

Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Study Group on the Security Implications of Climate Change

Study Group Co-Chairs: CSCAP Malaysia, Aus CSCAP and CSCAP Philippines

Rationale

The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) suggests that the major impacts of climate change in Asia will include: increased flood risk in the next two to three decades; long term declines in freshwater availability; more severe droughts; flooding in the region's mega-deltas; increasing frequency and intensity of heat waves; an increase in the intensity of storms; coastal erosion and saltwater intrusion; increasing risk of forest fires; declining productivity from agriculture and aquaculture; and increases in deaths and disease. There is now widespread speculation that these changes will amplify presumed drivers of domestic and international insecurity, such as resource scarcity, transboundary water disputes, economic shocks, food crises, rural to urban and international migration, income inequality, and the proliferation of nuclear capability. Yet there remains little evidence or systematic analysis of the likelihood of these problems arising in any given region, and there has been almost no consideration given to strategies for preventing them escalating into security crises.

There is therefore a clear need to examine and develop consensus on the nature and magnitude of risks climate change poses to security in the Asia-Pacific region. This is the purpose of the CSCAP Study Group on the security implications of climate change, which also aims to arrive at recommendations that are tailored for governments in the region to avoid security crises arising from climate change.

The Study Group will:

- Determine ways in which climate change may have serious security implications for the region;
- Propose specific measures that can be taken to avoid or manage the risks climate change poses to security in the region.

Outcomes

The outcome of the Study Group will be a Memorandum that will briefly highlight the implications of climate change for security in the Asia-Pacific region, and adaptive responses that can be taken by governments in the region and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).

Meetings

There will be two meetings of the study group in 2009.

- February 15 -16, Manila, Philippines
- May 28-29, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Programme for the first meeting

Sunday February 15

- 0800-0830 Registration
- 0830-0930 Opening session: Chaired by CSCAP Philippines
Welcome and Introductions
Background to CSCAP Study Groups
Aims of the Study Group
Expectations of the Study Group
- 0930-1030 First session: Climate Change and Climate Impacts in Asia-Pacific: Findings from the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report: Chaired by AusCSCAP
Daniel Murdiyarso CIFOR, Indonesia: d.murdiyarso@cgiar.org
or
Rex Victor O. Cruz, University of the Philippines: rvqc@mudspring.uplb.edu.ph
- 1030-1100 Coffee Break
- 1100-1215 Second Session: Security and climate change, what the literature says: Chaired by CSCAP Malaysia
Jim Rolfe, NZ Ministry of Defence: rolfejg@gmail.com
- 1215-1330 Lunch
- 1330-1515 Third Session: Break out groups to brainstorm security risks: Chaired by: AusCSCAP, CSCAP Malaysia, CSCAP Philippines
- 1515-1545 Coffee Break
- 1545-1715 Fourth Session: Presentations from Member Committees: Chaired by CSCAP Philippines
Suggest CSCAP USA and Indonesia
- 1715-1730 Closing session

Monday February 16

- 0845-10-15: Fifth Session: Presentations from Member Committees: Chaired by AusCSCAP
Suggest CSCAP Canada and China
- 1015-1045: Coffee Break
- 1045 –1215: Sixth Session: Break-out to discuss scope of further Task Group work: Chaired by: AusCSCAP, CSCAP Malaysia, CSCAP Philippines
- 1215-1330: Lunch
- 1330-1500: Seventh Session: Plenary discussion of proposed Task Group work: Chaired by CSCAP Malaysia
- 1500-1530: Closing Session: Chaired by CSCAP Philippines