

WMO

The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**, founded in 1950, is a specialized agency of the United Nations for weather, climate, and water. WMO contributes to understanding the impacts of climate variability/change on agriculture. It also promotes capacity building in the application of meteorological and climatological data and products in assessing the impacts of climate variability/change.

ADB

The vision of the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** is an Asia and Pacific region free of poverty. Its mission is to help its developing member countries reduce poverty and improve the quality of life. ADB is committed to enabling inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration. Based in Manila, ADB is owned by 67 member countries, including 48 from the region. It supports its developing member countries through policy dialogue, loans, equity investments, guarantees, grants, and technical assistance.

FAO

FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) leads international efforts to defeat hunger. They help developing countries and countries in transition modernize and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices and ensure good nutrition for all.

TMD

TMD (Thai Meteorological Department), established in 1923, is now under the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology. TMD has been designed to carry on meteorological administration and management to address two vital goals: the best

economic, social, agricultural, and industrial benefits as well as protection of human lives and properties of the public; private sectors and governmental units against natural disasters.

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Announcement

Regional Workshop on Climate Services at the National Level for the LDCs in Asia

**Bangkok, Thailand
8-10 October 2012**



INTRODUCTION

The World Climate Conference-3 held in 2009 decided to establish a Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), an international framework to guide the development of climate services. The vision of the GFCS is to enable society to better manage the risks and opportunities arising from climate variability and change, especially for those who are most vulnerable to such risks. This will be done through development and incorporation of science-based climate information and prediction into planning, policy and practice. The greatest value of the GFCS will occur incrementally through the delivery of a multitude of climate services at national or local levels.

The High Level Taskforce (HLT), constituted to further develop the GFCS concept and scope out the next steps in its implementation, enumerated eight principles to ensure that the GFCS provides the greatest benefit to those who need climate services the most. Principle 1 emphasizes that all countries will benefit from GFCS, but priority shall go to building the capacity of climate-vulnerable developing countries.

The HLT recommended that by the end of 2017, access to improved climate services should be facilitated globally in four priority sectors (agriculture, disaster risk reduction, health and water). Climate information



will normally be tailored to suit a range of purposes –from advice to political leadership through guidance to government administrators, to support for the wide diversity of community interests, including industry and commerce. The process will typically involve the translation of temporal and spatial information about the climate into decision support tools to suit the needs of specific sector applications, with the means of carrying out the translation underpinned by applied climate research that targets each climate sensitive sector.

Climate-sensitive developing countries stand to gain the most from better climate information but are often precisely where climate services are weakest. The Framework will give priority to capacity building in these countries.

It is with this background that the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) are organizing the Regional Workshop on Climate Services at the National Level for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Asia from 8-10 October 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

- To review the current status of generating climate information in the LDCs in Asia and assess their needs for climate services in the agriculture, food security and water user sectors at the national and local levels;
- To assess the current status of interactions of the climate service providers with the users in the priority sectors and identify the major areas for improvement;
- To discuss and recommend improved arrangements for national observation networks, enhanced research focus on national and local climate

problems, better access to climate predictions, sustained operational mechanisms that facilitate the flow of climate information from global and regional scales through the national and local scales, and effective user interface mechanisms at the national scale;

- To articulate the capacity building needs of LDCs, in terms of mandates, infrastructure as well as human resources, in all the components of the GFCS;
- To identify and propose ways to promote community understanding of climate variability and change along with the associated risks and opportunities for improved climate risk management and raise user awareness of climate products and services.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP

This workshop aims to bring together experts from the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and the key decision-makers, and practitioners from the agriculture and water sectors from different LDCs in Asia. A guidance document on the provision of climate services at the national level will be circulated ahead of the workshop to all the participants. Representatives from WMO, ADB and FAO will facilitate the discussions during the workshop and help develop appropriate recommendations for implementation at the national and local levels for the provision of improved climate services.

The workshop should result in: enhanced understanding of the needs for climate services in different user sectors; improved knowledge to plan and implement appropriate mechanisms to improve and sustain the flow of climate information to different users; improved capacity to better manage climate risks; and strategic guidance on institutional arrangements, partnerships and processes required to operationalize the GFCS at the national level.