

Water and Climate Change Adaptation

Outputs from the 5th World Water Forum
(Istanbul, March 2009)

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World Water Forum

- Every three years
- 5th forum had 15,000 delegates
- Bringing together the global water community and supporting coalitions and networks
- Addressing global challenges
- Taking forward ideas, responses, policies and practice



The 5th Forum in Istanbul

- Had climate *high on the agenda*
- Through:
 - **Thematic process on** ‘Adapting to Climate Change’ including perspectives from geographical regions, on better planning, on supporting local actions, on addressing the financing gaps, and on risk management; as well as...
 - **Political Process including** a High-Level Panel and a Ministerial Roundtable on Bridging the Climate and Water Agendas



High-Level Panel

- Was co-chaired by the Environment Ministers of France and Turkey with 12 ministers in total and representative from the UN, NGOs and Private Sector organisations
- This led to a 'Call for Action' that
 - Both recognizes water as ***the fundamental*** vehicle for adaptation responses
 - And seeks a 'water-sensitive' Climate Agreement in Copenhagen
- Our challenge is to show why this is key

Ministerial Roundtable

- Co-chaired by the ministers of the Netherlands and Bangladesh and, in total, attended by over 50 Ministers, State Secretaries and other officials
- The meeting discussed follow-up including continuation of the dialogue on water and climate issues ***within*** the Bonn negotiations and at other upcoming international events, e.g...
 - World Water Week (Stockholm August 2009),
 - WCC-III (Sept. 2009) and, finally, at
 - COP-15 itself in Copenhagen (Dec 2009)



The key issues identified

- That there is increasing global recognition given to adaptation
- That water is ***the primary*** medium for adaptation, hence water is not a sector but cross cuts nearly all the current concerns about adaptation
- That water adaptation-mitigation synergies should be exploited
- That impacts are universal, but not uniform, hence adaptation responses need to be specific to human and social environments
- That responses need new enabling mechanisms including adequate governance and financing



Recommendations

- Investment in science for policy is critical *and improving* the science-policy interface, hence better knowledge management
- Also public awareness is a catalyst for change, so sharing information widely is key (as is experience sharing)
- Local strategies (as well as national/regional approaches) are critical, but local capacity is required for successful implementation
- Addressing hotspots requires specific attention to areas including SIDS and Deltas



Other key messages

- Get better management in place, and think in particular about the water-land interrelationship in which ecosystems are key water users
- Think about regional, transboundary levels and the need for climate-justified investments
- Make sure financing is new and additional to ODA, but part of existing flow mechanisms
- Need better exchange mechanisms to get good technologies to the those that need them



Thank you



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4th World Water Forum