CKB Group: Transforming Information into Knowledge and Climate Action

Presented by the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS)

Florian Bauer, REEEP, outlined how "reegle API" is turning information into knowledge by adding metadata and breaking down silos.

Fatema Rajabali, IDS, Eldis, shared the criteria for website inclusion in the Knowledge Navigator, such as: multiple sources information; online focus; and a dedicated webmaster.

Saying that "we are lost in an ocean of information," **Martin Hiller**, Director General, REEEP, opened the interactive session, which presented information technology (IT) tools to help organize and manage data. He explained that information is much like salt, useless if locked in a silo but useful as an active ingredient.

Geoff Barnard, Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), chaired the event, recounting the information explosion on the internet and the urgency of learning how to turn knowledge into action. He introduced the role of knowledge brokers to help connect information users and producers in overcoming Portal Proliferation Syndrome (PPS). He indicated future activities of CDKN: welcoming new members; establishing a secretariat; building national and sub-national portals; and increasing capacity building.

Anne Hammill, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), reported results from preliminary investigations aimed to better understand information users, *inter alia*: users tend to be research oriented; importance of curation of content on intermediary platforms; platforms do not replace people and the role of offline functions; and the reality of the digital divide.

Fatema Rajabali, IDS, Eldis, presented the Knowledge Navigator, a tool developed in collaboration with regional organizations and experts to support climate change professionals to access the right platforms, "linking people to the issues that connect us all."

Florian Bauer, REEEP, explained how the tagging tool "Reegle API" has helped to support users find information easily, quickly and correctly by: breaking down silos; avoiding duplication by analyzing unstructured text automatically; and bridging related tagged links to one another. He underscored the importance of consistency in not only

sustaining access to information, but in supporting overall communications in climate change.

Jane Ebinger, World Bank, spoke about the Platform for Climate-Smart Planning as a tool to deliver correct data to all stakeholders. She recounted the demand for: a neutral space to access tools; a good search facility and the ability to house both regional and global data sets; and a help desk and remote support.

In addition to hearing feedback from information users and providers in the audience, discussions covered topics, including: harmonizing various knowledge broker platforms; promoting knowledge sharing on platforms; balancing tool development by crowdsourcing updated adapted tools; addressing off-line users; and improving engagement with negotiators.

Sam Bickersteth, CEO, CDKN, closed the session, noting "we have come a long way as curators of knowledge."

Panel (L-R): **Anne Hammill**, IISD; **Jane Ebinger**, World Bank; **Geoff Barnard**, CDKN; **Florian Ba**