

THE IPCC SPECIAL REPORT ON MANAGING THE RISKS OF EXTREME EVENTS AND DISASTERS TO ADVANCE CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION (SREX)

Southeast Asia Regional Outreach Meeting
04 May 2012, Swissotel Nai Lert Park, Bangkok

SREX OVERVIEW:

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has prepared a Special Report entitled: 'Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation' (SREX) with financial support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Climate and Pollution Agency of the Royal Norwegian Government.

Approximately 220 experts from 62 countries contributed to the preparation of the SREX. In addition, 19 experts critically reviewed the Special Report before formal endorsement from Governments in November 2011. A series of outreach events has been planned globally – in the following locations: Havana, Cuba – 18-19 April, Beijing, China – 26-27 April, New Delhi, India 2-3 May, Bangkok, Thailand 04 May, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 9-10 May and Dakar Senegal 18-19 May. All events received financial support from the Royal Norwegian Government.

REGIONAL OUTREACH MEETING OUTLINE

The SREX Southeast Asia Regional Outreach Meeting was organised by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) in collaboration with Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN).

The SREX Regional Outreach Meeting was held on 04 May 2012 at Swissotel Nai Lert Park, Bangkok, Thailand. The one-day outreach event commenced with a Press Conference, attended by panellists Dr. Rajendra K. Pachauri, Chairman of the IPCC, H.E. Ståle Torstein Risa, Ambassador of the Royal Norwegian Government to Vietnam and Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, Special Advisor ADPC.

Representatives from Thai national media and international media were present at the opening Press Conference, which provided an opportunity for the media to hear opening statements from the panellists. This was followed by questions from the assembled media representatives. The outcome was coverage in Thai and international media, including Thai Government media outlets, Reuters Alertnet and National News Bureau of Thailand, amongst other media outlets.

The Opening Ceremony was attended by H.E. Dr. Plodprasop Suraswadi, Minister for Science and Technology of the Royal Thai Government, together with Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, Under Secretary for United Nations and Executive Secretary, UNESCAP, Dr. Rajendra K. Pachauri, Prof. Krasae Chanawongse, Chairman of the ADPC Board of Trustees and Dr. Bhichit Rattakul.

The 'IPCC SREX Summary for Policymakers', the 'Regional Summary of SREX for Asia' (prepared by CDKN) and the youth-friendly SREX summary 'Climate Extremes' prepared by Plan International were presented to the H.E. Plodprasop Suraswadi to mark the inauguration of the IPCC SREX outreach for Southeast Asia.



PANEL DISCUSSION AND SESSION SUMMARIES:

Discussion of the major findings of SREX began with panel presentations, a panel discussion and a question and answer session. Five of the authors who contributed to SREX took part in the panel, namely; Dr. Bach Tan Sinh from National Institute for Science and Technology Policy and Strategic Studies (NISTPASS), Vietnam, Dr. Kathy McInnes from CSIRO, Australia, Dr. Rosa Perez from Manila Observatory, Philippines, Dr. Seree Supratid from Rangsit University, Thailand and Dr. Ravsai Oyun from JEMR, Mongolia.

Three breakout group discussions followed, addressing the themes of 'Regional Actions', 'National Actions' and 'Community Actions'. Discussion focused on the roles and responsibilities of regional centres, national organisations and community groups - considering how stakeholders at all levels can effectively participate in the process of integrating disaster risk management (DRM) and climate change adaptation (CCA) - towards minimizing disaster risk and vulnerability.

Mr. N.M.S.I. Arambepola, ADPC Executive Director a.i. presented an overview of ADPC's strategy and expertise for addressing climate change in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly emphasizing the integration of DRM and CCA with regional, national and community actions.

SREX PRESENTED TO H.E. MS. YINGLUCK SHINAWATRA

The SREX was presented to H.E. Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of the Royal Thai Government in the afternoon of 4 May 2012 at Thai Government House, by Dr. Rajendra K. Pachauri, H.E. Ståle Torstein Risa, Mr. Erik Svedahl, Minister Counsellor of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Thailand, Mr. Arman Aardel and Dr. Oddvar Kjekstadin, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Royal Norwegian Government, Prof. Krasae Chanawongse, and Mr. N.M.S.I. Arambepola.

"DOWN TO EARTH DIALOGUE"

The final session was the "Down to Earth Dialogue" – a less formal discussion of regional issues raised by the SREX, and an opportunity for reflections and considerations from the panellists, addressing clarifications and answering key questions.

Panellists in this final session were: Dr. Rajendra K. Pachauri, Dr. Neil Britton, Principal Disaster Risk Management Specialist of ADB, Dr. Armi Susandi Head, DNPI, Indonesia, Dr. Anond Snidvongs, Chairman of the Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA), Thailand, and Mr. Craig Hobbs, CEO, The Media Alliance. The dialogue was moderated by Mr. Atiq Kainan Ahmed, Climate Information Application Specialist, ADPC.

SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS:-

Youth Participation:

Youth participation was one of the significant features of the IPCC SREX Regional Outreach Meeting in Bangkok. Young people were encouraged to actively participate in the community action breakout groups, and to share their perspectives on the need for urgent interventions, mitigation actions, and raised awareness of climate extremes.



Students from Lamsai in Ayutthaya, Wells International School in On Nut and Kasetsart University, Bangkok, participated – to represent the future generation. Encouraging youth and children to become leaders and motivators for climate change adaptation efforts is considered an effective strategy to promote effective and immediate action.

Young people can become risk identifiers, communicators and mobilizers, and their integration in this event was considered to be one such action. During the sessions, best practice examples of child/youth-focused Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) integration efforts from countries in the Southeast Asian region were also discussed.

Community, national and regional focus:

Community, national as well as regional actions were discussed in respective working groups, to identify the gaps in integrating DRM and CCA. Specific opportunities, challenges and responsibilities were identified at all levels, as well as strategies for linking local with regional actions. The opportunities for mobilising existing organisations were also discussed, as were the strategies for facilitating collaboration from all sectors to promote effective action and knowledge sharing.

Cross-sector participation:

Approximately 160 participants attended the IPCC SREX Regional Outreach Meeting in Bangkok, representing Southeast Asian Governments, Ambassadors to Thailand, SREX authors, Multilateral and Bilateral donor agencies, UN agencies, IPCC focal points and bureau members, regional organizations, NGOs and INGOs, youth groups and representatives of the media.

The event was a success in raising awareness of the importance of the SREX and the issues therein, and in promoting collaboration and effective action towards addressing vulnerabilities caused by climate extremes and disasters.



(left to right):- Dr. Rajendra K. Pachauri, Chairman, IPCC, H.E. Dr. Plodprasop Suraswadi, Minister for Science and Technology of the Royal Thai Government, Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, Under Secretary for United Nations and Executive Secretary, UNESCAP, Prof. Krasae Chanawongse, Chairman of the ADPC Board of Trustees, at the Opening Ceremony.



Dr. Rajendra K. Pachauri, H.E. Dr. Plodprasop Suraswadi, Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, Prof. Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, H.E. Ståle Torstein Risa, H.E. Mr. Lazaro Herrera Martinez, H.E. Mr. Anil Wadhwa, H.E. Mr. Sohail Mahmood, Mr. Arvind Kumar, Mr. Erik Svedahl, Mr. Arman Aardal, Mrs. Rounak Ara Amin, and Ms. Yvonne Carroll at the Opening Ceremony



The SREX was presented to H.E. Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of the Royal Thai Government in the afternoon of 4 May 2012 at Thai Government House, by Dr. Rajendra K. Pachauri, H.E. Ståle Torstein Risa, Mr. Erik Svedahl, Minister Counsellor of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Thailand, Mr. Arman Aardel and Dr. Oddvar Kjekstadin, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Royal Norwegian Government, Prof. Krasae Chanawongse, and Mr. N.M.S.I. Arambepola



Panel discussion with five of the authors who contributed to SREX (left to right) Dr. Ravsal Oyun from JEMR, Mongolia, Dr. Seree Supratid from Rangsit University, Thailand, Dr. Rosa Perez from Manila Observatory, Philippines, Dr. Bach Tan Sinh from National Institute for Science and Technology Policy and Strategic Studies (NISTPASS), Vietnam, and Dr. Kathleen McInnes from CSIRO, Australia.



Breakout group discussions addressing the themes of 'Regional Actions', 'National Actions' and 'Community Actions' with the participation of youth groups from Thailand in the 'Community Actions' breakout group



Breakout group discussions addressing the themes of 'Regional Actions', 'National Actions' and 'Community Actions' – pictured is the 'Community Actions' group, moderated by Ms. Indira Kulenovic, IFRC, with Mr. N.M.S.I Arambepola.



"Down to Earth Dialogue" session, with panellists (left to right) Dr. Anond Snidvongs, Chairman of the Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA), Thailand, and Mr. Craig Hobbs, CEO, The Media Alliance, Dr. Rajendra K. Pachauri, Dr. Armi Susandi Head, DNPI, Indonesia, Dr. Neill Britton, Principal Disaster Risk Management Specialist, ADB.