Closing the gap…gap…gap…gap… (what gap?)

Capacity Development and Communicating Science

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Capacity Development in the Asia-Pacific

Setting the scene:

Capacity Development …what it involves

1. **Understanding Context:** regional and cultural differences (…..one size does not fit all)

2. **Educating:** providing better opportunities for early-career researchers & practitioners through training & networking opportunities…

3. **Creating:** opportunities for informal dialogue with stakeholders at sub-regional levels…

4. **Engaging:** in activities that involve all stakeholders and listening to those who are most at risk…

5. **Sharing and communicating:** the most important factor across the region is the human factor: sharing information, data, transferring knowledge, experiences and best practices…

Context for effective communication

Communication

- ❖ Bottom-up
- ❖ Top-down
- ❖ Science-Science
- ❖ Science-Policy
- ❖ Policy-Science
- ❖ Science-Community
- ❖ Policy-Community
- ❖ Globally: S-S; N-S, and S-N

"Communication & networking should go hand in hand to increase the effectiveness and uptake of recommendations developed through a co-generation process....."

Policy-maker at science-policy dialogue

Example:

Effective Communication of Science

For the decision makers on:
Scenarios and uncertainties….

We found the communicator builds the crucial factor of trust by:

Effectively communicating uncertainties by developing scenarios for planning processes..

❖ **Scenarios are crucial** to the planning and assessment process

❖ Standardized protocols need to be in place so that indicators can be developed and reported systematically

❖ Scenario methodologies, capabilities and constraints need to be communicated transparently

❖ Ensure **participatory approaches**

❖ Consider and communicate the co-benefits; ensure that all stakeholders understand **the rising costs of in-action**

Example:

Science-Policy Interface Southeast Asia

1. For programmes suggested by scientists, having **local champions in the policy sector** can really help implement programmes that matter.

2. Where internet access is available, **social media** can be used as part of advocacy and awareness raising efforts to get community support.

3. Partnerships between the science and policy communities need to be looked at with the aim of **identifying what works and what doesn't**.

4. There is a need to **expand partnerships** to other sectors. The private sector and development communities need to be included.

Example:

Science-Policy Interface South Asia

We learned that:

1: Researchers needed to identify **short-term and long-term actions** when delivering scientific outcomes to policy makers and recognise policy makers immediate needs.

2: An effective 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.

3: Policy communities lack interest in science-policy dialogues compared with scientists. To make it more attractive **involvement of a science champion** or respected person in the country is recommended.

Example:

A technology transfer project that worked

Developed toolkits that optimize climate change adaptation through enhanced community resilience.

Tool is **simple, informative and cost-efficient.** Designed as a rapid assessment tool for community resilience to:
1. Support climate adaptation planning across government departments,
2. Provide useful information that can be gathered **without significant expertise**,
3. **Fill a critical information gap** many governments have and can be used as part of regular planning processes.

Thank you!

For more information

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