

INGSA/IDRC RESEARCH ASSOCIATE GRANT 2018

FULL REPORT

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IDRC Grant/ Subvention du CRDI: 108397-001-Effective science advice for governments in the developing world



2018 INGSA Research Associate Grant Summary

IDRC Project Number: 108397-001

Report prepared by: Grant Mills (INGSA Programme Officer)

Report Type: Summary Activity Document

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Submitting party: The International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA)

Report Contact: Grant Mills, Programme Officer – g.mills@ingsa.org

Background:

The International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA) is a collaborative platform that aims to provide a forum for policy makers, practitioners, national academies, and academics to share experience, build capacity and develop theoretical and practical approaches to the use of scientific evidence in informing policy at all levels of government.

As part of IDRC's funding arrangement with INGSA, INGSA ran an inaugural round of research grants in 2018. The grants were available to scientists, researchers or policymakers from a list of Low and Middle Income Countries, to undertake a project in their region on the thematic priority of: The role of Science Advice in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Applicants were asked to outline a project and outputs to be completed over a one-year project timeline. There was an incredible response to the Call for Applications, attracting 291 applicants from all across the Global South. This enabled us to ensure diversity in topic, geography and gender without sacrificing project quality.

It is noted that the framing of the initial call was over-complicated, which led to many slightly confused applications and increased the challenge of selection. This fact was taken into account for the 2019 Grant program, with the application requirements streamlined.

Selection Committee:

We selected a diverse Selection Committee from across INGSA's Executive, Secretariat and Regional Chapters. The Committee Selection consisted of:

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|---------------------------|--|
| - Prof James Wilsdon | Co-Chair of INGSA (Chair of Selection Committee) |
| - Sir Peter Gluckman | Co-Chair of INGSA |
| - Ms Lara Cowen | Senior Programme Officer at INGSA |
| - Mr Matt Wallace | Senior Program Officer at IDRC |
| - Dr Heide Hackman | Executive Director at ISC |
| - Ms Kristiann Allen | INGSA ex-officio |
| - Dr Renee Street | INGSA-Africa |
| - Dr Lim Xinhong | INGSA-Asia |
| - Dr Elizabeth Silvestre | INGSA-LAC |
| - Ms Anne-Sophie Stevance | Science Officer at ISC |

The process entailed splitting the committee into pairs, with these groups ranking a pool of applications. Top ranked applications went through to a second round to further whittle down the candidates. A teleconference of the Selection Committee then decided the six grantees, balanced for gender and geographic representation.

Awardees:

Dr Temilade Sesan, Nigeria - **Project:** *“Strengthening the contribution of evidence to household energy policymaking: The case of Nigeria”*

Dr Kristoffer B. Berse, Philippines – **Project:** *“In Pursuit of Climate Action and Disaster Risk Reduction: Science Advice and Policymaking from the Experience of Filipino Scientists”*

Mrs. D.P.P. Weerasinghe, Sri Lanka - **Project:** *“Comprehensive, balanced and coordinated scientific strategy for Sri Lanka national policy for prevention and control of Drug Abuse”*

Dr Abdelali Laamari, Morocco - **Project:** *“Smart water governance in Moroccan agriculture: Science and policy new partnership and cooperation”*

Dr Laely Nurhidayah, Indonesia - **Project:** *“Addressing Sea Level Rise (SLR) through Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Livelihood: Semarang as a Case Study”*

Mr Miguel Vera, Bolivia - **Project:** *“The role of research centers in the generation and promotion of knowledge for the SDGs”*

Face-to-face meeting:

There are recognised challenges in communicating virtually with researchers in such diverse settings - including technical difficulties of poor internet and Skype/Zoom connections. This makes face-to-face interaction hugely valuable. The Japan conference offered an opportunity for the Research Associates to meet in person with the INGSA Knowledge Hub to share project progress and offer guidance on navigating project milestones, and to consider how their project goes beyond a specific problem to shed light on science advice more broadly.

Due to the timing of the conference, the meeting did occur quite late in the period of their grant. This has proven to be less of an issue than previously expected because all of the grant durations have had to be extended do due to circumstances outlined below.

The unanimous feedback from the Research Associates was that the meeting of the RAs was valuable, but what was most valuable was the ability to attend the conference. It was also suggested by one Research Associate that, for RAs selected in years without a conference, that provision should be made for them to attend the following year’s conference, due to the perceived benefits.

Report Overview:

The sheer volume of applications for the 2018 research grants demonstrated the interest and value in providing opportunities such as this. It was a difficult task for the selection committee to identify only six recipients amongst a highly competitive applicant group, many with important research propositions.

On reflection, INGSA was impressed by the calibre of the selected grantees, and very satisfied with their project achievements. All of the Research Associates (RAs) were self-driven, well-organised and, overall, completed their projects professionally and with an unexpected level of regional impact.

As well as the outcomes directly resulting from the project, most of the participants reported that the projects have sparked ongoing discussions, collaborations, or advisory roles emanating from the project. This is highly reassuring that the investment in these projects has not only achieved their initial goals, but that it has facilitated longer-term outcomes.

As this was the first round of the INGSA Research Associate grants, we have also received a valuable amount of feedback to assist with the management of the project in future. One piece of feedback that was almost unanimous was that the one year time period was insufficient to conduct the project as well as derive meaningful outputs.

It has been recommended that the grant cover a 2-year period, in which the first year primarily be the execution of the project, with a second year devoted to writing of papers and development of case studies. Most of the RAs thought the grant funding was sufficient to achieve the research project, but they felt that a 1-year deadline was impossible to meet. As such, many of the project outputs - such as academic papers – have not been included in the RAs reports, and will be sent through as they are completed.

Outcomes from the projects have been diverse in their type and in their audience – from purely academic papers to community outreach and education. One thing that we can note, is that the projects have been successful, in a number of cases, in providing on going opportunity and have been a launchpad for subsequent projects, or advisory roles, or conference presentations. These ongoing relationships, research and career developments could be considered one of the most important outputs of the grant program.

Project Summaries:

Dr Temilade Sesan, Nigeria

Centre for Petroleum, Energy Economics and Law, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

Project: Strengthening the contribution of evidence to household energy policymaking: The case of Nigeria

Objective:

In Nigeria, where only 59 percent and 5 percent of the population have access to electricity and modern cooking fuels respectively, there have been several iterations of key energy policies in recent decades – with little impact on actual rates of citizens’ access to modern energy.

Temilade’s research set out – through a series of workshops and in-depth interviews – to identify the status quo in the sector, and to facilitate mechanisms that might result in a greater role for evidence in policymaking.

An overarching achievement of the project was the establishment of new lines of communication between relevant government institutions on the one hand, and among those institutions, knowledge producers (chiefly national energy research institutions) and knowledge brokers (notably the Nigerian Academy of Science) on the other.

In particular, the Rural Electrification Agency, the Energy Commission of Nigeria and the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology – all major contributors to national energy policy – had a platform to jointly evaluate the status of scientific evidence in policymaking in the energy sector and the prospects for expanding that role.

Results:

- **Workshop 1:** *Where’s the evidence? How to inform policy and processes for improved energy access in Nigeria.* 25 participants across government, civil society and business
- **Workshop 2:** *Evidence Matters: Opportunities and challenges for science advice in the making of household energy policy in Nigeria.* Roundtable on Energy Policy - in-depth discussion with senior policy officials in relevant government agencies

The knowledge-policy exchange ignited by the project will continue well beyond the project’s termination. Interim reports of project activities are already being used as a basis for alliance building and action.

The relationship built between Temilade, her research institute, and the Rural Electrification Agency has yielded a subsequent grant to continue the research. This is funded by the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) - <https://portal.pep-net.org/public/project/20448>

A policy brief and a video documentary under production will be used to further engage key stakeholders on the value of applying evidence for improved energy access outcomes.

These interventions are expected to contribute towards the long-term goal of building a culture of evidence demand and use within the government institutions responsible for making energy policy in Nigeria.

Crucially, the focus of the project shifted from feeding the established evidence around cooking energy access into the policymaking process to helping decision makers better engage with the evidence in the area where the national policy thrust is greatest at the moment, which is electrification.

Outcomes:

Output	Status
Workshop 1 Report	Delivered
Workshop 2 Report	Delivered
Twitter Engagement under hashtag #Evidence4Energy	Ongoing
Energy Sector Ecosystem Map as derived by Temilade	Delivered
Documentary Background Brief	Delivered
Documentary on Energy policy – using storytelling techniques to draw the attention of policymakers to salient issues requiring policy change and/or implementation	In production – July 2019
Framework for Engagement - In collaboration with official at the Rural Electrification Agency to develop a framework for long-term engagement between “demand-side” and “supply-side” institutions in the sector	In development
Academic Paper on research findings	Proposed (Oct 2019)
Conf Abstract accepted for presentation on project paper, to be presented at Global Development Network conference to be held in Bonn in Oct 2019	Accepted for poster presentation
Subsequent Grant - PEP: Rural Electrification Agency & Temilade Sesan “ASSESSING THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACTS OF THE NIGERIAN RURAL ELECTRIFICATION FUND (REF-1) PROGRAMME USING A GENDER COMPUTABLE GENERAL EQUILIBRIUM MODEL” https://portal.pep-net.org/public/project/20448	Grant Awarded

Temilade has succeeded in generating diverse and long-term value out of the project that has resulted in practical as well as academic outputs. The project enabled her to form valuable, high-level networks that continue to be leveraged.

As mentioned, she was able to get the Rural Electrification Agency, one of the key stakeholders she engaged with on the project, to collaborate with her centre on a successful call for proposals by the Partnership for Economic Policy, another IDRC-funded initiative. The intention is to use the project as a platform for initiating tangible research-policy exchanges between the centre and the agency.

Dr Osu of the REA and Temilade have kept up their communication, and they think that a project like this may be the most concrete way to ease into an engagement framework that will eventually bring in other research institutes and government agencies.

Her documentary project is also a novel outcome that will potentially have public engagement as well as policy-maker engagement. This is still in the process of being finalised

Temilade's ability, enthusiasm and level of engagement, have identified her as a potential long-term ally of INGSA in Africa and we hope to be able to continue to assist her in developing her capacity and leadership skills.

Dr Abdelali Laamari, Morocco

Agricultural Economics Researcher, National Institute for Agricultural Research

Project: Smart Water Governance in Moroccan Agriculture: New Science and policy collaboration and partnership

Objective:

The general objective of the project was set to contribute to achieving SDGs related to water (SDG6), gender equality (SDG5), livelihoods and nutrition (SDG2), through better decision making processes and giving more voice to water users in agricultural water governance.

- Develop and execute a resource expansion strategy to engage a strategic partnerships at the national and international levels;
- Establish an innovation platform for water governance that strengthening local, regional and expertise of key stakeholders, and promote scientific evidence that can be used by policy makers;
- Promote collaboration between researchers, practitioners, and policy makers through knowledge sharing and networking in water management and valuation policy; and
- Stimulate innovative thinking and sound research on approaches and mechanisms that integrate agricultural water and expand access to water.

Results:

- **Workshop 1 – July 2018:** *Smart Water Governance in Moroccan Agriculture: New Research and policy partnership and collaboration.*

Stakeholder workshop (politicians, researchers, water users, civil society) to discuss water management in the Tadla region of Morocco. Resulted in a commitment from several agencies to set up a platform for coordinating and sharing scientific knowledge on technologies, water policies and local knowledge to improve water governance.

The results of this workshop resulted in an MoU (French) that was formalised between the agencies at Workshop 2.

- **Workshop 2 – March 2019:** *Smart Water Governance in Morocco: An new partnership for bridging research and policy in the case of water management in Tadla.*

The second workshop was the opportunity to share with all stakeholders the scientific results on water allocation, water saving technologies and adoption in Tadla region. As representative of water users, the AWU-Federation and the ORMVAT has confirmed these results and reports can be largely diffused to the actors. The MoU is an opportunity to institutionalize the relation between actors at the platform level. There was TV and digital coverage of this second workshop.

In Morocco, organisations working in water management are working in silos with no or limited coordination between water and agriculture. Parallel structures exist in research and policy with no institutional pathways to channel research into policy. Weak governance has implications on sustainability of land and water. Despite the existing policies aiming at involving farmers and water users organisations in local decision making, in reality farmers are not empowered enough to be full partners in water and agriculture development.

The second important activity was to carry out demand driven research on current and alternative governance structures of agricultural water in the context of large and small irrigation schemes in Morocco.

Two aspects were targeted. Firstly, the research team was solicited to map out the knowledge gaps and investigate with different stakeholders their respective needs to optimise and sustain the resources, improve economic return and social equity through a new governance framework. Secondly to develop and test a pilot model (to be scaled up) of smart and inclusive governance for multiple stakeholders based on scientific evidence at local and basin level. Coherence on water policies is an urgent necessity. This coherence is justified by the growing number of interconnections between environmental, economic, agriculture and social policies.

The results of the research activities carried out under this grant are quite diversified and can be presented through the following aspects:

- The incoherence of water policies and its implications on governance and water management in agriculture.
- The contribution of scientific research in improving the efficiency of water use and its productivity.
- The analysis of stakeholders for setting up the operational mechanisms of water governance platform in Tadla and informing policy-makers about the selected alternative and its importance in bridging research and policy and improving water governance.
- Capacity building of young researchers to consider water governance in their master program and develop tools that can be adopted by administrations and actors in water management.

Outcomes:

Output	Status
Technical Report – extremely detailed report on the background and the project	Delivered
MOU: <i>Gouvernance Intelligente de l'eau en agriculture : Vers une nouvelle collaboration science et politique</i> - MoU to institutionalize the collaboration between research and policy makers at the local level (French)	Delivered – Included in Technical Report
Input and influence in <i>The Cairo Declaration</i> from the First Joint Meeting of Arab Ministers of Agriculture and Water – info below	Delivered – Included in Technical Report
Youtube Video of media coverage from 2 nd Workshop (https://youtu.be/HnNcXHyE5u0)	Delivered
Online Media coverage of Workshop 2 - https://www.scoopmaroc.ma/index.php/scoop-fhama/scoop-tv/7711-2019-03-28-17-11-23	Delivered
Report on involvement at the 2nd Global Stakeholders Workshop, organised by the African Academy of Science, in Ghana on bridging policy and research.	Delivered
Two Academic papers are planned from the research	Proposed
Dr Laamari and his team will continue to develop tools from this research that the Hydraulic Agency will use for managing water. They will also develop a model for water use efficiency among crops	Proposed
Dr Laamari and his team are working with 2 universities in Morocco to utilise tools developed in this project for elements of a Masters course on water impact on the economic performances of agriculture	Proposed

Dr Laamari obviously has experience working at the science-to-policy interface in Morocco, and he used the RA project to further leverage his connections with great effect.

His Technical Report is highly detailed and I would recommend disseminating the full report to any IDRC water interests in Morocco, with his permission. I expect that this report will underpin at least

one of his proposed academic papers, so there are sensitivities to publishing the technical report at this stage.

As well as undertaking considerable academic research on the topic, he and his team were also able to engage the League of Arab States on this topic and they included the issue of water governance at the First Joint Meeting of Arab Ministers of Agriculture and Water.

The Cairo Declaration that resulted from this meeting contains a specific action target to: “Strengthen the science-policy interface by ensuring that policies are based on sound knowledge, and ensure the provision of an appropriate, guided incentive and funding environment to improve the performance of research institutions, especially in the fields of arid and marginal lands and rain-fed crops”, as a direct result of the presentation of Dr Laamari and his team’s research.

Dr Laamari has also been asked by the Ministry of Environment and Water to be part of the committee charged with the organisation of an international meeting on water reuse in agriculture that will be held in Morocco in September. This will also include an important session on water governance and the Ministry want him to coordinate this session according to what he did in the RA project.

He reported that his project was also considered a test-case for whether similar initiatives could be developed in other parts of Morocco. So there is potential that this project might have seeded interest in rolling similar research projects out across the country. In addition to this, the success of the project was provided international exposure when Dr Laamari was invited to participate in the 2nd Global Stakeholders Workshop in Ghana, organised by the African Academy of Science, on bridging policy and research. Laamari has provided a short report relating to this.

Of all the RAs, Laamari is perhaps the most focused on, and well placed to provide, direct evidence-to-policy interventions, due to his connections in the field and the political imperative with water management. He and his team will continue to develop tools to be used by the Hydraulic Agency for managing water and his students are working on a model for water use efficiency for crops.

Dr Laely Nurhidayah, Indonesia

Research Center for Society and Culture –Indonesian Institute of Sciences (PMB-LIPI)

Project: Addressing Sea Level Rise (SLR) through Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Livelihood: Semarang and Demak as a Case Study

Objective:

The basic rationale of this project was to investigate the interconnected linkages between the implementation of several SDGs, namely goal 13 (climate action), goal 1 (ending poverty), goal 2 (food security), and goal 11 (making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable).

The research investigated the institutional challenges to addressing sea level rise and land subsidence by using the framework of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). ICZM is a process for the management of the coast using an integrated approach, regarding all aspects of the coastal zone, including geographical and political boundaries, in an attempt to achieve sustainability.

Its significance lies in the identification of policy options for adaptation, and the implications for coastal communities that are affected by sea level rise.

In addition, Laely's research also identified gaps and challenges in climate change adaptation policy and actions aiming to address sea level rise and land subsidence.

Results:

- **Workshop 1:** *Climate Change Adaptation Through Integrated Coastal Zone Management: Policy Options for the UN SDG Implementation in Indonesia.* <http://pmb.lipi.go.id/pmb-lipi-menyelenggarakan-pelatihan-pengelolaan-zona-pesisir-terpadu-di-semarang/>
- **Workshop 2:** *Role of Academic and Scientific Institutions in Policymaking for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Action in Indonesia* – Undertaken in collaboration with Kris Berse, a fellow 2018 INGSA Research Associate.
- **Workshop 3:** *Science Advice and Climate Change Adaptation in Addressing Sea Level Rise (SLR) in Indonesia* – Held July 25th 2019 in Jakarta. Well-attended workshop and it generated a high level of media interest. It was, for example, covered on Balinese TV: <https://youtu.be/Lp1OYbtsjP8>

The research had several major findings. Firstly, the central government plays an important role in taking policy action to address issues of climate change adaption, particularly regarding development of coastal flooding infrastructure. The local government assists the central government to implement policy options for adaptation.

Secondly, policies and technologies exist to address sea level rise and land subsidence, however, what is currently lacking is funding to protect whole coastal areas affected, and for impact assessment of these policies and technologies as they relate to communities affected by and vulnerable to sea level rise and land subsidence. Second, sectoral legislation hindered the effectiveness of efforts in addressing the problems of sea level rise and land subsidence. It is therefore difficult to achieve ICZM.

Thirdly, for local government, Law No 32/2014 has created more complexity and tensions in management of coastal areas.

Fourthly, academics, NGOs and industries play an important role in building capacity of local communities in adapting to climate change impact.

Finally, Indonesia needs special law to respond to climate change impacts. This research worked towards and achieved building networks and transformative partnerships, advanced ocean-science diplomacy networks, explored opportunities for cross-sectoral collaborations, and contributed to efforts to bridging science-policy-regulatory-industry divides and disconnections

Outcomes:

Output	Status
Technical Report: Laely's Technical report provided a detailed summation of her project background, methodology and findings. This will underpin her intended academic papers	Delivered
Academic Paper: Ocean and Coastal Management Journal volume 171 April 2019 - <i>Coastal adaptation laws and the social justice of policies to address sea level rise: An Indonesian insight</i> https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0964569118301340	Published
INGSA Case Study: Climate Change Adaptation: Challenges in Addressing Sea Level Rise in Indonesia	Delivered
Workshop Images: From Workshop 1	Delivered
Academic Paper: Proposed Title: <i>Sinking shores and sea level rise – learning to adapt to climate change through coastal land subsidence</i>	In development
Instagram Account: For engagement beyond workshops - https://www.instagram.com/climatechangeadaptation2018/	Delivered
Presentation: PPT from Presentation at Macquarie Uni, Australia	Delivered
Presentation: PPT from Presentation at Banaras Hindu Uni, Indonesia	Delivered
Presentation: Will be presenting the results of her INGSA funded project at the meeting of the UN Division of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea Office of Legal Affairs (UNDOALOS) that is taking place in parallel with the UN Climate Summit in New York – 23-27 th Sept 2019	Accepted to present

Laely's work has been rewarded by good stakeholder engagement across her workshops. We extended her additional money to enable her to undertake a third workshop, thereby deepening her engagement across stakeholder groups, including a great deal of engagement with government representatives.

As well as building networks with stakeholders and policy-makers, Laely has also focused on academic outputs, one of which is already published, with another one in development.

The first paper was not published Open Access, as Laely was not aware of the IDRC publishing protocol. This was probably due to the Open Access requirement not being explicit enough in the application process. She has agreed to place the paper in her organisation's repository once it is out of embargo. She is now also aware that subsequent articles need to be published OA. This also led INGSA to remind the other RAs of this requirement.

As well as her publication, also provided an extremely detailed Case Study for INGSA to use, based on her research.

Following the Research Associates meeting at the INGSA Tokyo conference, we were very happy to hear that Laely and Kristoffer Berse had teamed up to run an additional workshop in Jakarta, both benefiting from the experience. Their collaboration directly led to an MOU of understanding between their respective institutions, which is a great result for the RA grant program. More information of this is in Kris Berse's project summary below.

Most recently, Laely was accepted to present at the UNDOALOS meeting in New York that was occurring in parallel with the UN Climate Summit.

Dr Kristoffer Berse, Philippines

Assistant Professor, National College of Public Administration and Governance

Project: In Pursuit of Climate Action and Disaster Risk Reduction: Science Advice and Policymaking from the Experience of Filipino Scientists

Objective:

The study aimed to fill a salient gap in the literature on how science advice informs different phases of policymaking in pursuit of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) pertinent to building resilient communities (SDG 11) and fostering climate action (SDG 13). This science-policy interface encompasses the policy learning phase—problem definition, policy design, and policy adoption—that is often hidden from public scrutiny (i.e. the “black box” in the policymaking process).

However, the role of science and scientists in disaster risk reduction and climate change policymaking in the Philippines remains relatively underexplored, especially from an academic standpoint.

Originally, the study only intended to look into the experience of a specific group of scientists, the National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE). When the Philippine Climate Change Act (Republic Act 9729) was enacted in 2009, the NPTE was created alongside the establishment of the Climate Change Commission (CCC), the government's primary policymaking body with respect to climate change.

Midway through the study, the researcher realized the need to expand the scope to include other scientists and scientifically-trained experts who provide equally important policy advice not only to the CCC, but also to other government bodies involved in climate change and disaster risk reduction.

The study marked the first scientific attempt at taking stock of mechanisms by which science—and academia—get involved in policymaking to foster disaster risk reduction and climate action in the Philippines. Studies on government science advice have been practically non-existent in the country until this study.

Moreover, the research was also able to draw lessons from the experience of scientists in other Southeast Asian countries, particularly, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, in engaging their respective governments towards the promotion of SDG 11 (Climate action) and SDG 13 (Sustainable cities and communities). This comparative scoping approach is also the first of its nature in as far as government science advice in Southeast Asia is concerned, especially in the context of disaster risk reduction and climate change.

Results:

- **Workshop 1:** Scoping Workshop on the role of Academia in Policymaking for Disaster Risk Reductions and Climate Action – Manila, Philippines
- **Workshop 2:** The Role of Academia and Science in Policymaking for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Action Indonesia – Jakarta, Indonesia in collaboration with Laely Nurhidayah

Credibility and legitimacy issues were reported, especially in dealing with scientific government agencies, while the matter of relevance was found to be generally rooted on the scientists' inability to provide policy-relevant information on one hand, and the policymakers' lack of appreciation for scientific information, on the other.

In Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, this was partially mitigated through the creation of multi-stakeholder platforms and academic societies that allowed for closer and more frequent interaction among scientists, policymakers and other stakeholders.

48 Filipino scientists and scientifically-trained experts were engaged, representing two science bodies, two academic institutions, and two research institutes. Additionally, two officials from the

legislative branch were interviewed. This is aside from seven officials whose inputs have been on embargo pending review and expressed permission from proper authorities.

In Thailand and Indonesia, five and four experts, respectively, were interviewed on separate occasions. Only one Malaysian scientist was available for an interview, but it was supplemented by another informant, a British climate scientist who was quite familiar with the policy-science interface in UK and Malaysia.

For Indonesia, a follow-up focus group discussion involving 12 experts was conducted to collect more information, given its similarity in context with the Philippines. This was jointly co-organized by the researcher's host organization, UP-RI, and the host organization of another INGSA grantee, LIPI-PMB. It was also instrumental in forging a long-term formal partnership between two science organizations in the Philippines (UPRI) and Indonesia's government research arm (LIPI-PMB).

One of the key realizations from the research is the need to be extra cautious in dealing with the government side of the advice, especially if the unit of analysis involves scientists detailed to a government body as members of a science advisory panel.

Any attempt at measuring the performance of the scientists in informing policy might be construed as an evaluation of the effectiveness of the science panel, if not of the agency itself. This is particularly critical if the agency itself is under scrutiny by higher authorities and going through its own review process. Thus, while consent (to interview) may have been granted individually by scientists and lower-level officials, permission from the highest official must be secured separately in writing.

Midway through the study, this was made an issue with the researcher being accused of being "unethical" and threatened with a lawsuit for breaching "national security", the agency being directly under the Office of the President. As a compromise, the researcher agreed to not use the data collected from the interviews with internal employees, and use only the information from scientists subject to review by the agency in question.

This unfortunate politicization of the study derailed the pacing of the research and constricted the availability and usability of needed information, as originally envisioned in the proposal. In light of this setback, the researcher decided to expand the coverage of scientists under study in order to still meet the objectives of the research without sacrificing independence of the process and integrity of collected data. Hence, six more science bodies and institutions were added to the design of the study.

Outcomes:

Output	Status
Workshop Report 1: Scoping Workshop on the role of Academia in Policymaking for Disaster Risk Reductions and Climate Action – Manila, Philippines	Delivered
Workshop Report 2: The Role of Academia and Science in Policymaking for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Action Indonesia – Jakarta, Indonesia in collaboration with Laely Nurhidayah	Delivered
MOU: Between the University of the Philippines – Resilience Institute (UP-RI) and Research Center for Society and Culture - Indonesian Institute of Sciences (PMB-LIPI)	Signed and Delivered
Academic Paper: The case of UPRI scientist	In development
Academic Chapter: Chapter “Science-Policy Interface for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Philippines” in Springer book tentatively named <i>Integrated Research on Disaster Risks: Contributions from the IRDR Young Scientists Programme</i>	In development (End of 2019)
Academic Papers: Up to 4 other related academic papers planned to the end of 2020	Proposed
INGSA Case Study: On the role of the UPRI scientists	In development
Policy Note: Planned to be developed and presented to CCC and other concerned agencies for its consideration before the end of the year.	Proposed
Jakarta Workshop Media coverage: http://lipi.go.id/siaranpress/Rekomendasi-Ilmiah-dalam-Penyusunan-Kebijakan-Mitigasi-Bencana/21581	Delivered
Jakarta Workshop Media coverage: http://lipi.go.id/berita/Urgensi-Pendekatan-Ilmiah-untuk-Penyusunan-Kebijakan-Mitigasi-Bencana/21586	Delivered
Jakarta Workshop Media coverage: https://www.google.com.au/amp/m.mediaindonesia.com/amp/amp_detail/225930-perkuat-sains-sebagai-basis-mitigasi-bencana	Delivered
Jakarta Workshop Media coverage: https://www.google.com.au/amp/s/m.kumparan.com/amp/trubus-id/maksimalkan-mitigasi-bencana-lipi-gelar-diskusi-bersama-universitas-filipina-1553965664281289301	Delivered
Jakarta Workshop Media coverage: https://www.google.com.au/amp/s/m.trubus.id/amp/27330/maksimalkan-mitigasi-bencana-lipi-gelar-diskusi-bersama-universitas-filipina	Delivered
Comparative Analysis: Comparative analysis of science advice for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand (to be co-authored with local and international mentors)	Proposed: (Late 2019 – 2020)

Kris should be commended for his resilience and tenacity. While he didn't adequately alert the INGSA office to the issues he encountered, he persisted and adapted his research to enable a strong output of research findings and a suite of policy-relevant outputs.

As mentioned above, Kris' project earned the attention of Duterte's Office of the President. They aggressively reprimanded him, threatening him with legal action for not seeking approval to talk to

employees of one of the agencies under the administration of the President. As such, he was unable to use much of his demand-side research.

He also encountered sensitivities related to members of an advisory panel to the government potentially seeing his research as a critique of their work and potentially endangering the future of the panel, which was under review.

Yet he was able to adapt, and when Laely generously offered to assist Kris by setting up a workshop in Indonesia, they both used the opportunity to their advantage, resulting in an official international MOU between their institutions.

Given Kris' research is the first of its kind in the Philippines, he looks to be planning a range of academic and policy-focused outputs over the long-term, hopefully meaning rolling outputs beyond the closure of the grant.

Mrs. D.P.P. Weerasinghe, Sri Lanka

Assistant Director of the National Narcotics Laboratory (NNL) of the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board (NDDCB) of Sri Lanka

Project: Comprehensive, balanced and coordinated scientific strategy for Sri Lanka national policy for prevention and control of drug abuse.

Objective:

- To understand the context of scientific evidence/information, and impart scientific knowledge for effective drug prevention, control measures and for drug policymaking in Sri Lanka and thereby to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030
- To identify the challenges/obstacles to access to the scientific evidence and scientific advice to drug prevention and control and for drug policymaking.
- To reaffirm the roles and responsibilities of scientific professionals and other agencies involved in drug prevention and control for the development of national policy on prevention and control of drug abuse.
- To call upon all related agencies for the establishment of a mechanism for continuous improvement of inter- and intra- agency coordination and collaboration for maximum utilization of scientific evidence for strengthened drug policy making.

The National Dangerous Drugs Control Board (NDDCB) has been designated as the national focal point for prevention and control of drugs of abuse. The project gave Mrs Weerasinghe and the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board (NDDCB) a window of opportunities to develop and implement mechanisms for strengthening science advice within Sri Lanka's National Policy for Prevention and Control of Drug Abuse, and to find innovative scientific solutions to combating the drug problem in the country, and to address the devastating adverse consequences.

Her research sought to identify and provide solutions for the limited inter- and intra-agency collaboration and cooperation seen among scientific professions and professionals in the Criminal Justice System, Health Authorities, treatment and rehabilitation setting and other agencies involved in drug prevention and control.

Therefore, the INGSA Research Associate Grant Project was of great significance for the establishment of a comprehensive, balanced and coordinated scientific evidence-based National Policy to Counter Illicit Drug Trafficking and Prevention and Control of Drug Abuse in Sri Lanka.

Results:

- **Workshop:** *Expert Meeting on Comprehensive, Balanced and Coordinated Scientific Strategy to counter Illicit Drug Trafficking, Prevention and Control of Drug Abuse – Colombo, Sri Lanka*

Extremely well attended meeting, including the President of Sri Lanka and the Ministers of the Ministry of Law & Order and Public Administration, Ministry of Justice and Prison Reforms and representatives of Ministry of Health.

Information, scientific data and scientific recommendations generated by the National Narcotics Laboratory (NNL) of NDDCB are currently being utilised for policymaking related to drug prevention and control. However, limited inter- and intra-agency coordination and collaboration among scientific professionals and Government institutions involved in drug prevention and control (including Non-Governmental agencies and private sector agencies) is a major drawback to improving the chain of scientific evidence generation and adequate scientific advice on the national drug policy.

In order to overcome this issue, an expert meeting was run to improve coordination and corporation, and to formulate a guideline for effective drug policymaking, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Two key outcomes of the INGSA grant were launched at the meeting, an MoU and a data sharing platform, and have having found support at the meeting, have continued to be developed.

The meeting was inaugurated by His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka and attended by the Ministers of the Ministry of Law & Order and Public Administration, Ministry of Justice and Prison Reforms and representatives of the Ministry of Health. It included experts from the criminal justice system, drug law-enforcement agencies, treatment and rehabilitation authorities, health authorities,

scientific professionals from the NDDCB, Government Analyst's Department, Sri Lanka Anti-Doping Agency, Science and Technology Institutions, the Universities and other professionals from Government and Non-Governmental agencies. The aim was to actively discuss the impact of the drug problem, challenges and scientific recommendations and advice for the establishment of scientific evidence based "National Drug Policy".

One of the key outcomes of the project was to develop and promote the idea of a **National Laboratory Network on Analysis and Testing of Dangerous Drugs (NLNATDD)**. The aim of this network would be to provide a level of standardisation, quality laboratory analysis and to generate scientific evidence in an effective, efficient and timely manner for use by drug policy stakeholders.

Due to this Expert Meeting, the NDDCB established a Memorandum of Understanding on the development of the NLNATDD, in partnership with the Department of Government Analyst, the Central Government Laboratory, Sri Lanka Anti-Doping Agency and Atomic Energy Authority as a special project activity of the INGSA Research associate grant.

Considerable work from all parties went into refining the MoU despite a number of legal hurdles but the MoU has now been finalised and is awaiting signing by the key parties. The length of development of the MoU indicates the level of support the action has, and hopefully the level of commitment and action that will come out of the partnership.

A second key development of the INGSA project was to develop and promote the idea of a **Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) platform** to establish a mechanism of continuous capacity building for inter- and intra- agency coordination and collaboration between scientific professional institutions and other related agencies. The establishment of this STI platform received critical approval from the board of the NDDCB and has already led to the foundation of a NDDCB scientific sub-committee to administer the platform. The STI platform was discussed at length at the Expert Meeting.

To design the platform, a request has been made for technical assistance and collaboration with the SciREX Center, at GRIPS (Japan), a collaboration born out of the INGSA2018 conference. The INGSA grant has provide the seed funding for developing the theory and on-boarding partners to the platform. The ongoing cost of developing the online platform is estimated at USD 180,000.00, for which they are looking forward for an external grant from international donor agencies.

They expect the STI platform to be finalised in 2021.

An additional output is a set of **Guidelines on Science in National Drug Control Policy Making and Implementation**. The guideline evolved as a result of the expert professionals who actively participated at the Expert Meeting. The publication and wide dissemination of the Guidelines will mark a new and vital juncture in the NDDCB's history to provide all relevant agencies direct scientific and technical assistance towards fully empowering them to implement their own individual initiatives in the drug prevention and control arena. This landmark document is expected to improve the value and effectiveness of the national drug programs, practices, and policies to empower policymakers and practitioners.

OUTCOMES:

Output	Status
MOU: Between NDDCB and government stakeholders to develop NLNATDD	Awaiting signing – currently confidential
STI Collaborative Platform: Foundation of platform product of INGSA grant – Timeline Gantt chart provided.	In Development (2021)
Workshop Photos: Images from Expert Meeting	Delivered
Workshop Documents: Agenda, Briefing Note, Booklet,	Delivered
Promo Video: Promotional video for NDDCB	Delivered
Guidelines: Science in National Drug Control Policy Making and Implementation – result of Expert Meeting – Awaiting final sign off by NDDCB board in July	In development

Mrs Weerasinghe's project is perhaps the most ambitious of the group's, with the grant providing the foundational work to establish two large and long-term initiatives created to deliver policy-relevant evidence directly to government: a National Laboratory Network on Analysis and Testing of Dangerous Drugs; and a Science, Technology and Innovation online platform to promote inter- and intra-agency collaboration.

Prospects for these projects to reach fruition are good, if the attendance at her Expert Meeting is anything to go by – which included the Sri Lankan President and various Ministers.

Collateral outputs included a Promotional Video for the NDDCB that was used at the Expert Meeting, and a set of Guidelines have been crafted by attendees of the meeting to help guide the use of science in drug policy.

Mr Miguel Vera, Bolivia

Associate Researcher, ARU Foundation

Project: *"The role of research centres in the generation and promotion of knowledge for the SDGs"*

Objective:

The background of the proposal was the apparent success of Bolivian policies in attaining three Millennium Development Goals related to poverty, education and gender equality. The original question underpinning the project was: How do policy actors use or have used knowledge to improve the pace of development indicators related with these three areas?

It was implied that research centers could have some knowledge that may be used by the (national) government. After the research commenced, a little shift of focus was required to the question by asking about the “mechanisms” that research centers use to promote knowledge.

Results:

- **14 in-depth interviews:** Including 1 Vice-Minister
- **Roundtable Workshop:** With Bolivian Poverty experts and NGO stakeholders

During the research two particular features appeared:

1. The research “system” is quite precarious and the research centers with possibilities to link into public policy are still in a very preliminary phase. That is why there has not yet been defined a “standard mechanism” for providing science advice to government that could be formalized. In that way, the analysis turned to exploring these opportunities and circumstances as a first step to identify potential “good practices”.
2. In a scenario where the ambiance for policy-oriented research is not yet fully institutionalized, what remains is a kind of “informal” relationships between researchers and politicians.

If we put both characteristics in place – that is a “precarious system” and a crucial role of persons in “informal” advice instead of institutions – the result is that there is no room for a “strategy” that centers can apply to inform policy.

Instead, we have circumstances where “brokers” (a third party different from the researcher and from the policymaker) may play a key role in the promotion of knowledge.

Yet disappointingly, Miguel did not complete a large chunk of his intended research. Initially he set out to complete parallel investigations across the issues of Poverty, Education and Gender Equity. While he was satisfied with the results derived from his investigations into Poverty, he was not able to generate the same results across the other two areas of investigation, resulting in him having to abandon them. He also intended to provide comparative analysis with another country (Argentina) but this was also not possible.

Miguel credits the success of his Poverty research to the fact that his employer, the ARU Foundation, are well known for their work in poverty, thereby opening doors to the researcher. As an example, he was able to interview the Vice Minister of Planning, a key actor in the potential demand for studies on poverty.

In contrast, he says that the issues of Education and Gender Equality elicited “no reaction on the part of the authorities in charge of policies for gender equity and education who did not respond to the invitations that were made to obtain an interview.”

On the issue of Poverty, Miguel coordinated a Roundtable Meeting of major players to identify possible “knowledge gaps” that result from the research produced by research centres and the

potential requirements of the actors related to policies for poverty reduction. This was attended by representatives from World Bank, UNDP, Oxfam etc.

Outcomes:

Outputs	Status
Roundtable Meeting Report	Delivered
Roundtable Meeting Concept Note	Delivered
Presentation to Roundtable: Researchers presentation of results to frame Roundtable Meeting	Delivered
Research Document: Publication of results	Proposed
Case Study: INGSA Case Study on Poverty	Proposed
Training Course: Development of training course for junior researchers	Proposed

Without a doubt, Miguel's project was the weakest of the 2018 RAs. Though difficulties with securing interviews were encountered, alternative solutions seemed not to have been proposed. Thankfully, Miguel was able to sufficiently complete research on the poverty element of the project and produced a valuable meeting between important local stakeholders. It is likely that the project scope was too ambitious in the beginning and it is perhaps the joint fault of INGSA and the researcher that the project scope was not reviewed to suit the circumstances.

It appears that, of all the RAs, Miguel most struggled with the restrictions on the use of the grant funds. In his feedback he noted that as a researcher responding to multiple projects, priority will generally be given to projects that are directly financing the researcher. This is a reminder that INGSA does need to be considerate of different work situations when framing funding restrictions and expectations. Miguel also was unable to undertake a survey as part of his project because he wanted to hire external pollsters to take and review the data, and it was decided by the INGSA mentor, Jasper Montana, that this fell beyond the scope of allowable expenses.

An extension for spending the funds has been offered to Miguel in order to maximise the outputs from his poverty research. He has suggested that this will be an academic article and a training course for young researchers based on his findings.

Program Feedback from the Research Associates:

The feedback from the RAs was, in the majority, positive and all of them are grateful for the opportunity provided. As the inaugural year, there were naturally issues that we encountered with the programme.

Compliments

- Gratitude to Sir Peter David Gluckman, who gave me great insights on innovative methodologies for improving Science Advice for the Governments with his inspiring talks and advices at the INGSA Conference – 2018. Moreover, I extend my sincere gratitude to Professor James Wildson, Vice Chair of INGSA and Director of Policy, Impact and Engagement at the University of Sheffield and Mr. Grant Mills, Programme Officer of INGSA. The technical support and kind cooperation extended were of great importance to successfully complete this project. I also extend my sincere thanks to Mr. Arno de Marchi and other staff of the INGSA for the corporation extended in numerous ways.
- Other than ensuring that the project gets to start on time, the researcher is completely satisfied with the level of administrative support provided by INGSA and ICSU to the project. Arno de Marchi and Grant Mills, as well as Jasper Montana, have been very understanding and patient in promptly answering my queries and requests for clarification and guidance.
- As to the budget, it is just about right which allowed the researchers to conduct the fieldwork in four countries. The flexibility of realigning funds within the proposed activities is very helpful, as it gave the researcher enough leeway to adjust the course of the project along the way.
- Overall, my experience on the project has been very positive. I was pleasantly surprised at how enriching I found the INGSA conference held in Tokyo in November 2018 – it made me realise what I would have missed out on had I not gotten the grant in a conference year. In light of this, I would recommend that grantees awarded in non-conference years be accorded the opportunity to participate in similar high-level evidence-to-policy meetings *during* the grant period, when the learnings would be most useful in developing their projects.

Considerations

- There is a feeling that the scope of financing was well defined. It is clear that the aim was to improve the conditions for carrying out the research, which implied, in the case of this project, access to training, networks and support in the collection of data. The assumption

that lies behind this approach is that the time of the researcher is released to carry out the research when in fact it is one of the scarcest inputs. Due to the above considerations - which have to do with the methodological approach and the investigator's time constraints - the duration of the project was very short.

- INGSA tries through the financing of these initiatives to strengthen the relationship between science and politics through specific and interesting themes. However remarks are to be raised like:
 - o The funds are too small
 - o The duration is not enough long to see transformations and impacts materialise
 - o The fund should ideally hook on existing initiatives and projects and should focus on the interface science policy merely.

Otherwise the design of the grant is very useful particularly in countries where policy centers are not existing or not equipped with appropriate expertise. When supporting research to policy interface, the team composition should be carefully built and should include researcher and policy expert as this combination has allowed over a short period high level impact.

- In terms of planning, it would be good to extend the duration of the project to two years. For instance, the first year may be allotted solely for preparation and data collection, and another year for the actual writing of outputs. The one-year project period is very challenging especially if the research is expected to produce high-quality outputs and observe outcomes that redound to users and stakeholders. Compressing the production of outputs and outcomes into one year is not so realistic given the kind of stakeholders who are usually involved in government science advice, (e.g., policymakers, politicians and senior scientists).
- In the future, it is better if the research project can involve one or two other researchers to assist in maximizing the impacts of the project for stakeholders. The scope of the project needs to be expanded to contribute to capacity building for some of the researchers, especially from developing countries who are unfamiliar with how to conduct research in the science/policy interface. Including a research associate at the event of Global Young Forum is beneficial to expand the network and for building capacity on how to do research at the science/policy interface.
- In relation to the point I made above about trying to balance the demands of the project (and work more generally) with childcare, it would be great if future rounds explicitly made accommodation for grantees who might need to take some time off (e.g. due to maternity or paternity leave) during the project period. No-cost extensions could be made to such contracts where applicable.
- Finally, apart from a couple of side events at the Tokyo conference, there were no formal platforms for meeting and sharing among the grantees. Further, the quarterly Skype

meetings between individual grantees and the knowledge hub at Sheffield were not held consistently, contributing to a feeling of isolation on the project. I believe that improving connectivity among grantees (as well as between grantees and the knowledge hub) through regular, coordinated virtual meetings would make for a fuller and more stimulating experience.

ANNEX 1: Attached Documents

- "INGSA Grant - APPLICATION FORM"
- "INGSA Grants - Call For Applications"

ANNEX 2: INGSA Research Associate page (<https://www.ingsa.org/grant-programme/2018-research-associates/>)

INGSA is proud to partner with the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC) to provide 6 Professional Development Grants to support early-to-mid career researchers or policy practitioners in Low and Middle Income Countries.

The recipients were chosen through a competitive process that attracted applications from all around the world, and the 6 selected recipients are an excellent example of the potential and scope of science/policy interface inquiry in the Global South.

Each of these grant recipients will be INGSA Research Associates for the year of their project, receiving professional development opportunities and support from INGSA.

We encourage you to have a deep read through each of the Research Associates' project overviews below:



- Mrs. D.P.P. Weerasinghe, Sri Lanka: D.P.P. Weerasinghe works as an Assistant Director of the National Narcotics Laboratory (NNL) of the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board (NDDCB) of Sri Lanka.

Her project will bring together experts to investigate the role of science in drug control related policies, and the intersecting complexities of justice, prevention and rehabilitation.



- Dr Kristoffer B. Berse, Philippines: Kristoffer has a multidisciplinary academic background, with a PhD and master's in Urban Engineering and Environmental Studies, and a BA in Public Administration. He teaches policy analysis, research methods, and disaster governance as well as consulting with national and international agencies. His study for INGSA will investigate the role and dynamics of the National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE), in providing scientific advice to support the development and implementation of the SDGs.



Dr Abdelali Laamari, Morocco: An engineer in agronomy and an agricultural economist, Abdelali is currently leading a research program on water governance and climate change as a part of a mega-project on water and agriculture.

His research for INGSA will look at water governance in Moroccan agriculture and develop a platform for how science evidence can support better water governance and the integration with SDG6.



Dr Laely Nurhidayah, Indonesia: Laely works at the Research Center for Society and Culture, Indonesian Institute of Sciences, in Jakarta. She leads the law, environment, society, and natural resources research portfolios.

Her Research Associate project will investigate the interlinkages between the implementation of several SDGs at local level, and the role of local government in implementing climate change adaptation strategies.



Dr Temilade Sesan, Nigeria: Temilade's works on major themes in international development, including appropriate technology diffusion, participatory development and women's empowerment.

Her INGSA project aims to enhance policymakers' ability to engage with research on energy and development, and investigate the interactions between SDG7 and commitments on lowering carbon emissions (SDG13) and promoting gender equality (SDG5).



Mr Miguel Vera, Bolivia: An Associate Researcher and director of the training unit at Bolivia's Fundación ARU, Miguel has more than twenty years of experience in the design and analysis of public policies.

Bolivia has attained sound results in the achievement of MDGs yet there is scarce data and few rigorous studies to certify the impact of policies on the results. Miguel's project aims to shed light on the mechanisms that are used to inform policy and best research

practice.