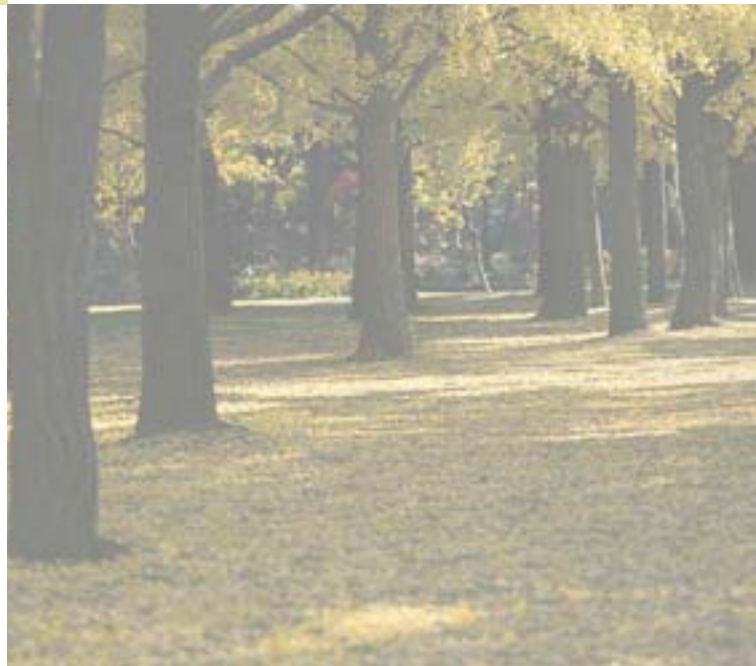


V Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)



Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)

1. About the APN

The Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) is an inter-governmental network for the promotion of global change research, whose mission is (1) to foster global change research in the Asia-Pacific region, (2) increase developing country participation in that research, and (3) strengthen interactions between the science community and policy-makers. The APN's membership includes 21 countries¹. The APN started its First Phase in 1996 and its Secretariat has been located in Kobe, Japan and hosted by the Hyogo Prefectural Government, since 1999. Inter-governmental networks now support global change research in three major regions of the world - North and South America, Europe and Africa, and the Asia-Pacific. The APN supports global change research in the Asia-Pacific region. Europe and Africa are supported by the European Network for Research in Global Change (ENRICH); and the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) supports North and South America. The APN receives monetary contributions from Japan (MOEJ and Hyogo Prefectural Government), USA (NSF)², Australia (Australian Greenhouse Office) and New Zealand (New Zealand Ministry of Environment). Equally important, the APN also receives in-kind support (human resources, equipment, venues for meetings, etc.) from many other member countries. This in-kind support is invaluable to the APN, although it is difficult to quantify in monetary value. The APN covers a broad range of research topics including changes in atmospheric composition; changes in coastal zones and inland waters; climate change and variability; and changes in terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity and understanding the human dimensions of global change.

In order to optimise its work, the APN Secretariat shifted from the administrative umbrella of AIRIES (Association of International Research Initiatives for Environmental Studies) in April 2004, to IGES. An independent account has been established so the APN is able to administer

its funds autonomously. The APN's Inter-Governmental Meeting (IGM) continues to be its decision-making body.

2. APN Funded Projects

APN funding is used to support regional global change research and training activities, which are selected through a competitive Annual Regional Call for Proposals (ARCP). Each year, the IGM and SPG, as the main decision-making bodies, decide which proposals to fund based on careful review and feedback from experts in various fields. Regarding the APN's 2003 Annual Regional Call for Proposals, of the 24 proposals short-listed at the 2nd stage of the proposal review process, 18 projects were granted funding for FY 2004/05, one of which was a seed grant project. In addition, 7 APN projects from FY2003/04 were selected to receive funding for another year. Approximately US\$ 760,000 was allocated to the aforementioned projects.

3. CAPaBLE

The APN launched a five-year Programme on "Scientific Capacity Building/Enhancement for Sustainable Development in Developing Countries" (CAPaBLE) in 2003, as a type II initiative project of WSSD. CAPaBLE aims to develop and enhance scientific capacity in developing countries to improve their decision-making in the target areas related to global change, climate change and water and food security that are directly linked to their sustainable development. In the FY 2004/05, two Comprehensive Research Projects (CRP) continued to receive funding, which will lead to the capacity enhancement of leading researchers in developing countries. Furthermore, nine Capacity Building projects, including capacity building of aspiring scientists in developing countries, were funded. A total of approximately US\$ 500,000 was allocated to these CAPaBLE projects.

¹ Current member countries of the APN:

Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the United States of America, and Viet Nam.

² The contribution from the NSF is administered by the International START Secretariat, located in Washington DC, USA.

4. Hyogo Activities

The APN Secretariat office is located in Kobe with the financial support of Hyogo Prefectural Government. Several APN workshops, public symposia and conferences, therefore, convene in Hyogo every year. In FY 2004/05, APN events in Hyogo included:

- 1) The APN Augmented Steering Committee Meeting, 27-28 October 2004
- 2) The APN Global Change Coastal Zone Synthesis Workshop, 8-10 November 2004
- 3) The International Symposium on "Technology to Overcome the Pressures of a Changing Earth: In Search of a New Intermediate Technology for the Local Community." 14 November 2004
- 4) The APN/WHO Public Forum on "Climate Calamities and Human Health" at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, 22 January 2005

5. APN Coastal Zone Management Synthesis

A synthesis project was conducted to synergise the results of twenty projects; all of which were funded by the APN. These projects concentrated on environmental change of coastal zones in the Asia-Pacific region. The results of this synthesis indicated there are many areas that still need to be addressed. These are, but not limited to: (1) promotion of cooperative research, related to the coastal zone management in the future; (2) strengthening of research networks; (3) publication of research results, and (4) investigation of strategies for the most appropriate measures. The APN will continue its efforts to strengthen research on the issues indicated above.



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The APN/WHO Public Forum on "Climate Calamities and Human Health" (22 January 2005)

6. Inter-Governmental Meeting (IGM)

The 10th Inter-Governmental Meeting (IGM) and Scientific Planning Group (SPG) Meetings were successfully held in Kobe. One of the major items for discussion was the evaluation report of APN's past activities. From this, the Second APN Strategic Plan (2005-2010) was compiled. The Second Strategic Plan gives the APN clear objectives to carry out in order to improve the operation of the APN in its second decade of activities. The IGM adopted the Second Strategic Plan.

7. Participation in International Meetings

Four key programmes, the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP); the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP); an international programme of biodiversity science, known as DIVERSITAS; and the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) are the APN's partners in the global change community. Furthermore, the APN also collaborates closely with its sister network, the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI). The APN Secretariat staff and APN members have participated in some of their meetings and other relevant international meetings such as:

- 1) The 4th Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Meeting and the 2nd Earth Observation Summit (EOS-II), 22-25 April 2004, in Tokyo, Japan
- 2) The IGFA Annual Meeting, 6-8 October 2004, in Reykjavik, Iceland
- 3) The START Scientific Steering Committee Meeting, 7-9 February 2005, in Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- 4) The 6th Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Meeting



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The 10th Inter-Governmental Meeting (IGM) and Scientific Planning Group (SPG) Meeting

and the 3rd Earth Observation Summit (EOS-III), 14-16 February 2005, in Brussels, Belgium

8. The APN Budget

Total revenue of the APN account in FY 2004/05 was JPYen 202,861,559; this included JPYen 164,622,000 from the Ministry of the Environment Japan, JPYen 35,102,538 from the Hyogo Prefectural Government, Aus\$ 30,000 from the Australian Greenhouse Office and NZ\$ 10,000 from the New Zealand Ministry for the Environment. Contributions, totaling US\$ 380,000, from the US Government, the National Science Foundation (NSF), earmarked specifically for APN activities, were administered by the International START (Global Change System for Analysis, Research and Training)

Secretariat. The total APN budget, including contributions from NSF, in FY 2004/05 was US\$ 2,152,000. Expenditures in FY 2004/05 were JPYen 155,574,720, which included JPYen 108,836,028 for science activities and JPYen 46,738,692 for administration.

9. The APN Secretariat

Since the establishment of the APN in 1996, the Secretariat has grown in size to seven, full-time staff. In FY 2004/05, the APN also introduced a pilot capacity building project, whereby two Programme Fellows from developing APN member countries (Philippines and Thailand) started work at the APN Secretariat office in Kobe, for a period of nine months.