

Policy and Institutional Setting for Building Resilience to Climate Change

**Invitation Public Lecture May 12th, 2015, 13:00: Dr. Venkatachalam Anbumozhi, ERIA, Jakarta
EI 5 Hohenegg Hörsaal, 1040 Wien, Gußhausstraße 25, Stiege VIII (Hauptstiege), 2. Stock**

Incorporating or integrating climate change adaptation measures into the watershed planning process is a necessary strategy for sustainable development. Climate change impact does not happen in isolation; the impact on agriculture sector where most of the watershed management occurs can adversely or positively affect another. There are difficulties in mainstreaming adaptation concerns into watershed planning due to low staff capacity for monitoring, poor data on adaptation options, lack of mechanisms for information sharing and management, and limited funding. Countries in the region need new funding and improved access to funding to provide effective technical and financial support and capacity building opportunities.

Effective implementation of climate change adaptation at watershed level is also complicated because of different actors and levels involved; the level at which action leading to change occurs is often different from the level at which decisions regulating such actions are taken. Lack of cooperation among ministries is highlighted as a major barrier to progress on adaptation. In order that real progress can be made, key government agencies such as ministries of finance need to be informed of the relevant outputs of impact and vulnerability assessments. Sectoral institutions need to be strengthened in order to address the complexities of coordinating the implementation of adaptation action.

Capacity building for reliance to climate change at local level (for example, strengthening coping strategies and feedback to national policies), national level (for example, inter-agency policy coordination in the water sector and legal provisions for mainstreaming), and regional level (for example, incorporating climate risks in projects of development agencies) is vital to enable developing countries to adapt to climate change. Stakeholders and development partners must recognize the role of university and knowledge institutes. Enhanced support is needed for institutional capacity building, including establishing and/or strengthening centers of excellence, so that they can resolve the complexity of addressing and coordinating the planning and implementation of adaptation actions. Effective regional cooperation among countries will also help disseminate internationally and nationally the best practices, share climate information, support institutional coordination, and generate additional resources for enhancing the adaptive capacity at local level.

Venkatachalam Anbumozhi is a Senior Economist and Head of Environment and Energy Intelligence Unit at the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta, Indonesia. His previous positions include Capacity Building Specialist and Senior Fellow at Asian Development Bank Institute, Assistant Professor at the University of Tokyo, Project Manager and Senior Policy Researcher at the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Assistant Manager and Senior Engineer in Pacific Consultants International, Tokyo and Research Associate in Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand. A distinguished fellow of Asia Pacific Rim University (APRU) Forum on Development and Environment, he also advised ADB, JICA, JBIC, UNESCAP projects on sustainable development.



He has published several books, authored numerous research articles and produced many project reports on natural resource management, climate friendly infrastructure design, and private sector participation in Green Growth. Anbumozhi was invited as a member of the APEC Expert Panel on Green Climate Finance and the ASEAN Panel for promoting climate-resilient growth. He has taught Resource management, International cooperation and Development Finance at the University of Tokyo and has speaking engagements at some of the leading international organizations. He obtained his PhD from the University of Tokyo.