

Consultation meeting WDR2010 (Philippines)

When: Friday, September 12, 2008

Where: Manila (at World Bank office in Quezon City)

Participants: The consultation was attended by Government of Philippines officials including Representatives of senators, Inter-agency commission on climate change, Presidential task force on climate change, and Special presidential advisors on climate change, local government units (LGU), research centers including CG centers (World Agro-Forestry Center - ICRAF, International Rice Research Institute - IRRI), academics institutions (Ateneo Univ., Univ. of the Philippines), and World Bank staff.

Summary: On the outline: the main point was the messages sound too 'positive' and the gravity/threat/urgency should be conveyed in the messages and the outline structure.

Comments:

Target audience of the WDR

- The team should consider how the WDR could reach a wider audience than the traditional WDR audience (policy makers) and adjust objectives/content of the WDR to:
 - Provide advice/support to local government in addressing climate change
 - Reflect interests/needs of individual households and communities in seeking to address climate change.
 - Embed the need for mitigation and adaptation in everyone's conscience.
 - The messages should be worded such that they reflect the target audience (it was not clear who was supposed to be at the receiving end of the reports' messages)

Structure of report

- The titles of the chapters and related structure need to be critically reviewed to convey the basic message of the report. For instance, Chr 2's current title mentions competing demands and new opportunities but the bottom line is new threats.
- The structure of the report seems to suggest that water and energy challenges (Chrs 2 and 3) have nothing to do with technology and innovation (Chr 7).
- Chr 7 seems to imply a distinct line between current and future technology. In practice, continuous improvements are being made in existing technology.
- The structure seems to imply that the report will focus largely at the international level. The local level – including local solutions – is critical.
- The term 'human vulnerability' in the title of Chapter 4 raised some concerns about the report's scope of coverage on vulnerability. Vulnerability has other dimensions too (social, economic etc).

Contents

- The report should include concrete examples of the relationship between climate change and development, so supporting better formulation of policy.
- The report should include a discussion on vulnerability and impacts at different levels of scale, supporting the development of strategies at various levels (national, municipal, community etc). The report should also stress the importance of ensuring that national-level policies on adaptation are implementable at the local level.
- The WDR should address issues around information technology, accessing information on climate change, the need to downscale climate change scenarios etc.
- The WDR should include a section on technology transfer, including south-south transfer of traditional indigenous technology, and explore how cheap, local technology can be popularized. Also explore the role of indigenous knowledge/technology
- The report should cover human settlements and the related need to integrate disaster risk reduction into development policy at the local level, so limiting the impact of climate change on human settlements.
- The WDR should address land degradation, bio-diversity and the protection of eco-systems. It is not clear where the report will cover issues of flora and fauna.
- The report should explore the main sources of emissions in different countries. In the Philippines, burning of waste is one of the largest sources, in contravention of various laws. LGUs need to be supported in the better management of waste, particularly at the barangay level (lowest level of government).
- The report could consider emissions, air quality and urban settlement patterns, particularly in relation to mega-cities.
- Every chapter should reflect on policy in the workplace regarding industry and emissions and the WDR should address the need for a related information campaign down to the small and medium enterprise level.
- It is not clear how or where the report will address disaster risk reduction.
- The report should cover the important role that education can play in climate change mitigation and adaptation (e.g., in schools, agricultural college etc).
- The report should provide more information of climate change financing, in particular adaptation, at the local/sub-national level

Examples of local climate change action

- Participants mentioned a few small-scale, community-based reforestation-related carbon projects being undertaken with financial backing from large corporations (e.g., Toyota, Mitsubishi, Shell-Philippines).
- Albay provincial government has initiated a series of local adaptation actions.
- The city of San Fernando has promoted the use of bicycles by government employees and created bicycle lanes.
- The Manila Observatory is administering a project inventorying industrial emissions, based on voluntary reporting on emissions by the private sector.
- An initiative is underway by the Dept of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to integrate climate change concerns into training courses provided to industry (private sector).