



3rd Roundtable Discussion on Climate Change Adaptation in the Greater Mekong Subregion

“Bridging the Divide: Linking Science-based Adaptation Approaches and Climate Change Policy-making in the GMS”

Wednesday 30 July 2014

USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia (RDMA)
Athenee Tower, 25th Floor
Bangkok, Thailand

Background

Several organizations are working actively to understand the potential impacts of climate change on the people, economy and natural resources of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS). To review existing knowledge and lessons learned from such work, the GMS Environment Operations Center (EOC) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) organized a roundtable meeting in March 2013 with partner organizations to exchange experience. The second roundtable was organized by EOC in January 2014 to discuss opportunities for collaboration with the Nordic Development Fund, whose climate change portfolio is expanding in the region. The roundtable meetings have proved to be an effective mechanism for continuous dialogue and knowledge exchange among practitioners, researchers, and development partners on climate change adaptation in the GMS. Participating organizations agreed to continue to engage in dialogue through the roundtable on a rotating host basis.

Objectives of the Third Roundtable

The third roundtable will be held on 30 July 2014. Hosted by USAID RDMA, the theme of discussion will be on *“Bridging the Divide: Linking Science-based Adaptation Approaches and Climate Change Policy-making in the GMS”*. Specifically, this roundtable aims to:

- Review adaptation planning needs from a policymaker perspective;
- Review examples of climate change research, implementation approaches and tools, and knowledge products on climate change adaptation in the GMS;
- Discuss how to make better use of existing tools and methods to build a bridge between science and policy making needs for adaptation;
- Identify knowledge and action gaps;
- Discuss ways to address these gaps through investments, including capacity building, R&D, and project design;
- Brainstorm how to create synergies among development partners and government actors.

The above issues will be discussed in the context of climate change challenges for agriculture, food security, and natural resource management in the GMS.

Participants:

A small group of approximately 20 participants, representing research and approach developers and policy makers.

Research and Approaches: ADB GMS EOC, USAID Mekong ARCC Project, SEA START RC, APAN, CSIRO, IUCN, SEI, ISET, WWF, GIZ, UNEP etc.

Policymakers: Policymakers from selected GMS countries.

Contact information

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GREATER MEKONG
SUBREGION
**CORE ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAM**

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AGENDA

8.30 - 9.00	Registration
9.00 – 9.10	<p>Welcome Remarks</p> <p>Mr. Alfred Nakatsuma Regional Environment Office Director, USAID RDMA</p> <p>Mr. Sanath Ranawana Senior Natural Resources Management Specialist, ADB</p>
9.10 – 9.20	<p>Introduction and Objective Setting</p> <p>Mr. Paul Hartman Chief of Party USAID Mekong ARCC Project</p>
9:20 – 10.00	<p>Taking Stock: Where We Are and What Our Previous Dialogue Has Told Us?</p> <p>Presenters</p> <p><i>“Review of the Current Landscape of Adaptation Needs and Planning Approaches and Tools”</i></p> <p>Dr. Albert Salamanca Research Fellow Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)</p> <p><i>“Review of Key Messages from the Previous Roundtables”</i></p> <p>Ms. Ornsaran Pomme Manuamorn Climate Change Coordinator GMS Environment Operations Center (EOC) , ADB</p> <p>Facilitator: Paul Hartman, USAID Mekong ARCC Project</p>

10:00 – 10.15	Coffee Break
10.15 – 11.15	<p>Articulating Demand: What Are Climate Adaptation Policy Needs in the GMS and How Are They being Addressed?</p> <p>Discussion Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the questions policy-makers want answered by adaptation research and development projects? • How does science factor into decision making? • Are projects and research delivering what is needed? • Are there any other observations practitioners want to offer to the adaptation science and tools community? <p>Lead discussants</p> <p>Dr. Nguyen Trung Thang Deputy Director General Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment (ISPONRE) Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Viet Nam</p> <p>Dr. Jirapa Inthisang Trochim Economist, Office of Agricultural Economics Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand</p> <p>Facilitator: Dr. Albert Salamanca, SEI</p>
11:15 – 12:15	<p>Reflecting on Supply: Regional Capacity Building Initiatives to Support Adaptation Planning in the GMS</p> <p>Discussion Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect on own experience in developing science-based approaches and tools to support adaptation planning in the GMS • Provide reactions or observations to the practitioner perspectives presented during the previous session. <p>Lead discussants</p> <p>Mr. Suppakorn Chinvanno Research Advisor Southeast Asia START Regional Center (SEA START RC)</p> <p>Dr. Puja Sawhney Coordinator of the Regional Hub for Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN), Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) Bangkok Regional Center</p> <p>Facilitator: Mr. Saengroaj Srisawaskraisorn, Climate Change Adaptation Specialist, USAID RDMA</p>

12:15 – 1:30	Lunch
1.30 - 2.45	<p>Identifying Gaps: What Are Current Challenges in Using Science-based Adaptation Approaches to Inform Policy?</p> <p>Discussion topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Synthesize the messages on supply and demand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Whether we see the same divide? o Are we dealing with a knowledge gap or a deeper understanding gap? - Analyze key areas of the science -policy gaps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Frameworks and methods: are the right questions being asked? o Information: is needed information being produced? o Communication: Is the information effectively translated into knowledge and understanding for policy making? o Process: are the engagement processes effective? <p>Lead discussants</p> <p>Dr. Robert Mather Head of Southeast Asia Group International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)</p> <p>Mr. Suppakorn Chinvano Research Advisor, SEA START RC</p> <p>Facilitator: Dr. Alex Smajgl, Senior Research Scientist, CSIRO</p>
2.45 – 3.00	Coffee break
3.00 – 4.15	<p>Bridging the Divide: How Could Science-based Adaptation Approaches Inform Policy-making More Effectively?</p> <p>Discussion topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the characteristics of successful investments to bridge the divide? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o R&D o Capacity building o Partnerships o Project design • What helps create enabling environment for successful investments? • What is the role for a consortium of institutions working of climate change adaptation in the GMS? <p>Lead discussants</p> <p>Dr. Richard Friend Senior Staff Scientist Institute for Social and Environment Transition (ISET)</p> <p>Ms. Kim Thi Thuy Ngoc</p>

	<p>Head, Division of Science and International Cooperation ISPONRE, MONRE, Viet Nam</p> <p>Facilitator: Mr. Sumit Pokhrel, Deputy Technical Program Head and Sr. Climate Change Specialist, GMS EOC, ADB</p>
<p>4:15-4:45</p>	<p>Next Steps and Wrap Up</p> <p>ADB and USAID RDMA</p>