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PRESS RELEASE

IPCC presents climate change findings in Southeast Asia

BANGKOK, Aug 14 - Experts from Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will outline the findings of their Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) and how to limit and adapt to climate change at an IPCC outreach event in Bangkok on Tuesday 18 August.

The AR5 found the world has the means to limit global warming and build a more prosperous, sustainable future, including through adaptation to the changing climate.

IPCC experts will address a media briefing at 12.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 18 August at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, as part of the full-day outreach event.

“Continued high emissions will increase risks for Southeast Asia. Key issues range from coastal and river flooding, with the potential for widespread damage, to heat-related mortality, to water and food shortages following drought,” said Purnamita Dasgupta, a coordinating lead author of AR5 and one of the speakers at the event.

“A wide diversity of adaptation options can help reduce these risks while building vibrant communities and robust economies,” said Dr. Dasgupta, who is acting head of the Environmental Economics Unit at the University of Delhi’s Institute of Economic Growth.

Limiting climate change requires substantial and sustained reductions of greenhouse gas emissions and although AR5 found a considerable increase in global action to curb greenhouse gases since the IPCC’s previous report, emissions are continuing to rise and more action is required.

Other speakers include IPCC Vice-Chairs Hoesung Lee (Republic of Korea) and Jean-Pascal van Ypersele (Belgium), IPCC Working Group I Vice-Chair Fredolin Tangang, IPCC Working Group III Co-Chair Youba Sokona, and IPCC authors Seree Supratid, Edvin Aldrian, Liyong Xie, Aromar Revi, Bundit Fungtamman and Shobhakar Dhakal.

Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), will open the meeting.

“Climate change is perhaps the single greatest challenge confronting the Asia-Pacific region, and its more than 4 billion people. We must utilize the full potential of regional and South-South cooperation, as well as cutting-edge science, technology and innovation, to accelerate our progress and integrate efforts on climate with the new sustainable development goals,” said Dr. Akhtar.

The Bangkok meeting is part of a series of IPCC events around the world to explain the findings of AR5, as nations prepare to negotiate a new global agreement on climate change in Paris in December.

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Notes for editors

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the world body for assessing the science related to climate change. The IPCC 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.

It released the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) in four stages over 2013 and 2014, finishing with the AR5 Synthesis Report in November 2014.

The key findings of the Synthesis Report are:

- Human influence on the climate system is clear;
- The more we disrupt our climate, the more we risk severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts; and
- We have the means to limit climate change and build a more prosperous, sustainable future.

For details of the Bangkok event please click here:

<http://www.unescap.org/events/outreach-event-ipcc-fifth-assessment-report>