

ACTIVITY BRIEF

Regional Workshop on Training Needs and Gaps Assessment on Adaptation and Resilience to a Changing Climate in South Asia

4-5 September 2013 | Kathmandu, Nepal

BACKGROUND

Floods costing billions of dollars in losses have impacted several parts of South Asia during the first half-year of 2013. The deadliest disaster out of the 460 recorded "natural hazard events" worldwide was a series of flash floods in northern India and Nepal that killed more than 1,000 people in June 2013, after early and exceptionally heavy monsoon rains. Weather patterns are becoming more erratic, thereby increasing the number of water-related disasters both regionally and globally. As a response, countries are working towards becoming more climate resilient.

With this background, the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) in collaboration with its thematic node for water - Global Water Partnerships-South Asia (GWP-SAS) and their country water partnership, GWP Nepal, organized a training workshop to assess the needs and gaps on adaptation and resilience to a changing climate in South Asia.

OBJECTIVE

The workshop was targeted at nominated members of relevant government ministries and national focal points from South Asian countries and it was at:

1. Equipping participants with the understanding to build a climate resilient society
2. Explaining the relevance of water and food security and water cooperation in the climate change adaptation (CCA) planning process
3. Facilitate knowledge sharing among South Asia countries on how CCA initiatives can be implemented and the success stories be replicated
4. Assessing the adaptation and resilience needs in the Region
5. Promote networking between and among national representatives working on CCA within the region in the water sector

OUTCOMES

The two-day workshop showcased good practices from the region on water security progress, indigenous knowledge and modern technology.



A farmer getting water from a village fountain in Kathmandu, Nepal

WORKSHOP PARTNERS



ABOUT APAN

APAN is the leading climate change adaptation network in the Asia-Pacific region. Our primary goal is to assist countries to build climate change resilient and sustainable human systems, ecosystems, and economies. Our initiatives turn knowledge into policy action and trainings into tangible benefits.

APAN PARTNERS



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Participants also learned about how to work towards resilience in the water sector. The workshop underlined the need for water cooperation for climate resiliency and emphasised on the framing of coherent policies and strategies in relation to Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in the region.

The event brought together 46 participants from seven South Asian countries which included government officials and representatives from civil society, regional bodies, and international non-government organisations. Other participants included those from German International Cooperation-Nepal (GIZ), (International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development) ICIMOD, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), National Planning Commission-Nepal (NPC), Practical Action- Nepal, and the US Embassy-Nepal.

Distinguished participants from regional bodies – South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation, Disaster Management Centre (SAARC-DMC); Network of Asian River Basin Organisations (NARBO); and South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) – added an additional dimension to the workshop. NARBO extended their interest to work together with APAN to galvanize cooperation to improve water security and resilience building in Asia. The increasing need for integrating disaster risk management (DRM), CCA and sustainable development goals (SDGs) was agreed by the regional bodies present at the workshop.

CONCLUSION

Overall, the workshop was highly informative and useful for participating countries. Issues that were highlighted included: Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM); water governance issues; water cooperation needs; community-based adaptation; sharing of data information within the context of a target audience; and the methodologies and tools behind its usage.

The importance of the participation of different stakeholders in the decision-making process, in an equitable and inclusive approach, was emphasised. It was also underlined that countries must continue to balance whether to scale up development activities or activities that are related to climate change adaptation in the implementation process.

The workshop found that cooperation between countries on disaster management should be extended from the post-disaster phase to cover the pre-disaster phase. Greater integration was also stressed as adaptive-resilience strategies are inter-disciplinary, complex and changing; and knowledge and technologies are part of the same system.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.asiapacificadapt.net/events/apan-gwp-20130904>