UNFCCC workshop on the identification of gaps and challenges in
the implementation of risk management approaches
to the adverse effects of climate change
10-12 October 2011, Lima Peru

Comments by Akio Takemoto, Director of the APN Secretariat

The APN is the inter-governmental network for global change research consisting of 22 countries in the Asia-Pacific region which contributes to adaptation measures to climate change including disaster risk management in the region by funding for research programs and capacity development programs regarding global change issues.

The APN supports nearly 40 projects per year of which about 40% is directly related to climate change. One of our important missions is enhancement of linkage between scientific knowledge and policy-making particularly in developing countries.

With respect to performance of scientific activities related to climate change, amount of funds were spent for adaptation measures in developing countries such as implementation of modeling works and impact assessment and formulation of national adaptation plans supported by international organizations and developed countries. However, I have impression that the scientific knowledge resulting from these supported projects have not been effectively utilized for decision making process, because capacity of local scientists were not well raised by these projects only, since they were carried out by foreign consultants.

Last week, the APN published the synthesis report on the past APN climate change projects which can be accessed from the Website (http://www.apn-gcr.org/). The synthesis report recommends that APN members are encouraged to increase the capacity to formulate national strategies on adaptation such as development of downscaling modeling technologies and related to capacity development projects.

Finally, I'd like to again highlight the importance of capacity development of local scientists so that they could take ownership in decision making process on adaptation measures in their own countries.

Thank you.