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IPCC presents findings and activities in Thailand

BANGKOK, Oct 12 - The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the world body for assessing the science related to climate change, will present its findings with a focus on Thailand and Southeast Asia at an outreach event in Bangkok on 14-15 October.

It will also present its work programme for the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) cycle at the event hosted by Thailand's Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP).

IPCC experts will address a media workshop and a press conference at 1.00 pm on Friday, 14 October, at the Hotel Novotel Bangkok on Siam Square, as part of the two-day outreach event, attended by policymakers, practitioners, scientists, civil society representatives and media from Thailand, Cambodia and Laos. The event will be opened by Dr Raweewan Bhuridej, Secretary General, ONEP, and Youba Sokona, Vice-Chair of the IPCC.

"For the new AR6 cycle we aim to enhance further the involvement of experts from developing countries and improve the range of expertise involved. This event will provide a great opportunity to reach out to the various stakeholders in Thailand and encourage them to contribute to the work of the IPCC," said Youba Sokona.

Scientists will also present the latest IPCC report, the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5), completed in 2014, which was a crucial input to the Paris Climate Change Agreement reached in December 2015. AR5 found the world has the means to limit global warming and build a more prosperous and sustainable future, but pathways to limit warming to 2°C relative to pre-industrial levels would require substantial emissions reductions over the next few decades.

"Continued high emissions would increase the risks for Southeast Asia, exposing the region to impacts including flooding, food shortages, and extreme weather events affecting human health, security and poverty," said Joy Pereira, Vice-Chair of Working Group II of the IPCC, which deals with impacts and adaptation to climate change. "A range of options exists to limit the adverse effects, including through adaptation to the changing climate. Local decision-makers will hear from the IPCC scientists how to tackle the challenges and create new opportunities based on the best available science," said Pereira, one of the speakers.

Other speakers include Working Group III Co-Chair Priyadarshi R. Shukla, Working Group I Vice-Chair Edvin Aldrian, AR5 author Shobhakar Dhakal and representatives of the Thailand Research Fund and Chulalongkorn University.

The outreach event precedes a session of the IPCC in Bangkok on 17-20 October 2016, which among other issues will consider the outline of the Special Report on impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, and a new IPCC Methodology Report.

For more information:

Webpage of the event: <http://ipcc.ch/apps/outreach/eventinfo.php?q=359>

IPCC Press Office, Email: ipcc-media@wmo.int

Nina Peeva +41 22 730 8142 or +41 79 704 2459

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IPCC Secretariat

c/o WMO · 7 bis, Avenue de la Paix · C.P. 2300 · CH-1211 Geneva 2 · Switzerland

telephone +41 22 730 8208 / 54 / 84 · fax +41 22 730 8025 / 13 · email IPCC-Sec@wmo.int · www.ipcc.ch

Notes for editors

What is the IPCC?

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the world body for assessing the science related to climate change. It was set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly, to provide policymakers with regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation.

The IPCC assesses the thousands of scientific papers published each year to tell policymakers what we know and don't know about the risks related to climate change. The IPCC identifies where there is agreement in the scientific community, where there are differences of opinion, and where further research is needed. It does not conduct its own research.

Thus the IPCC offers policymakers a snapshot of what the scientific community understands about climate change rather than promoting a particular view. IPCC reports are policy-relevant without being policy-prescriptive. The IPCC may set out options for policymakers to choose from in pursuit of goals decided by policymakers, but it does not tell governments what to do.

To produce its reports, the IPCC mobilizes hundreds of scientists. These scientists and officials are drawn from diverse backgrounds. Only a dozen permanent staff work in the IPCC's Secretariat.

The members of the Panel are its 195 member governments. They work by consensus to endorse the reports of the IPCC and set its procedures and budget in plenary meetings of the Panel. The word "Intergovernmental" in the organization's name reflects this. It is not a United Nations agency, but is sponsored by two UN organizations – WMO and UNEP.

IPCC reports are requested by the member governments and developed by authors drawn from the scientific community in an extensive process of repeated drafting and review. Scientists and other experts participate in this review process through a self-declaration of expertise. The Panel endorses these reports in a dialogue between the governments that request the reports and will work with them and the scientists that write them. In this discussion the scientists have the last word on any additions or changes, although the Panel may agree by consensus to delete something.

Sixth Assessment Cycle

At its 41st Session in February 2015, the IPCC decided to produce a Sixth Assessment Report (AR6). At its 42nd Session in October 2015 it elected a new Bureau that would oversee the work on this report and Special Reports to be produced in the assessment cycle. At its 43rd Session in April 2016, it decided to produce three Special Reports, a Methodology Report and AR6.

At its session in Bangkok in October 2016 the IPCC will consider the [outline of the Special Report](#) on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty (SR1.5). This report, which is being prepared in response to an invitation from the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the UNFCCC in December 2015, will be delivered in 2018. It will also consider the [outline of the Methodology Report\(s\)](#) to refine the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, which will be delivered in 2019. A media advisory for that session can be found here: http://ipcc.ch/news_and_events/pdf/press/P44_media_advisory_final.pdf

In 2019 the IPCC will also finalize two Special Reports: on climate change and oceans and the cryosphere; and on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems. The AR6 Synthesis Report will be finalized in the first half of 2022.

For more information, including links to the IPCC reports, go to:

www.ipcc.ch