conference Planet Under Pressure, held in London the end of March this year.
 - APN presented capacity building initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region, which aim to improve scientific and technical capacities of nations in the region. Examples included recently published 2011 Climate Synthesis Report in Asia Pacific, which inter alia encourages APN member countries to increase capacity on national adaptation strategies, planning and implementation at various levels.
 - APN also reported on capacity development aimed at enhancing capacity to understand science to inform policy making, especially for local level adaptation activities.
 - Other recent capacity building initiatives of the APN in support of developing countries include the APN's Low Carbon Initiative.
 - Further activities, as reported by the ESSP, include START's research-driven capacity building activities, aiming to engage the scientific communities of developing regions in international collaborative scientific research related to global change. Recent START capacity building activities are focusing in particular on Africa and South-East Asia.
- For those of you who were not able to attend the research dialogue, a webcast has been made available and the presentations shall also be available on the website shortly. I will also provide a report on outcome of the dialogue at the closing session of the SBSTA.
 - This concludes my report. Thank you.
