

Climatic Hazards Programme

Preparing for global warming of 1.5°C: Building capacity of early career researchers in climatic hazards

Joy Jacqueline Pereira

SEADPRI-Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia



Photo by SEADPRI-UKM

The Workshop on Status of Climate Science and Technology in Asia (15-16 November 2018, Kuala Lumpur) involved early career scientists from nearly 20 countries in Asia, who had the opportunity to interact with key authors involved in the IPCC AR6 cycle.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recently released the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C. A key message that comes out very strongly from this report is that we are already seeing the consequences of 1°C of global warming through more extreme weather, rising sea levels and diminishing Arctic sea ice, among other changes. According to the report, tropical Southeast Asia is projected to experience the largest impacts on economic growth if global warming exceeds 1.5°C. Other expected impacts include increase in the number of hot days and heavy rains, higher risks of floods, flash-floods and landslides, net reductions in yields and nutritional value of rice as well as populations that are both exposed and susceptible to poverty, particularly those dependent on agriculture and coastal livelihood. As the sea-level rises, much of the low-lying coasts in areas of Southeast and adjacent South Asia is expected to be affected, bringing new migration and security issues for the region.

In light of these findings, SEADPRI-UKM is strengthening collaboration with key science institutions in Asia to build the capacity of early career researchers in the region and enhance contribution to the corpus of knowledge on climate influenced hazards (climatic hazards) in the region.

This is also in line with our status as the IRDR International Centre of Excellence for Disaster Risk and Climate Extremes (ICoE-SEADPRI-UKM). The effort is supported by the Asian Network for Climate Science and Technology (ANCST) and the Malaysia Window to Cambridge at UKM (MW2C@UKM), which received seed-funding from the Cambridge Malaysian Education and Development Trust (CMEDT), in association with the Malaysian Commonwealth Studies Centre (MCSC) in 2014.



Key findings of the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C was presented at the Workshop on Status of Climate Science and Technology in Asia by Prof. Joy Jacqueline Pereira, Vice Chair of IPCC Working Group 2 on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, who was involved as a Review Editor. The full report can be downloaded from <https://www.ipcc.ch/>

Key partners include the IPCC, Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) and International Science Council Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ISC-ROAP), among others. Events held in Malaysia involving early career researchers from Asia covered the following topics: Disaster Resilient Cities: Advances in Meteorological Forecasting and Hazards Assessment (28-29 June 2018), Geohazards and Disaster Risk Reduction (18-20 September 2018), Status of Climate Science and Technology in Asia (15-16 November 2018). Plans are afoot to convene similar workshops in 2019 for early career researchers from Asia and expand coverage to young scientists in the Pacific Island States.