

Climatic Hazards Programme

Dialogue on Climate Change 2022: Risks, Adaptation and Mitigation - Implications and Way Forward

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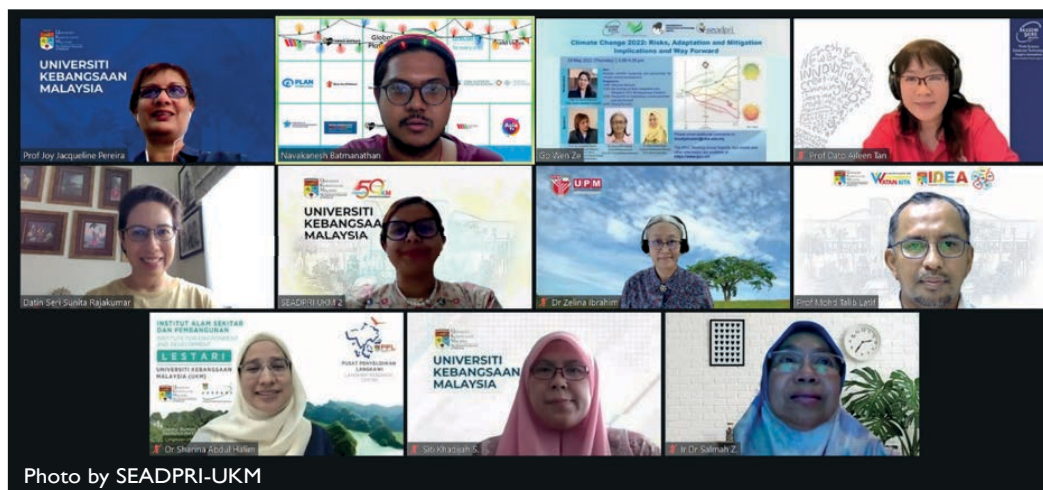


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The event was moderated by YBhg. Datin Seri Sunita Rajakumar, (second row, first left) and key findings of the IPCC were presented by three IPCC authors from Malaysia, namely Professor Dr. Joy Jacqueline Pereira (top row, first left), Associate Professor Dr. Zelina Zaiton Ibrahim (second row, second right); and Dr. Sharina Abdul Halim (bottom row, first left).

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has confirmed that humans have contributed to global warming of about 1.1°C since pre-industrial times. This has caused widespread changes to the atmosphere, natural ecosystems and the oceans. Human-induced climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe. In the worst case scenario should climate actions fail, global warming of 1.5°C will be exceeded in the next two decades. Malaysia can anticipate increased frequency and intensity of heavy rainfall and hazards associated with rainfall such as floods, flash floods, mudflows, landslides, of which all have already occurred in our country.

In conjunction with the most recent report produced by IPCC, a dialogue of key findings on “Climate Change 2022: Risks, Adaptation and Mitigation - Implications and Way Forward” was jointly convened by the Committee on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia; Climate Governance Malaysia (CGM); the Asian Network on Climate Science and Technology (ANSCT) and Southeast Asia Disaster Prevention Research Initiative-Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (SEADPRI-UKM); this event took place on 19 May 2022 at 3.00-4.30pm via Zoom platform. It was aimed to mobilize scientific leadership and partnerships for climate resilient development and enable the local scientists, corporate leaders and policy makers to be abreast of the IPCC’s latest findings. The discourse received great support from more than 90 participants who were representing the public and private universities, corporate sectors, private sectors, and non-government organizations.

The event began with the presentation of the most recent key findings of the IPCC reports, by three IPCC authors from Malaysia, Professor Dr. Joy Jacqueline Pereira of SEADPRI-UKM, as the Vice Chair, IPCC Working Group II Chair and ASM Committee on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction; Associate Professor Dr. Zelina Zaiton Ibrahim from Universiti Putra Malaysia as the IPCC WG II Coordinating Lead Author; and Dr. Sharina Abdul Halim from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, as the IPCC WG II Lead Author. The event was moderated by YBhg. Datin Seri Sunita Rajakumar, Chair of CGM.

Professor Joy first briefly spoke about the IPCC, the 6th Assessment Cycle and the report preparation process. This was followed by Dr. Zelina’s presentation on some of the global findings on warming projections, observed impacts, future risks including those that are irreversible, adaptation feasibility, and the new concept of climate resilient development; the process of integrating adaptation and mitigation. Dr. Sharina then spotlighted some observed and projected impacts, key risks and adaptation measures, as well as enabling conditions in multiple sectors relevant to Asia. New findings from WG I on reducing short-lived climate forcers (SLCFs) in cities that bring about direct health benefits to the urban population whilst contributing to reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) was highlighted by Professor Joy.

The findings of WG II which indicate that there are options for reducing GHG emissions in every sector was also underscored. The scientific evidence is clear; we are missing a narrowing window of opportunity to limit global warming to 1.5 °C.