

# Preface

Following a mandate from its governing body, the Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM), the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) produced a synthesis report of all of the activities it had conducted under one of its four broad themes of global environmental change - climate change and climate variability. The Synthesis Report – *Climate in Asia and the Pacific: A Synthesis of APN Activities*, summarised more than 55 regional research and capacity building projects that the APN had conducted under this theme since 1998.

Positive feedback following wide distribution of the synthesis report prompted the need, and decision, to complement the report with a book explaining the current status of climate change and climate variability in the Asia-Pacific region; future directions in the area and overarching issues. It was agreed among the authors that the foci of the book be security (food, water and energy); society (urban and remote communities; human health and governance) and sustainability (low carbon development and ecosystem services).

The first chapter of the book addresses a number of key questions that relate to our current understanding of the interactions between climate, natural ecosystems and human communities across Asia and the Pacific. The analysis presented in subsequent chapters addresses these questions and provides recommendations for a number of future directions in research needed to better understand and manage the risks associated with climate change and variability in the region. The final chapter summarises the findings presented in the book and provides an overall picture of future needs for climate research in Asia and the Pacific. Finally, we suggest a number of overarching issues that should be taken into account in future considerations of climate interactions across the region.

Immediately following the publication of the Synthesis Report, an authors' workshop for the present book convened in October 2011 kick-starting a gathering and 16-month coordination of the work of 31 authors from broad backgrounds in global environmental change.

We are immensely grateful to the contributing authors, who are not only leaders in their field but most are contributing authors to the Fifth Assessment Report of the

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