

Concept Paper

Regional Climate Change and Coastal Disaster Mitigation Workshop

Background

Under the scenario of global climate change, the frequency, intensity, scope and duration of extreme weather events change greatly. Over the past 100 years, the rise of sea level has been accelerating. Sea level rise directly results in submergence in coastal area, wetland and ecosystem degradation, coastal infrastructure destruction, and aggravated storm surge, coastal erosion and flooding, posing great threats to the social and economic development of coastal areas.

Most ARF member countries are greatly affected by sea level rise and are vulnerable to the risks induced by climate change. Sea-level rise has already caused severe damage to local economy and people's safety. Make joint efforts to strengthen the sea level and climate change analysis and projection, comprehensive risk assessment and disaster resilience study are of importance to realize the goals of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Proposal

China proposes holding a workshop on regional climate change and coastal disaster mitigation to identify the status of regional ocean climate and the common coastal disasters that pose threat to the economic and social development. It would be a platform for participants to exchange the research progresses on climate change, sea level rising and assessment, ocean disaster mitigation, etc. thus to better improve the future regional capacity in adaptation to climate change and promote the sustainable development. Moreover, a day would be dedicated to operation and maintenance of ocean observing system in the Asia-Pacific region, from which the in-situ oceanographic and meteorological data are critical to ocean and climate studies. This two-day workshop will be held in autumn 2018 in Tianjin China. We expect 50+ participants as described in further detail below. The opportunity to network and share information and best practices with regional counterparts is a secondary, but equally

valuable outcome. Topics of discussion will be tailored to best meet participant country needs and could include:

- Regional Ocean observation System
- Data process and management
- Regional sea level change
- Contribution and response of regional ocean to climate change
- Coastal disasters and extreme events
- Marine ecosystems response to climate change
- Risk management and adaptation of climate change and coastal marine disasters

Co-chair

China is seeking co-chairs from ASEAN member states and other ARF participants.

Participants

Government Officers and experts of related academic and environmental institutes, emergency response stakeholders from the ARF Participants would be invited to participate in this workshop. Ideal participants would be those involved in ocean/meteorology observation, data management, analysis, and ocean/climate reach.

Date, Venue and Language

The proposed workshop would be held in autumn 2018 in Tianjin China. English will be the working language

Administrative Arrangements

The government of China would afford the administrative costs of the workshop, including the venue, working dinners and lunches. Financial assistance (international

travel and accommodations) may be provided to a limited number of participants upon request.

Please direct comments or questions on this proposal to:

Mr. Li Xinbo

Department of Asian Affairs

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

li_xinbo@mfa.gov.cn

Tel: +86-10-65962166

Dr. Liu Kexiu

National Marine Data and Information Service

State Oceanic Administration of China

No. 93 Liuwei Road, Tianjin 300171, China

E-mail: kxliu@163.com