

FINAL SESSIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

SCIENCE TO POLICY

1. **Increase Asian Field Offices' participation to the flagship program GO-SPIN** (Global Observatory for STI Policies Network), a database listing national policies reviews, best practices and improvement targets.
2. **Enhance UNESCO advocacy role** to make sure National Sciences Policies, once developed, are implemented and sustainable.
 - *Influence the right parliamentary members* to weight on Science budgets vote
 - *Develop and implement follow-up plans*
 - *Explain to politicians* that Science Policies should be holistic and incorporated to all Ministries' plans of action, not MOSTIs only, since it has strong impacts on other policies (i.e. industrial, health, population, etc.).
 - *Explain the economic benefits* of Science to politicians, in particular in the field of risk preparedness where prevention is always much less costly than after disaster reconstruction – in terms of finance and human lives.
 - *Remind governments* that Science Policies must go over decades and must be included in education
 - Increase UNESCO Field Offices partnerships with rich partners (OECD, WB, others), who can help funding the implementation of science policies.
 - *Strengthen UNESCO advocacy* by bringing good science policies examples to other countries.
3. **Involve local communities in Science Studies** in order to
 - Provide governments with grassroots data.
 - Develop projects corresponding to the real needs of local communities.
 - Link with SAGA gender projects
4. **Improve UNESCO communication on Science towards policy makers by:**
 - Including heads of UNESCO Field Offices (FOs) in the email list of the Natural Sciences Sector, in particular those FOs without science officers, and extend regional cooperation for them.
 - Linking with science and education ministries, in particular in risk preparedness
 - Make sure to invite the appropriate national partners to the World Science Forum.

WATER SCIENCE

1. Bring IHP to the Pacific

- Start with a workshop in the Pacific to bring UNESCO expertise in Asia to the Pacific
- Jointly plan a program for raising IHP profile & activities, mainly focused on Asia for the moment, in the Pacific (IHP, Secretariat, Cat.2 Centers, Chairs should come)
- Build and reinforce the Asia-Pacific network

2. Use Sustainability Science to maintain healthy water systems with:

- Eco-hydrological approach
- Concrete demonstration sites
- Emphasis on reducing water pollution

3. Develop Best Practices Collection for Water Management

- Develop an IHP Platform. Publish a book or some documentation reflecting best practices
- Disseminate the book/document across the region providing scenarios of best practices, lessons learned, etc.

4. Address overarching/cross-cutting issues, notably:

- How to implement, monitor and evaluate through a gender lens
 - Inclusion of local and traditional knowledge in plans and implantation
 - Climate change issues / concerns
 - Ensure appropriate design for community education on new methods
- Water governance, which requires political leadership at the highest level.
 - Capacity building, best practices sharing & water governance should be involved in all initiatives
 - Transition from water supply to demand management
 - Awareness-raising and information sharing for appropriate decision making for change

5. Climate Change

- Scenarios and future planning: ICHARM would be willing to share its research results on “Program for Risk Information on Climate Change”, which will be completed in mid-2017
- Find a way to benefit from UNESCO’s programs and tools in the fields: share best practices; bring IHE, IHP and WWAP to the field

6. Link upstream & downstream users focusing on:

- Benefit sharing
- Conflict resolution
- Science-to-Policy interfaces
- Watershed management – see for instance Thailand’s watershed management and payment for ecosystem services (PES).

7. Identify region specific potential donors.

8. Transboundary water concerns and efficient/effective water management

INTERDISCIPLINARY AND INTER-REGIONAL

→ Participants discussed in detail about the main elements of joint Interdisciplinary and Inter-regional projects, and agreed on the following key points:

1. Project must have **Gender Framework /lens and Sustainability Science focus**
2. Consideration on the **current global context** e.g. relevant SDGs as well as Climate Change
3. **Knowledge sharing about best practices** and actions focusing on **youth and women**
4. Use of **new and innovative technologies for development associated with Global initiatives** such as Silk Road, DRR notably within Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 etc.
5. Use of UNESCO sites specially three functions of **Biosphere Reserves (Conservation, Development and Logistics) as models for interdisciplinarity** combining science, society and culture and the gender lens
6. Develop a **global governance mechanism for different sites categories**
7. **Recognize Indigenous knowledge systems and foster community engagement**
8. **Livelihood issues of stakeholders** need to be addressed

ECOLOGICAL AND EARTH SCIENCES

1. Capacity Building & Sharing Best Practices

- *Share best practices from the region*

Example: Malaysia's Langkawi Tourism Blueprint on eco-tourism, where:

- Revalidation of geo-parks is proven efficient and a masterplan has been developed with stakeholders' participation
- Sites are administrated by BR (*Tasik Chini*) and Geopark (Langkawi) authorities.

- *Foster Capacity Building*

Example: in Central Asia, SIDS and LDC, where MAB Committees need support to understand better:

- BR concept, how to submit a file for nomination of a BR, how to become member of which regional MAB network, how to make the MAB fully functional, how to engage local authorities, how to promote the transition zone of BRs, how to create a model for BR legislation, etc.

- PROPOSAL: HIST (China) can help with capacity building on BRs & Geoparks

- Use of space technics for monitoring (e.g. every 2 years) and sustainable management of UNESCO designated sites
- Organize symposiums (e.g. "Challenges faced in WH Rice Terraces")

2. Develop synergies between UNESCO designated sites

→ *UNESCO has a wide network across the globe of its designated sites* (WH, BRs and Geoparks).

Synergies among these designated sites will further strengthen them and contribute to their sustainable management by sharing of experience and new approaches.

→ Japan in recent years has taken the initiative to organize joint BR & Geoparks meetings. It was suggested to develop joint meetings at the regional level to foster synergies among UNESCO sites.

→ *Promote Earth-Sciences programs* in countries which have a great potential

- Share information on procedures to nominate a Geopark
- Promote Earth-Science Education in Central Asia (e.g. similar to the Africa initiative)

3. Better coordinate networks' interactions

- *Organize a Regional MAB Network Meeting to:*

→ discuss how to become an official member of the MAB network and selecting the right network that matches the geographical location, clarify whether having a BR is a requirement to become a member and if so, offer observer status to learn and prepare for becoming a member

- *Rotate the SACAM secretariat* within UNESCO Field Offices to provide better outreach and coordination with the entire sub-region (West, South and Central Asia)

- *Rely on new initiatives* such as transboundary cooperation for BRs;
- *Enhance the role of local government in BR management*
