

Short WORKSHOP REPORT FORM

Number and title of workshop: WS 3.1 Climate Change Adaptation Means Investing in Water Management

Coordinator: Teun Bastemeijer, Manager, Water Integrity Network (WIN)

Date and time of workshop: 10/11/2010

Moderator: Ravi Narayanan (Vice Chair Asia Pacific Water Forum, Chair WIN)

Rapporteur: Teun Bastemeijer, Manager, Water Integrity Network (WIN)

Panellists (Name, institution, title)

Dr. Hákan Tropp, Director UNDP Water Governance facility

Iftekhar Zaman, Executive Director, Transparency International Bangladesh

Susannah Kinghan, Consultant, Water Integrity Network

Clarisse Kehler Sibert, Stockholm Environment Institute

Main Issues Covered

The water crisis is there with or without climate change. 1.2 billion people do not have access and many more are living this crisis on a daily basis. Climate change is increasing vulnerabilities together with population growth, deterioration of water and environmental resources.

There is the need to clarify to everybody what the difference is between mitigation (relating to emissions and carbon trading and taxing) and adaptation which means coping with the effects of climate change, which is often mixed up with other natural and man-made phenomena and disasters.

There is a new kind of corruption: Wilful alteration of manuscripts of words (development aid becomes climate financing, fighting corruption and dishonesty relating to climate change funds and funding mechanisms becomes climate governance. Rural urban migration becomes climate migration).

Distorted truths may result in distorted strategies and investments. The water crisis and therefore also climate change adaptation and resilience is a matter of governance, and not just investments.

Climate change is a growth industry and more money means more corruption. So, there is an urgent need for integrity and honesty. National and international campaigns for integrity concerning climate change should include putting climate change adaptation and therefore water sector governance much higher on the agenda.

Moral social contract and integrity contracts and integrity pledges can be put in place using multiple tools for social accountability.

Main Outcomes

- Development of multiple investment options in a transparent way including social and environmental cost-benefit analysis is needed.
- Climate proofing and corruption proofing of adaptation strategies and investments must go hand in hand.
- Those affected should be involved in dialogue and have a say in decisions to promote no regrets strategies and investment decisions based on integrity and equity principles.
- Diagnostic tools to determine integrity gaps are needed.
- Need to ensure that there is a balance between addressing urgent adaptation issues (supply driven) and strategies based on needs grounded in local knowledge and strategies.

Main Outputs

- Water pollution by industries corrupts water for people and environment: Climate change adaptation and resilience becomes very difficult and expensive
- Need to clarify concept of the level of density needed to convert or change political culture.

Recommendations, Follow-up Actions

1. National and international campaigns to promote integrity and honesty of the climate change discourse.
2. Promote integrity in climate change adaptation dialogue involving those who are affected and ensure equitable access to information and capacities to develop no regrets approaches and sustainable solutions.
3. More transparency and accountability in allocations of funds to but also between developing countries.
4. Train and involve journalists and the media to translate knowledge and science into accessible information and knowledge that can be applied through the dialogue.

Workshop Highlights (including interesting quotes)

- Integrity of climate change adaptation dialogue means access of those affected to that dialogue, not just politicians and scientists, NGOs and activists.
- Climate change adaptation may be the new white elephant (Håkan Tropp).
- Delaying adaptation measures means heading for big problems in the next 15 to 20 years.
- Only 5% of funds go to adaptation. Most developing countries should go for adaptation only as investing in mitigation is meaningless considering their contribution to emissions.

- There should be a turning away from the politics of plunder (Iftekhar Zaman, Bangladesh).
- How can we establish dialogue about the Water in the Mekong river? Nobody talks with China! (Mr. Van Dong, Cambodia).
- Is there such thing as accessible science? (Ravi Narayanan, India).