



3rd Capacity-building Hub Adaptation and Resilience Day

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Capacity-building Needs for Enabling Resilience for All: Key Outcomes of APAN Forum

Event Summary

The session was kicked off by the moderator Mr. Tetsuo Kuyama, IGES, by introducing the event and the Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) and the APAN Forum, the latest of which, hosted by the Ministry of the Environment (MoEJ) of Japan, was organized virtually 8-12 March, 2021 under the theme: Enabling Resilience for All: The Critical Decade to Scale-up Action.

Mr. Gen'ichiro Tsukada, MoEJ, Japan, delivered the opening remarks where he highlighted the ongoing collaboration between Japan and APAN since 2009, and shared recent progress made in Japanese climate change policy and highlighted some of the activities the government of Japan is implementing in the region, including capacity-building activities for policymakers and the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform (AP-PLAT) which provides climate change risk information and adaptation policy development tools.

Ms. Loren Legarda, House of Representatives, Philippines, delivered opening remarks highlighting the importance of APAN in bringing together a range of adaptation practitioners to share their learning and the key role adaptation and capacity-building plays in moving forward. She emphasized the support needed by vulnerable developing countries in ensuring the accessibility of best available science, climate data, risk assessments and providing informed solutions to context specific risks. She highlighted that accelerating adaptation efforts, investments, and collaboration, and providing resources and technologies are key in achieving resilience for all.

Mr. Mozaharul Alam, UNEP, delivered a presentation on the key outcomes of the APAN Forum, including the need to raise (mitigation and adaptation) ambition, need to mobilize climate finance, and strengthen partnerships and knowledge exchange. To make these changes, we need to strengthen governance, build the capacity of institutions and communities, work with all stakeholders, mainstream adaptation planning and processes, scale up practices that have proven to work, invest in long-term adaptation and integrate adaptation into finance and planning. He highlighted that partnerships really are key to capacity-building and ensuring inclusive resilience.

Dr. Albert Salamanca, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), represented one of the APAN Forum's four key streams, Inclusive Resilience. He highlighted three key points from the stream which included the need for justice, activism, and inclusion of marginalized groups (women, indigenous communities, people with disabilities) in resilience building. He also highlighted the role of governance and the need to address the structural barriers that continue





to exclude marginalized groups. There is also a need to find new ways to ensure that those most impacted by climate change can access adaptation finance to facilitate capacity-building.

Mr. Arghya Sinha Roy, ADB, represented the Economic Sector Resilience stream highlighting that, in order strengthen economic resilience, we need to adopt a systems approach, which involves translating systemic risk across government processes and factoring it into decision making and planning. We also need to scale up technologies that have proven to work while tailoring them into local context. These technologies need to be co-created to ensure the products developed meet needs. In addition to more finance, there is a need for different kind of financial products and to ensure the money is meeting the needs of the most vulnerable. Arghya also shared some of the approaches ADB has implemented to address these issues which include working with Ministries of Finance on risk assessments, investments, and adaptation solutions.

Ms. Lis Mullin Bernhardt, UNEP, represented the Nature-based Resilience stream, co-led by UNEP and IUCN. One of the key messages from this stream was that the pandemic provides an opportunity to use nature-based solutions (NbS) to drive green recovery. To do so, we need to protect ecosystems so they can protect people and economies. We also need to align supply and demand of adaptation knowledge, scale up finance and ensure multi-sector/level engagement and inclusion of traditional knowledge. Lis also shared some of the initiatives UNEP and partners are implementing to address these issues, including the Global EbA Fund, NAP-GSP, the recently published Guidelines for Integrating EbA into NAPs and the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative to identify and address adaptation knowledge gaps.

