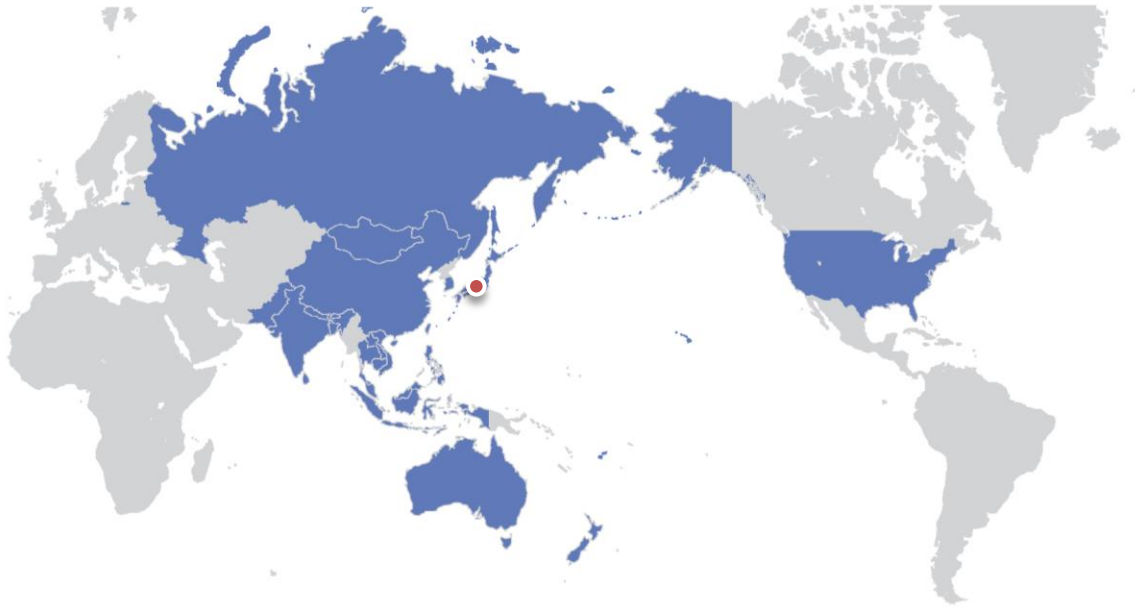


Capacity Development in Developing States in the Asia-Pacific Region: Some of the Issues

**Dr Andrew W. Matthews, Steering Committee Member
Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)**

42nd Session of the Subsidiary Body for Science & Technological Advice (SBSTA)
7th Research Dialogue with the International Research Community
4 June 2015, 15:00-18:00, World Conference Centre Bonn , Germany

An Inter-Governmental Network of 22 Countries in the Asia-Pacific region fostering Global Change and Sustainability Research



- Established **1996**
- Secretariat in **Kobe**, Japan since 1999
- Financial contribution from four donor countries:
Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand

** Pacific Island Countries, Singapore, Myanmar and Maldives are approved countries whose scientists are eligible to receive funding under APN awards.*



APN Capacity Development last 5 years

60 Projects completed

- **175** Collaborators
- **44** Peer-reviewed papers
- **161** Publications; Workshops/ Conference proceedings, policy briefs, toolkits and manuals, synthesis reports
- **4,117** People Engaged: Scientists, decision makers and general public
- **83%** of projects produced publications in addition to APN Technical Reports
- **223** Events Conducted
- **72%** of projects were policy-relevant and/or engaged policy makers via various approaches
- **90%** of projects provided monetary co-financing

Highlights of Best Practices (1)

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Climate change and variability: implications on biodiversity; youth scenario simulations and adaptation in Pacific

- a) Improved skills of youth and community on climate change risk assessment and adaptation planning
- b) Identified coastal and marine rehabilitation and protection, waste management and food security and agriculture as highlighted areas where adaptation measures for climate change and sustainability of biodiversity are needed
- c) Effectively reached communities through an innovative way that involved cultural drama.



More information:

<http://www.apn-gcr.org/resources/items/show/1633>

Highlights of Best Practices (2)

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Enhancing the climate change adaptation capacity of local government units and scientists in the Philippines

- a) High level of local policy makers participation led to enhanced capacity on vulnerability assessment and climate change adaptation planning
- b) Effectively disseminated project outcomes at science, policy and community levels
- c) Influenced local level policy makers (Local Government Units) to integrate climate risk management and climate change adaptation plans into annual investment and land-use plans for municipalities
- d) Built partnerships among local institutions



More information:

<http://www.apn-gcr.org/resources/items/show/1646>

Highlights of Best Practices (3)

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Promoting sustainable use of waste biomass in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand - combining food security, bio-energy and climate protection benefits

- a) A detailed country-level analysis and results comparison among participating countries
- b) Closer collaboration between national, local policy makers and municipal staff from the project implementation stage
- c) Produced local language guides and distributed among local government officials
- d) Identified potential donors to continue project activities in other cities

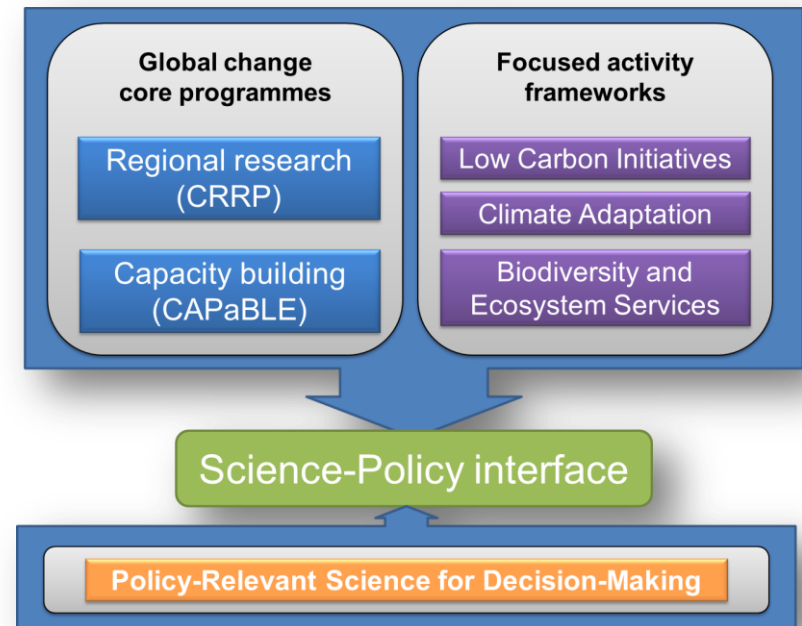
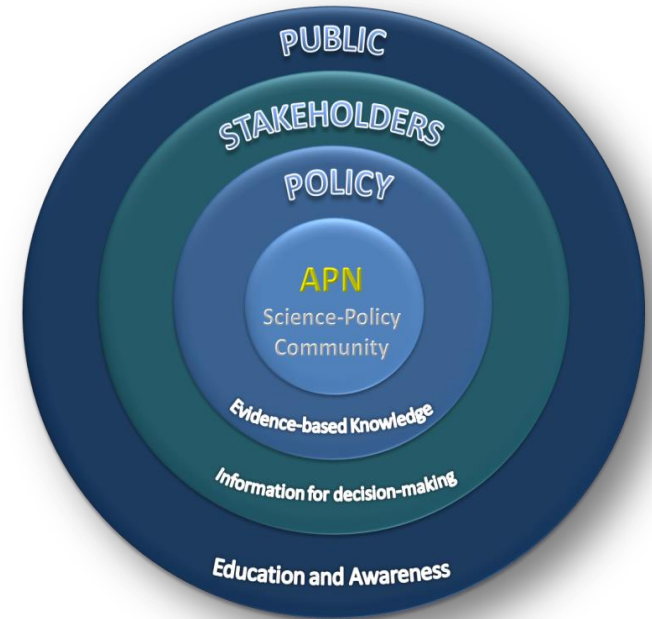


More information:

<http://www.apn-gcr.org/resources/items/show/1662>

4th strategic Phase 2015-2020 APN Action Agenda

- **Research Agenda**
 - Climate Change and Climate Variability;
 - Biodiversity and Ecosystems;
 - Changes in the Atmospheric, Terrestrial and Marine Domains;
 - Resources Utilisation and Pathways for Sustainable Development; and
 - Risk Reduction and Resilience.
- **Capacity Development Agenda**
- **Science-Policy Agenda**



Capacity Development Agenda

1. Supporting capacity development of early career researchers
2. Supporting capacity development of policy makers, community leaders, resource managers
3. Cooperating with other international capacity development programmes
4. Pursuing existing or creating new fora for discussion and interaction between scientists and policy makers
5. Supporting training workshops for scientists to develop skills and techniques in providing science-based tools to support policy development
6. Encouraging stakeholder involvement in all phases of projects that APN undertakes
7. Conducting regular synthesis and assessment activities of projects to identify important outcomes, research gaps, and emerging issues that could be used to support policy development

Capacity Development Needs

1. Capacity building of policy makers to **understand new scientific knowledge** and its usage for policy planning
2. Although scientists and policy makers understand the importance of the communication, they usually do not **have the understanding of the communication tools needed to reach end users**. So there is a need of training to improve the understanding of the communication.
3. **Media workshops are needed** to increase the media attention to scientific activity
4. **Long term capacity development projects are crucial** to maintain an effective mechanism for disaster risk reduction and build resilience.

Capacity Development Issues in Science - Policy interaction.

1. Policy makers often newly assigned to “Climate Change” issue.
2. “Climate Change” is a catch-all for a multi-disciplinary issue and yet often a single Ministry is given responsibility.
3. Difficult to arrange time and place where policy makers given time to attend.
4. Policy makers prefer meeting to be for 1 hour and in home Ministry and in local language.
5. Often junior officer assigned to attend meeting at short notice as more senior person required for urgent ministerial work.
6. Junior person not familiar with topic nor the set of acronyms!

Highlighted Issues – Asia/Pacific

1. Researchers needed to identify **short-term and long-term actions** when delivering scientific outcomes to policy makers.
2. To motivate scientists to policy-related studies, there needs to be a mechanism to **monitor and evaluate research activities that have been effective on the ground in policy developments** and reward such incentives.
3. The best approach to transfer scientific findings to policy planning is to **hold face-to-face discussions** between scientists and policy makers and identify specific persons required for such dialogue
4. In the area of implementing programmes suggested by scientists, participants emphasized the importance of having **local champions in the policy sector** who understand the issue and can help implement programmes that matter.
5. A science-policy interface has to be actively managed, since governance is about who controls what and how such control is exerted. In this context, **science should be brought to local levels** to contribute critical inputs, so decision makers have a diversity of information to choose from to shape policies at the local level.
6. Partnerships between the science and policy communities need to be looked at with the aim of **identifying what works and what doesn't**.

Suggestions on addressing capacity development in the Asia-Pacific region:

- **Understanding:** regional and cultural diversity; traditional knowledge is powerful (west-knows-best practices are too common....
.....one size does not fit all)...
- **Educating:** providing better opportunities for young (early career) scientists through training; engaging youth especially in social networking...
- **Creating:** opportunities for informal dialogues with stakeholders at sub-regional levels (addressing common issues builds trust and a sense of ownership and is less intimidating)...
- **Engaging:** in activities that involve all stakeholders and engaging with and listening to those who are most at risk...
- **Sharing and communicating:** the most important factor across the region is the human factor: sharing information and data, transferring knowledge, experiences and best practices...

APN Website: News, announcements and global change community updates

www.apn-gcr.org



APN E-Lib: Archive of publications, completed/ongoing project metadata and outputs www.apn-gcr.org/resources



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