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IPCC PRESS RELEASE

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IPCC presents findings and activities in Vietnam

HANOI, Oct 19 - 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 Vietnam at an outreach event in Hanoi on 24-25 October 2016 to be attended by policymakers, practitioners, scientists, civil society representatives and media from Vietnam.

The IPCC will also present its work programme for the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) cycle at the event hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Vietnam (MONRE) and the United Nations Development Programme.

The event will be opened by the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Vietnam, Tran Hong Ha, the UN Resident Coordinator, Pratibha Mehta, and the Chair of the IPCC, Hoesung Lee. IPCC experts will also take part in a press conference at the Sofitel Plaza Hotel.

"Vietnam recognizes that the response to climate change and disaster prevention is vital for the country's sustainable development. Vietnam has promulgated and implemented a number of strategies and policies on climate change, disaster prevention, sustainable development and green growth," said Minister Tran Hong Ha.

UN Resident Coordinator Mehta, noted that Vietnam was severely affected by climate extremes.

"Women, children, the elderly and ethnic minorities are among the most vulnerable groups and every effort is needed to help build their resilience," she said. "The right policies, capacity and knowledge are continuously needed in order to take measures that reduce climate risks. Without that, sustainable development is not possible in Vietnam."

IPCC Chair Lee said the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) would build on the good picture of climate change and impacts globally delivered by the IPCC's last major report, the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5), completed in 2014.

"For AR6 we would like to see the research community tackle local questions and provide us with scientific literature that can feed into the assessments. We also hope that Vietnam and other developing countries will nominate more scientists as IPCC authors across the range of topics that we assess," said Lee.

At the outreach event, scientists will also present the findings of AR5, 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 limiting warming to 2°C relative to pre-industrial levels would require substantial emissions reductions over the next few decades.

"Continued high emissions will increase the risks for Vietnam, which is vulnerable to a range of impacts including sea-level rise and extreme climate events," said Hans-Otto Pörtner, Co-Chair of Working Group II of the IPCC, which deals with impacts and adaptation to climate change. "Climate

change is a threat to sustainable development, but there are many opportunities to link mitigation, adaptation and other societal objectives,” said Pörtner, one of the speakers.

Other speakers include IPCC Working Group I Co-Chair Panmao Zhai, Working Group II Vice-Chair Joy Pereira, Working Group III Vice-Chair Diana Ürge-Vorsatz, and representatives of the Vietnam Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology and Climate Change (IMHEN), the Department of Meteorology, Hydrology and Climate Change (DMHCC), the Vietnam Panel on Climate Change (VPCC), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Vietnam’s National Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disaster to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (SREX Vietnam), and 2016 climate change and sea-level rise scenarios for Vietnam and Plan for Implementation of the Paris Agreement will also be presented.

Experts from the IPCC, Ministry of National Resources and Environment and UNDP will also provide a briefing to members of the National Assembly.

For more information:

Webpage of the event: <http://ipcc.ch/apps/outreach/eventinfo.php?q=360>

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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 44th Session in Bangkok on 17-20 October 2016 the IPCC is considering 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 is also considering the outline of a Methodology Report to refine the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*, which will be delivered in 2019. Documents for the 44th Session, including the agenda, can be found at: http://www.ipcc.ch/scripts/session_template.php?page=44ipcc.htm.

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. AR6 will be completed with a Synthesis Report in the first half of 2022.

For more information, including links to the IPCC reports, go to:
www.ipcc.ch