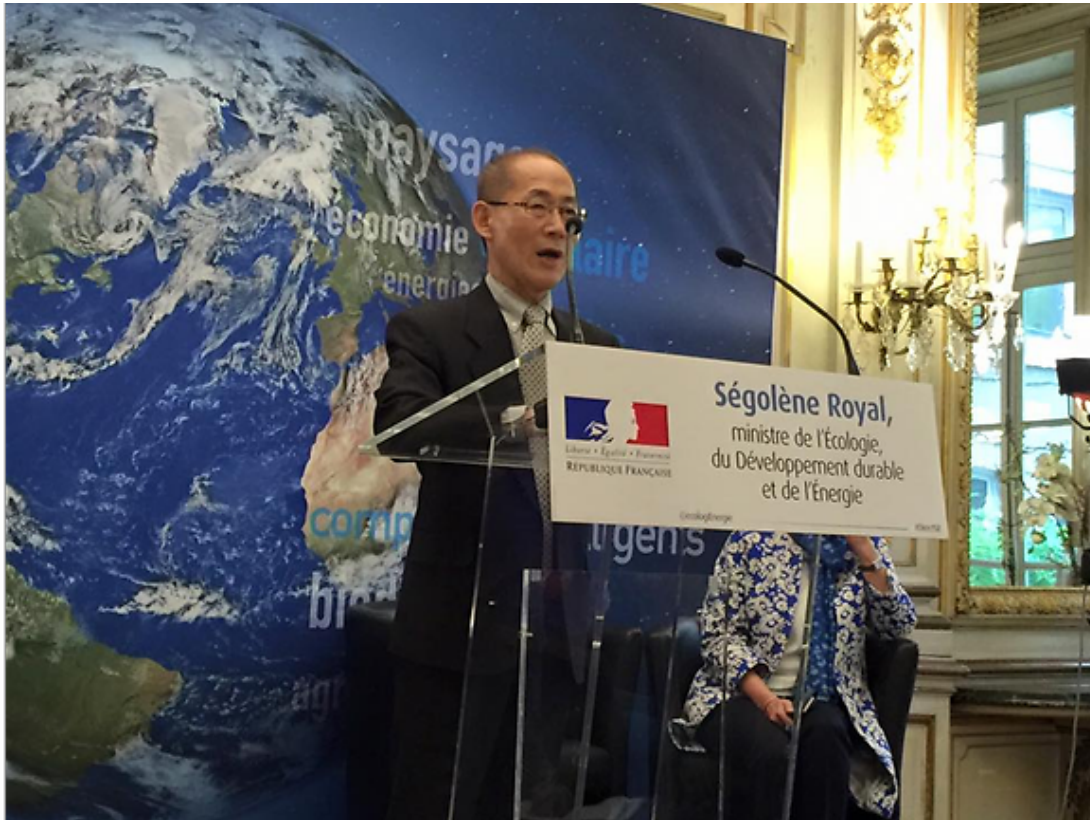


World

New IPCC chief calls for fresh focus on climate change solutions

938LIVE reports: The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says it will continue to assess the best scientific information about climate change, but that it will also “need to put more emphasis on solutions”.



By [Reeta Raman](/author/8235232) (/author/8235232).

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SINGAPORE: The new chief of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Dr Lee Hoe Sung, says his vision for the international body is for it to focus more on solutions to climate change.

And in this vein, South Korean Dr Lee said that the IPCC will continue to assess the best scientific information about climate change, but that it will also “need to put more emphasis on solutions, and increase our understanding of the impact and responses in all the regions of the world.”

There are now fewer than 50 days to go before a widely-anticipated climate summit in Paris, which will bring world leaders together in the hope of agreeing to a new climate agreement that will limit global warming to below two degrees Celsius.

Dr Lee spoke to 938LIVE shortly after being elected to his position at an IPCC meeting in Dubrovnik, Croatia. He succeeds Rajendra Pachauri at the Nobel Prize-winning climate science panel, who resigned amid a scandal in February.

He appears already set to carve out his own path, and for a start, Dr Lee is looking towards recruiting more developing country expertise for the IPCC.

"We need well-trained scientists from developing countries to provide a better understanding of how to prevent and adapt to climate change, literally in all parts of the globe."

The IPCC tracks the extent of global warming, and has so far issued five signature Assessment Reports on climate change. Seen as the gold standard of climate science, the reports have, however, seen criticisms of late. And these have focused on their readability.

A study from Kedge Business School, published recently in Nature Climate Change, called the IPCC's reports, and in particular their summaries for policymakers "unreadable". The study warned that global action on climate change might be seriously hampered if governments cannot understand the scientific facts presented to them.

This is a criticism which Dr Lee acknowledges.

"I think it is critical that the IPCC continues to improve the way it communicates. We are already discussing, for instance, the possibility of embedding professional science writers and graphics professionals in our working groups, so that the final products are more accessible to policymakers and the public. We have been conducting numerous outreach events ... and that will continue. This will be a top priority of my tenure as chair."

With the final of four parts of the latest fifth Assessment Report released in November 2014, work has already begun towards the preparation of the IPCC's sixth Assessment Report. Dr Lee says that discussions are also underway to come up with new special reports, which will be issued more frequently, and provide more topical information.

For now, Dr Lee's next big assignment will come in December in Paris, where he will be expected to explain once more, the science behind why world leaders will need to agree to a new climate agreement.

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