Managing Climate Risks for Adaptation and Mitigation: New Initiatives in SE Asia

Wednesday, December 5, 1-3pm, Solar Room, Grand Hyatt COP13 Bali, Indonesia

The International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) The Earth Institute at Columbia University

Overview

Developing countries are highly vulnerable to climate-related risks in their agriculture, water and land management sectors. Scientists and decision makers are increasingly concerned that climate change will further exacerbate these risks, especially as resource demands increase. Governments must find ways to better understand and address the climate risks they face today across sectors, as well as plan for uncertain future climate patterns.

Building capacity to manage the impacts of climate extremes, and encouraging investments to reduce vulnerability are important aspects of climate change adaptation. With this in mind, key government agencies in Indonesia and the Philippines are pursuing new approaches to manage current risks by integrating leading-edge climate knowledge with existing agriculture, water and land management policies. These efforts are undertaken in partnership with IRI, Bogor Agriculture University (IPB), CARE Indonesia and local stakeholders.

Presentations

The Ministry of Agriculture of Indonesia, on strategies for addressing risks from climate variability and change to agriculture and food security

National Water Resources Board of the Philippines, on preparing to integrate climate forecasts into reservoir decision-making for the Angat Reservoir in the Philippines

CARE Indonesia, on demonstrating the potential use of climate forecasts to trigger earlier action to mitigate damaging peatland fires in Central Kalimantan.

High-level Panel

Following brief presentations, a high-level panel chaired by Dr. Shiv Someshwar (IRI) will discuss these examples in the context of the broader challenges that development decision-makers face in managing climate impacts, and identify the capacities, resources and research that will be required address these complex problems. Panelists include:

Dr. Anton Apriyantono Minister of Agriculture, Government of Indonesia

Dr. Rajendra Pachauri (by audio-conference)	Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and Director-General of The Energy and Resources Institute
Dr. Jeffrey D. Sachs (by audio-conference)	Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, and Special Advisor to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon
Dr. Stephen E. Zebiak	Director-General of the International Research Institute for Climate and Society Farth Institute Columbia University

The event will conclude with the signing of an MoU between IRI and the Ministry of Agriculture of Indonesia.

For more information, contact Esther Ebrahimian, esther@iri.columbia.edu. Refreshments will be served.