

Date 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 2018, 10:00-11:15

## **New adaptation approaches in the age of the SDGs:**

### **Asia's needs and priorities**

#### **Background**

- The findings of the IPCC 1.5°C Special Report are a stark reminder to humanity that we have a very narrow time-window left to prevent the Earth from warming beyond 1.5°C and the resultant catastrophic impacts on human lives and the environment. Even if humanity succeeds in limiting warming to 1.5°C, the residual effects from accumulated greenhouse gases will continue to exert negative impacts for centuries to come. It would not be an exaggeration to say that we are already living in an 'adaptation era.'
- There is growing recognition of the urgent need to accelerate climate change adaptation (CCA) due to the intensification of climate change impacts and the increase in disaster events. The global goal on adaptation in the Paris Agreement, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG13 on climate action, the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), and more recently, the launching of the Global Commission on Adaptation illustrate growing global concern for the need to raise the level of adaptation efforts.
- Major transformations in existing approaches at different levels such as technology, finance and capacity building, as well as in legal, institutional and governance settings are necessary to accelerate CCA. Global frameworks such as the Paris Agreement, the SDGs, and the Sendai Framework on DRR, offer concrete guidance for these transformations.
- The 2030 Development Agenda and the 17 SDGs underscore the complex nature of the interlinkages between various environmental, social and economic challenges. They also stress the need to embrace integrated approaches characterised by horizontal and vertical coordination. Integrated approaches should be designed to address multiple issues, including adaptation, simultaneously in order to maximise synergies and minimize trade-offs, delivering optimal outcomes in the most efficient manner.

#### **Objectives**

With its focus on the needs and priorities of the Asian region, the proposed session aims to discuss necessary actions, including approaches for new integrated solutions, for CCA that is aligned with the spirit of the SDGs to realise transformative changes and sustainable development. For this, regional collaboration and partnership could be the key vehicles for accelerating adaptation actions in an integrated manner and bridging science and policy for effective decision-making. The presentations and discussion at the session will consider the following questions:

1. What are the key lessons learned from on-the-ground adaptation actions and disaster risk management efforts in Asia?
2. How can we capitalise on global frameworks, in particular the SDGs, to enhance knowledge partnerships and facilitate decision-making on and investments in CCA and DRR in an integrated manner?
3. Why is regional collaboration on CCA necessary, how can it address common climate threats and upscale new approaches to CCA, and how can it build regional resilience in an integrated manner?

## Session Outline

Time	Content	Speakers
10:00	Welcoming remarks	Professor Kazuhiko Takeuchi, President, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
10:05-10:15	Framing presentation	Mr. Osamu Mizuno, Principal Fellow, IGES
10:15-10:25	Integration of CCA and DRR: Challenges and options for Asia	Dr. Saleemul Huq, Senior Fellow Climate Change, International Institute for Environment and Development/ Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)
10:25-10:35	Knowledge partnership for accelerating adaptation actions in Asia	Dr. Hoon Chang, Director, Korea Adaptation Center for Climate Change (KACCC), Korean Environmental Institute (KEI)
10:35-10:45	ASEAN efforts towards regional collaboration for CCA and DRR	ASEAN Secretariat (TBC)
10:45-11:05	<u>Discussion session:</u> Lessons from Asia on CCA and DRR SDGs and knowledge partnership Regional collaboration for CCA and DRR	Saleemul Huq, Director, ICCCAD (Facilitator)
		Dr. Hoon Chang, Director, KACCC, KEI
		ASEAN Secretariat (TBC)
		Mr. Sum Thy, Director, Climate Change Department, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia
		Climate Change Commission, Philippines (TBC)
		Dr. Arnico K. Panday, Regional Programme Manager, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
11:05-11:15	Q&A and closing remarks	IGES