

SPOTLIGHT ON ASEAN

Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum 2014

3 October 2014 | PWTC, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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A special event “Spotlight on ASEAN” was held on 3 October 2014 in conjunction with the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum 2014 at the Putra World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur. The Forum was convened under the aegis of the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) and hosted by the Office of the Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of Malaysia with technical support from the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia’s Southeast Asia Disaster Prevention Research Initiative (SEADPRI-UKM). The Forum with the theme “New Partnership for Resilient Development: Government, Business and Society” commenced with officiating remarks by YBhg. Dato’ Mah Siew Kiong, Minister at the Prime Minister Department on behalf of the Prime Minister of Malaysia. The event was attended by various participants comprising policy-makers, researchers, scientists, and NGOs representatives from various countries in Asia-Pacific and beyond.



YBhg. Dato’ Mah Siew Kiong, Minister at the Prime Minister Department delivered the officiating remarks on behalf of the Prime Minister of Malaysia at the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum 2014.

The objective of the side-event was to provide inputs for the preparation of the ASEAN. The event was categorised into three plenary sessions with a total of 17 papers presented by the invited speakers from the region. The first session devoted to viewpoints on ASEAN experiences and challenges on mainstreaming climate change adaptation involving multiple roles and actors. The session which was co-moderated by Dr. Raman Letchumanan, ASEAN Secretariat and Datuk Dr. Abdul Rahim bin Haji Nik from the Ministry of Natural Resources Malaysia featuring Professor Rajib Shaw of the Kyoto University. During the session, Professor Shaw had provided insights on the role of science, technology and academia in mainstreaming climate change adaptation. The second session focused on key drivers of transformation for alternative development pathways involving various sectors such as energy, construction, commodity and communities. The event continued with the last discourse on mainstreaming climate extremes and disaster risk reduction with focus on emerging issues and priorities. Speakers involved were from Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Japan and Bangladesh.

The Secretary of the National Security Council Malaysia, Datuk Mohamed Thajudeen Abdul Wahab highlighted the crucial central role of disaster management in adapting to climate change. It was concluded that adaptation needs to be transformed into development initiatives rather than just an environmental issue. The findings of the forum will be used as an input to the Science to Action (S2A) Programme, an initiative inspired by the Honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia, YBhg. Dato’ Sri Mohd Najib Tun Haji Abdul Razak which is implemented by the Office of the Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of Malaysia.