

Science-Policy Communication Breakout Session

1. Communications among the Science Communities
2. Communications between the Science Communities and Policy/Decision Makers
3. Communications across regions, cultures, and disciplines

Objectives

1. Foster opportunities to learn how science communication occurs (among scientists and between scientists and decision makers) in different systems
2. Identify common communication challenges
3. Identify opportunities for collaboration and inter-region learning through the use of virtual networks/cyberinfrastructure tools

Expected Outcomes

1. Common understanding of science-policy communication challenges in the Lower Mekong Region
2. Identified approaches for overcoming these challenges
3. Identified opportunities for using cyberinfrastructure to build collaborations that improve science-policy communication

Format

- Break into three groups (40 minutes)
 - Discuss specific questions per topic areas
 - Summarize the discussion
- Come back to Room 407, each group shares the ideas discussed in their breakout group (10 minutes per group, 30 minutes)

Group 1 – Communications among science communities

- What communications challenges exist among your region's scientists?
- What tools and mechanisms are currently being used to share scientific information among scientists within and outside of your region?
- What tools would you like to see used, or developed, to share information and build networks with scientists in other regions?

Group 2 – Communications between science communities and policy/decision makers

- What are the major challenges to organizing and communicating scientific information for policy makers?
- What tools and mechanisms are currently being used to communicate scientific information to policy makers in your region?
- How do policy makers communicate their needs for science information to regional science communities?
- What new or enhanced visualization and communication tools would help improve information sharing between scientists and policy makers?

Group 3 – Communications across regions, cultures and disciplines

- What are the challenges and opportunities to building effective communication across regions, cultures and disciplines?
- Are information and communications technologies (ICT), like web-enabled communications mechanisms (e.g. real-time desktop sharing for collaboration and videoconferencing, Skype, wikis) potentially useful for your community? Are there cultural, generational, or technical barriers to using such technologies?
- Assuming that you have established a working relationship with a person over ICT, but you have never had the chance to meet in person, what types of collaborative activities (e.g. co-authorship on a scientific paper, joint proposal writing) would you be willing to engage in, and why?
- How could virtual networks be utilized to connect scientists and policy makers working to address water management challenges in the Lower Mekong Region, the United States and beyond?

Breakout Groups

Group 1– Communications among science communities (Room 407)

Group 2 – Communications between science communities and policy/decision makers (Room 201)

Group 3 – Communications across regions, cultures and disciplines (Room 202)