

Submission by Japan

Views on ways to enhance the relevance of, and to support the objectives of, the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

5 September, 2013

Japan welcomes the opportunity to submit its idea based on the request by paragraph 8 of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) 38 draft conclusions proposed by the Chair (FCCC/SBSTA/2013/L.9), which invites parties' views on ways to enhance the relevance of, and to support the objective of, the work programme last June, taking into account (a), (b) and (c) as mentioned below.

In order to enhance the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP), the NWP needs to be a better knowledge platform which enables all parties and stakeholders to access and utilize updated and useful knowledge based on both science and practice on climate impacts and vulnerability, climate risks, and adaptation.

Japan can contribute to developing the NWP by providing both scientific knowledge and practical cooperation related to identification of climate impacts, vulnerability, and risks, and the implementation of adaptation. We believe it is particularly important to link scientific knowledge such as outputs of modeling that evaluate climate impacts and vulnerability with adaptation actions on the ground. We also would like to emphasize the importance of thinking of ways to encourage the participation of NWP partner organizations including those from the private sector whose main business is related to adaptation issues such as regional insurance schemes.

(a) Considering the scope of the work of the NWP as agreed in the annex of decision 2/CP.11 through additional cross-cutting issues

In the annex of decision 2/CP.11, it is described that the scope of work comprises two thematic areas, (a) impacts and vulnerability, and (b) adaptation planning, measures and actions, and it also shows how the scope of work will be implemented through specific activities, whose implementation should incorporate the cross-cutting issues such as (a) methodologies, data and modeling and (b) integration into sustainable development. Japan thinks that it is necessary to clarify the scope of work and its implementation, and the possible cross-cutting issues among parties. Japan believes that the following two points are especially important in enhancing the NWP:

(b) Sequencing activities so that they build on each other, and engaging adaptation practitioners - how to enhance engagement of the NWP partner organizations

Japan would like to highlight the importance of enhancing engagement of NWP partner organizations based on interviews with seven organizations located in Japan.

(b)-1 NWP partner organizations in the academic field and adaptation practitioners

Japan thinks it is important to review the degree to which NWP partner organizations are eager to be engaged in the NWP and at the same time, enhance the engagement of science communities, and practitioners in improving the NWP as a better knowledge platform. Japan has contributed to climate impacts, vulnerability, risks, and adaptation actions from both scientific and technical cooperation aspects. NWP partner organizations in Japan and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have implemented multiple studies and projects on these issues, and they have the potential to contribute to the process of enhancing the NWP.

- Academic NWP partner organizations in Japan have engaged in research concerning assessment of climate impacts and vulnerability. Some partner organizations conduct research on climate risks based on climate change impacts and vulnerability studies, using models. Other partner organizations focus more on the ground and implement projects in developing countries related to adaptation and disaster risk reduction. In order to involve the NWP partner organizations in Japan which possess wide range of knowledge on the above issues and utilize their knowledge, the UNFCCC secretariat and parties need to clarify what specific information is needed to enhance discussion under the NWP.
- Japan supports two regional networks on adaptation. One is the UNEP-led Global Adaptation Network (GAN) already registered as the NWP partner organization. Its regional network, Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) has focused on impacts and vulnerability and helps national governments mainstream adaptation in their development strategies. In August 2013, under Japan's initiative, a conference on adaptation and loss and damage was held to exchange scientific knowledge on those issues. The second network is the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN), an intergovernmental research network whose primal mission is capacity building of researchers and enhancing science policy linkages. It prioritizes adaptation including disaster risk reduction and loss and damage to which Japan provided special research fund. These networks can

contribute to providing updated and useful knowledge and holding collaborative workshops with NWP activities.

- As for adaptation practitioners, JICA has contributed to the field of adaptation by supporting infrastructure development, policy development, and also human resource development including knowledge and technology acquisition on climate change projection and disaster preventions in developing countries.

(b)-2 NWP Partner organizations in private sectors

Unfortunately, it was clear that some private companies, which have little relationship between their main business and adaptation, have lost interests in engaging with the NWP activities. It was unclear how they can contribute to the NWP and what they can gain by participating in the NWP.

On the other hand, it was realized that there is an insurance company, whose main business is connected with adaptation is interested in the NWP activities. Their business mainly focuses on insurance as an adaptation option. They think it is useful to be more involved with the NWP activities. They are eager to communicate more interactively with the NWP and other NWP partner organizations. For instance, sharing case studies and good practices, which are related to adaptation measures in vulnerable countries, provided by the NWP partner organizations including private companies, will be useful among the NWP partner organizations as well as developing countries. The insurance company has already engaged with several adaptation-related activities such as weather index insurance in Thailand which has contributed to improvement in living standards in specific local areas and has also participated in the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Pilot established by the World Bank.

To sum up, parties should consider how to involve the NWP partner organizations whose main areas are related to adaptation into future NWP activities. Possible ways include building a virtual platform which shares case studies and good practices in developing countries and holding workshops on some thematic topics such as local and regional insurance mechanisms as a means of promoting climate-related risk reduction more actively as ever.

(c) Developing linkages with adaptation-related work streams and bodies under the Convention, including the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), as appropriate

NWP activities should be linked with other relevant adaptation activities under the Convention and could contribute to the other adaptation agenda under the SBI by providing scientific and technical knowledge and experience.

Under the Adaptation Committee's (AC) three-year work plan from 2012 to 2014, possible support from the NWP to the work of the AC will be considered, which includes joint activities and provision of information and knowledge. As there are few activities which have involved the NWP partner organizations, it will be a good opportunity for them to participate in workshops and contribute to the development of information and knowledge-sharing of activities initiated by the AC.

Regarding NAPs, the NWP has already compiled case studies on national adaptation planning processes during 2012. Therefore, the NWP could assist the AC in identifying good practices for integrating adaptation into national development policies, processes and actions.