

**COP 23 OCEANS ACTION DAY**  
**Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action**  
**23rd Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to UNFCCC**  
**Bonn, Germany**

**November 11th, 2017, 15:00 to 16:30**

**Concurrent session 7: Migration and Displacement: Risk reduction and preparedness:**

My name is Miko Maekawa from the Ocean Policy Research Institute of Sasakawa Peace Foundation, an independent ocean policy think tank based in Tokyo, Japan. It is indeed a great honor and pleasure to co-chair this session on Migration and Displacement: Risk reduction and preparedness. Welcome to you all, and thank you very much for attending this event.

I would like to give some displacement estimates and challenges to set the scene.

Estimates indicate that the number of refugees that could be displaced within the century range from 50 million to 1 billion. International Organization for Migration projections from 2009 estimate that 200 million people will be displaced by 2050 due to overall changes in the environment. Small islands especially will be heavily affected by climate change impacts such as sea level rise, cyclones, and changing rainfall patterns in the 21st century. A widespread inundation event displaced around 63,000 people in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands alone in 2008. We see similar examples around the globe.

First of all, every effort has to be made on mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions. Coupled with mitigation efforts, adaptation measures should also be implemented for enhancing resilience to the changing environment. Investing in physical infrastructure, such as green infrastructure, is proving effective in reducing the disaster risks in the coastal areas. Only after exhausting every possible measure, displacement should be the last resort, but not the last minute resort. In other words, preparedness is key.

Firstly, in order to enhance preparedness, different sets of legal and policy measures are needed at global, regional and national levels. It is encouraging that different global frameworks are being shaped, such as the Warsaw Mechanism for Loss and Damage under UNFCCC, the Sendai Framework, and more recently the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants which was adopted by the UN General Assembly last year. These different frameworks

should operate in coordination and be up-scaled to fill the existing gaps in legal and practical needs.

Secondly, while it is important to develop effective global systems, it is crucial to build on and effectively use the existing mechanisms such as respective national plans, nationally determined contributions (NDCs), National adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs), and on-going international cooperation and investment programmes to respond to the practical needs of the communities affected. It is important that migration and displacement aspects are enhanced and reflected in these existing mechanisms. For this, building a knowledge base and the sharing of best practices are very important.

Thirdly, for societies and individuals to be prepared for future impacts and associated movements, capacity development is needed. At the societal level, capacity development is required not just for the country of origin, but also the countries of transition and destination. Capacities of individuals makes a tremendous difference in how well re-settlers would be able to rebuild their lives and livelihoods in new locations.

It is important that relocations are well planned to make the transition as smooth and as dignified as possible. If people have sufficient time and information to be able to study different options, the life-changing event could become “migration by choice” not “by force”. This would allow “migration with dignity”. Transitions could be made into opportunities if they are well managed.

OPRI looks forward to learning more about this important issue and collaborating with you all.