

Climatic Hazards Programme

IPCC Meets Malaysian Youth and Young Professionals

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The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the world body for assessing the science related to climate change. Established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization and United Nations Environment Programme, the IPCC provides policymakers with assessments of the state of scientific knowledge related to climate change. The IPCC covers physical science, impacts and adaptation to climate change as well as mitigation of climate change, drawing on the full spectrum of disciplines – from physical sciences, to the life and social sciences.

An IPCC outreach event was held on 26 October 2019 at the Academy of Sciences Malaysia, where three separate sessions were held targeting the media, scientists and policy makers as well as youths and young professionals. The event was hosted by the Academy of Sciences Malaysia with support from the Asian Network on Climate Science and Technology coordinated by SEADPRI-UKM. The IPCC delegation in Kuala Lumpur was led by the Chair, Professor Hoesung, who was accompanied by the WGI Co-Chair, Professor Valerie Masson-Delmotte and WGIII Co-Chair, Professor Jim Skea as well as WGIII Vice-Chair, Mr Amjad Abdulla. Prof. Dr. Joy Jacqueline Pereira of SEADPRI-UKM, who is the IPCC WGII Vice-Chair and ANCST Director, coordinated the event.

The IPCC session with the Malaysian youth and young professionals aimed to present the findings of the IPCC in simple language. It also provided an opportunity for local youth and young professionals to discuss, understand and share ideas on issues pertaining to climate change and disaster risks that can be implemented at -

the national level by engaging in the science-policy interface.

This session was organised with support from local youth and young professionals, primarily U-INSPIRE Malaysia@UKM and the Malaysian Youth Delegation. The specific objective was to encourage the contribution of youth and young professionals towards the IPCC reporting processes in the region, especially in reviewing the IPCC reports. The involvement of Asian researchers, especially the youth and young professionals, in the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) has been limited. In preparing the AR6, only 19% of the authors represent Asia compared to 34% of the authors who come from Europe.

The IPCC has three working groups, namely Working Group I (WGI), dealing with the physical science basis of climate change; Working Group II (WGII), dealing with impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability; and Working Group III (WGIII), dealing with the mitigation of climate change. The three most recent IPCC Special Reports developed by the three Working Groups were presented during the event. These were the IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC), the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land (SRCCL), and the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C (SR15). The Special Reports provide a scientific basis for governments world-wide to develop climate change-related policies. The reports are policy-relevant but not policy-prescriptive. They included projections of future climate change based on different scenarios, the risks that climate change pose and discussed the implications of response options, but they do not tell policymakers what actions to take.



Photo by SEADPRI-UKM

Participants at the historic session that brought IPCC to Malaysian youth and young professionals.