



March, 2022

Secretariat of Information Collection and Preparation,  
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Dear Sir / Madam,

As an observer institution of the UNFCCC, we would like to submit a brief introduction of Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform (AP-PLAT) for the purpose of supporting the first Global Stocktake.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in Japanese characters, reading '増田 祐司' (Masutomi Yuji).

Dr. Yuji Masutomi

Section head of Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Research Section,  
Center for Climate Change Adaptation,  
National Institute for Environmental Studies  
E-mail: masutomi.yuji@nies.go.jp

**Submission from the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) of Japan:  
A response to the call for inputs for the first Global Stocktake**

March 2022

Center for Climate Change Adaptation (CCCA) at NIES

**Summary**

This document is an information contribution by the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) to the first Global Stocktake, pursuant to the COP decision 19/CMA.1, paragraph 19. This document provides information on the recent progress of the **Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform (AP-PLAT)**, managed by the Center for Climate Change Adaptation (CCCA) at NIES in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and other relevant agencies, to support development and implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) in the countries of the Asia-Pacific region.

**1. Background**

- This submission is based on COP decision 19/CMA.1, paragraph 19.
- The submission is mainly related to COP decision 19/CMA.1, paragraph 36(g).
  - (g) Good practices, experience and potential opportunities to enhance international cooperation on mitigation and adaptation and to increase support under Article 13, paragraph 5, of the Paris Agreement;*
- The submission is also related to questions 12 and 17 of the "Draft guiding questions by the SB Chairs for the Technical Assessment component of the first Global Stocktake".
  - 12. What is the collective progress made towards achieving the long-term vision on the importance of fully realizing technology development and transfer in order to improve resilience to climate change and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions referred in Article 10.1 of the Paris Agreement? What is the state of cooperative action on technology development and transfer?*
  - 17. What is needed to enhance national level action and support, as well as to enhance international cooperation for climate action, including in the short term?*

**2. Efforts by NIES regarding COP decision 19/CMA.1, paragraph 36(g)**

- Guiding Question 12. What is the collective progress made towards achieving the long-term vision on the importance of fully realizing technology development and transfer in order to improve resilience to climate change and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions referred in Article 10.1 of the Paris Agreement? What is the state of cooperative action on technology development and transfer?*
- AP-PLAT is a web-based information platform for national and local policymakers, researchers, businesses, and individuals seeking practical, up-to-date information on climate change adaptation and relevant science. The goal of AP-PLAT is to contribute to the sustainability and resilience of the Asia-Pacific region by informing decisions and supporting adaptation actions. CCCA serves as AP-PLAT's secretariat.

- AP-PLAT activities cover three core areas as described below. In each area, AP-PLAT works with partners for joint research implementation and the co-creation of knowledge products.
  - 1) Scientific information and knowledge creation
    - Generating global and regional scientific climate-related risk data and information.
    - Integrating existing data, information, and knowledge on climate-related risks to provide customized information.
  - 2) Tool development
    - Making scientific knowledge accessible and visually appealing to everyone.
    - Developing and co-creating regional climate-related risk information infrastructure.
    - Presenting relevant adaptation-related good practices.
  - 3) Capacity development
    - Providing training for adaptation policy development and project formation.
    - Providing training to practitioners on the utilization of scientific knowledge and tools.
    - Creating capacity building material.
  
- The latest updates include renovation of the AP-PLAT website and introduction of a new tool called ClimoCast in November 2021. ClimoCast is a new online tool that allows users to obtain climate projections (temperature and precipitation) based on the latest CMIP6 data downscaled to national and local levels. At the same time, another online tool called Climate Impact Viewer has been expanded to include new scientific results. Climate Impact Viewer provides a GIS-based view of regional climate change impacts on several sectors including agriculture, health, coast, and human activities as well as climate extremes. These regional climate and impact projections based on scientific findings are essential for the formulation and implementation of National and Local Adaptation Plans (NAPs and LAPs).
- Aiming to build capacity for better climate adaptation in the region, the Literacy section in the AP-PLAT provides self-paced online learning videos and the most updated scientific tools to support various stakeholders in developing effective policies and planning relevant activities. The topics so far include INAS (Inspired by Nature-based Actions and Solutions), Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for the local communities and Building resilience to compound and cascading disaster risks.  
[https://ap-plat.nies.go.jp/adaptation\\_literacy/index.html](https://ap-plat.nies.go.jp/adaptation_literacy/index.html)
- Functioning as a regional hub, the AP-PLAT also promotes knowledge exchange in collaboration with key partners of capacity development in climate change adaptation.

### **3. Expected role of information platforms in improving adaptive capacity and achieving the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)**

- On 29 and 30 June 2021, a knowledge exchange event was held in the framework of the EU's KE4CAP, bringing together EU and Japanese adaptation information platform operators and regional adaptation players. The role and future direction of adaptation information platforms were also discussed at COP26 in Glasgow on 2 November 2021. Below are the findings from these events.  
[https://www.weadapt.org/sites/weadapt.org/files/ke4cap\\_japan\\_event\\_report.pdf](https://www.weadapt.org/sites/weadapt.org/files/ke4cap_japan_event_report.pdf)

### 1) Building local community capacity

- Climate change adaptation knowledge platforms can play a valuable role in capacity building of local authorities. However, there are challenges related to capacity gaps within local authorities, frequent personnel changes and limited knowledge of climate change adaptation measures.
- One approach adopted by some platforms is 'to train the trainers'. Ongoing 'training of trainers' is an effective approach to capacity building of local authorities by providing knowledge in a focused manner to the local authority and possibly to neighboring provinces. Local mitigation experts are valuable stakeholders for promoting adaptation measures as they have a good understanding of the local context.
- Information provided through the platform should be selected and developed according to the specific needs and capacities of local authorities, while maintaining consistency with national-level data and information.
- Scientific research should also be designed to meet the needs of users. Platforms should act as knowledge intermediaries between local authorities and scientists, as they have a good understanding of the needs of the target user community.
- Users' cognitive capacities have limitation. Platforms should focus on understanding the users, including why and how their decisions change over time.

### 2) Collaborating at the regional level across borders

- The main difference between the mission and operation of the Asia-Pacific platform and the European platform is absence of an overarching policy framework.
- Joint work and joint publications can have a much greater impact than individual work. Regional cooperation is particularly important for developing countries in the region as a means of strengthening their ability to access and use relevant climate information.
- By linking platforms within a region, newcomers or those with less mature platforms can rapidly build on the experience and lessons learned from other mature or experienced platforms.
- By leveraging intra-regional capacity, new platforms do not have to invest in resources already developed by other platforms. Collaboration between platforms also improves technical capacities such as downscaling, which is particularly important for small countries and island states in the Asia-Pacific region. Innovative approaches introduced by new developers will accelerate adaptive action within the region.
- Networking between platforms within the region provides opportunities to consolidate and integrate existing data, information and approaches.
- Cross-country collaboration at the operational level between experts working on climate change response platforms could inform regional policy agendas and highlight ambitions and needs more effectively.

### 3) Filling the needs gap between science and actions

- Lack of information and data available in developing countries tend to result in their inability

to conduct scientific-based planning and implementation. In some cases, scientific information currently available is not necessarily needed or useful for the stakeholders. AP-PLAT can provide a solution by creating a co-working platform for better communication and mutual understanding between both sides.

- Co-design can also help minimize the gap between the main actors engaged by expressing and understanding what is feasible to offer by scientists and what is needed by stakeholders. In this respect, the role of climate adaptation platforms, particularly the people behind them, as independent and trustworthy knowledge brokers is crucial.
- Applying scientific information in the community in the context of the solution also matters. Science and the solution part need to work together, which is best achieved when they are co-designed. Local communities do not necessarily want the scientific information – instead, they want to know what to do with the information in terms of the solution. Co-design, not just in jointly designing scientific information and data, but more profoundly translating the data into solutions that users can use, is necessary.
- Another gap identified is how information platforms and the people behind them – the human capital – operate. An understanding of how these platforms operate at the interface can speed up such efforts.

#### **4. Future challenges**

- To achieve GGA, regional platform developers and operators need to work closely together and take more cohesive action.
- AP-PLAT will strengthen case studies, develop a new adaptation database and improve various tools. It will also collaborate with policy makers and the national scientific communities that provide information to policy makers in order to develop a more user-friendly platform.
- AP-PLAT will also enhance scientific information and tools to enable a series of adaptation PDCA cycles, and information for adaptation business and finance.