

Regional Consultations on Climate Change Adaptation Opportunities and the Way Forward

Consultation Report

10th January 2007, Colombo, Sri Lanka





Participants at the Workshop



Group Discussion at the Workshop



L-R Prof. Mohan Munasinghe Mrs. Sriya Munasinghe, Dr. A.A.Boaz and Dr. Jyoti Parikh at the Workshop



Prof. Mohan Munasinghe (R) delivering his speech of the Workshop

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

SACEP and CEE thank the SACEP Governing Council for endorsing the view that significant efforts focusing on adaptation to climate change have to be mobilized and handheld on a priority basis. The need for a systematic approach to define country-specific interventions was also appropriately highlighted, providing the basis for the present effort and the way forward. Our heartfelt thanks to Dr. Jyoti Parikh, Prof. Sukumar, Prof. Kodagama, Mr. Sodhi Ms. Shireen, Mr. Manandhar, Dr. Anura and Mr Pracha for their presence and intensive involvement by deliberating on the framework and willingness to lend shoulders to the design and development on initiatives centered on the present effort. It was enlightening to understand the diversity of tasks, clarity of purpose, substantiated with scientific rigor, reflected in the deliberations enabled by the ones stated. Importantly, the framework of action was also vetted and found to be appropriate. Our thanks also to the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, India, the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, the Ministry of Environment in Pakistan and the National Environment Commission, Bhutan, for the keen interest they have evinced in this process.

Dr. Arvind Boaz
Director General, SACEP

Foreword

The technical report prepared post – January meeting organized by SACEP and CEE clearly highlights the need for sector – specific technical assistance teams which can help generate empirical evidences on the degree of susceptibility and locally relevant measures to tackle them. SACEP is also moving in this direction inspired by reference to the TEAP and the TOCs of the Montreal Protocol and recent discussions within the GEF too to form such support groups. The TOR for such a technical group will be to compile state of art information on management strategies and present a menu of options which will be the basis for developing implementation projects. SACEP and CEE will then approach the respective country governments, bilateral and multilateral agencies therein for support for implementation.

These imperatives have also been captured recently in distinctly comparable forms by several leading experts in this field. Huq et.al. state that the prevailing levels of vulnerability are compounded by climate challenges when cities tend to outgrow existing limits and remain so, on account of the levels of support services for economic growth they provide. Adequate coping strategies are not built alongside and susceptibility increases. The economically disadvantaged are more susceptible in all cases. Some of the co- benefits of coping strategies could emerge through improved housing infrastructure and capacity building for improved livelihood.

Direct coping strategies in Rio involve a Civil Defence group of citizens from diverse streams of support services including the fire department and emergency medical service mechanisms; separation of industrial waste disposal sites from residential areas and other infrastructure – focused measures. These are valuable lessons in integrated management response development.

Krystel et. al. describe the case of Cotonou in west Africa with passive and active adaptation measures. These include multiple adaptation measures in health and other physical infrastructure related interventions. Alam M and Rabbani highlight the case of Dhaka with reference to improving air quality, flood protection measure, improving drainage and strengthening the role of the civil society to participate in decision making.

These dimensions highlight the need for an integrated approach which aim at reducing the onslaughts on account of mismanagement of existing pressures and causes while simultaneously additional measures have to be devised to tackle emerging challenges. Issues of infrastructure, insurance, technical information, reality checks and capacity building dominate the scene. It is therefore important to evolve location – specific assessment and decision support strategies through partnerships with local decision makers to expedite such a need – based approach. This is the most opportune moment since several of these ideas are still in their rudimentary stages and need a regionally relevant leadership to initiate and sustain well guided action.

Dr. Arvind Boaz
Director General, SACEP

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Technical report
Improving preparedness of the region
To assess and devise appropriate interventions
To address challenges in 'adaptation to climate change'

SECTION I

- Objectives and approach : a logical framework as part of a preparatory process
 - Deliberations and outcome of the scoping exercise
 - The way forward
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Summary

SACEP attempts to fulfill its mandate of providing and enabling technical assistance at the regional level to address environmental challenges with a bearing on the developmental agenda of the countries in South Asia. SACEP recognizes the enormous significance of adaptation to climate change in this context. This is in response to a felt need to synergize expertise and efforts through mutually reinforcing interventions centered on a participatory process as articulated by its Governing Council. SACEP's collaboration with CEE-India signified such a synergy, aimed at a reality check of the needs and the development of a menu of responses.

The regional consultation on the 10th of January 2007 in Colombo in collaboration with CEE, India, consolidated the needs statement and a logical framework to guide sector-specific stocktaking and appropriate adaptation action. Sectoral specialists from India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka associated with action at the local, regional and global levels deliberated at the launch and contributed to the development of an integrated approach for way forward. Reality checks, capacity building, consolidating funding mechanisms, development of proposals to initiate and sustain support, intensive interactions with governments and other agencies are essential elements of such a process with results to be delivered in well-defined time frames.

Task forces have been initiated and the final framework of action, which lends itself to significant adaptation, will emerge soon after the deliberations at the SACEP Governing Council by end-January 2007. The process and the outcome of activities pertaining to the above are indicate.

The main objective of the joint initiative was to help all concerned stakeholders understand emerging trends in addressing challenges pertaining to adaptation to climate change adopting an integrated capacity building framework. The process of fulfilling this objective would obviously entail

- Comprehensive assessments of information and technical capacity needs of stakeholders,
- Providing guidance on adaptation opportunities and mechanisms including the process of up-scaling
- Enabling access to resources and

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