Abstract

Drawing on long-term research in coastal Bangladesh, this presentation argues that adaptation strategies and measures aimed at enhancing resilience in the short term are inadequate for ensuring longer term adaptation to climate change and variability. It discusses the level of knowledge and institutional capacity of coastal communities and other relevant stakeholders to respond to climate change impacts and how that knowledge base currently shapes their views and practices of adaptation.

It is argued that to ensure long term adaptation, planning needs to see adaptation as involving what has been called ‘continuous transformation’, which is better able to deal with uncertain climate futures.

Bio

Bob is Professor of Anthropology in the Social Science program in the Faculty of Media, Society and Culture. He is also Director of the South Asia Research Unit, which carries out research and provides postgraduate training for students interested in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Nepal and Bhutan. He received his PhD from Cambridge University in 1982 and has taught at Cambridge University, UK, Stockholm University, Sweden, University of British Columbia, Canada, Northwestern University, USA, Ado Bayero University, Nigeria and Dhaka University, Bangladesh. Bob has also carried out field research in Nigeria, India and Bangladesh.