



2nd Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum  
Mainstreaming Adaptation in Development: Adaptation in Action

## EVALUATION SUMMARY

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2nd Asia–Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum was widely appreciated by the participants for both its content and design. Most of the respondents who took part in the survey were unanimous in their praise for the usefulness and relevance of the content, and the novel insights it offered. The Forum was also appreciated for promoting networking and new partnerships. That the Forum had managed to drive home a very crucial point was evident in the section on take-aways. Almost all the respondents underlined the significance of marrying the top-down and bottom-up approach to adaptation to ensure that government measures complement the knowledge garnered from the grassroots.

But it was not praise all the way. Many respondents criticized the large number of competing parallel sessions, saying it made it well-nigh impossible for them to attend all the sessions. Many called for paring down this number from five to three or two, and extending the number of days to three. They said it would also make it possible to include a field visit to encounter adaptation on the ground, besides allowing more time for networking.

As for the next Forum, the respondents called for greater participation of the private sector, the affected communities, NGOs on the ground, youngsters, and children. They also advocated bigger focus on themes such as health, education, culture, and arts vis-à-vis adaptation.

But the success of the Forum was evident from the impressive list of take-aways, and the concrete ways in which the participants planned to utilize the knowledge gained and the partnerships formed during the Forum. Change is always tangible, and this Forum seems to have ensured the promise of a change for the better.

### AIM

The aim of this evaluation was to obtain informed feedback about the 2nd Asia–Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum, and to find out whether the participants were satisfied or not with the relevance, content, and design of the Forum besides other arrangements. The organizers also hoped to gain further inputs and suggestions from the participants to make the next Forum more meaningful.

### METHODOLOGY

An evaluation form with both objective and subjective questions (Annex 1) was provided to the participants during the Forum, and they were given time till the end of the Forum to complete the survey. A total of 98 participants filled up the evaluation form, and gave comprehensive comments and suggestions.

The form required the respondents to rate the Forum on relevance, content, design, schedule, participation, and general arrangements, etc. They were presented with a choice of statements, and asked whether they strongly agreed, agreed, were neutral, disagreed, or strongly disagreed with the statements.

Besides the objective questions, they were also asked a host of subjective questions, urging them to give their suggestions for the next Forum, and its themes. They were also asked to list the take-aways from the Forum, and various ways in which they planned to apply what they had learned from it.

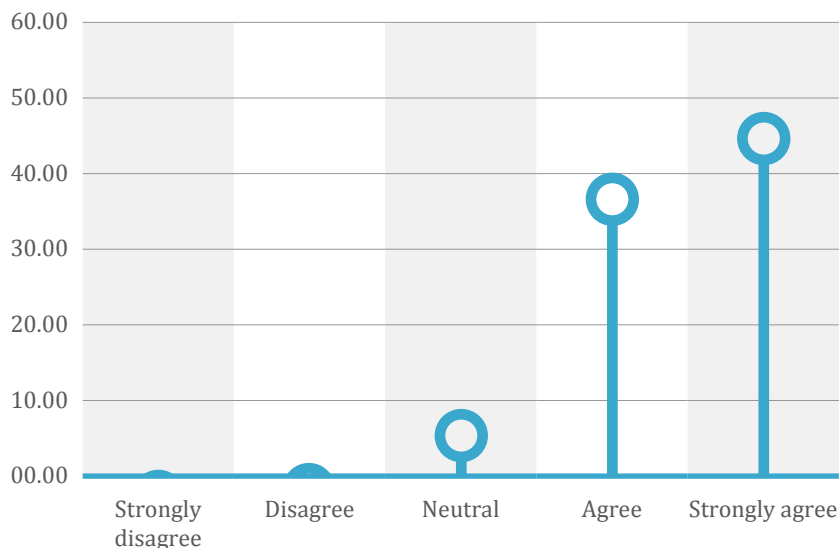
## FINDINGS

Although 750 participants attended the Forum, only 13% were able to respond to the questionnaire. In general, the Forum as a whole was well received with almost all the respondents, except three, recommending it for future. The Forum content was appreciated for its functionality and responsiveness to climate change. Most of the participants commented that the Forum had taken very good initiatives to do justice to the theme of “Adaptation in Action”, but it would have been much better had they divided the proceedings into 10 parallel sessions spread over three to four days with five additional parallel sessions at a time, in order to make it more useful to the participants. Respondents also pointed to the absence of printed handouts during the various sessions, and a lop-sided emphasis on mere talking and listening, which often led to repetition by the panelists. Respondents suggested that the next Forum should focus on learning from documentation of adaptive strategy at local level, with more representation from grassroots organizations.

### Objective Assessment

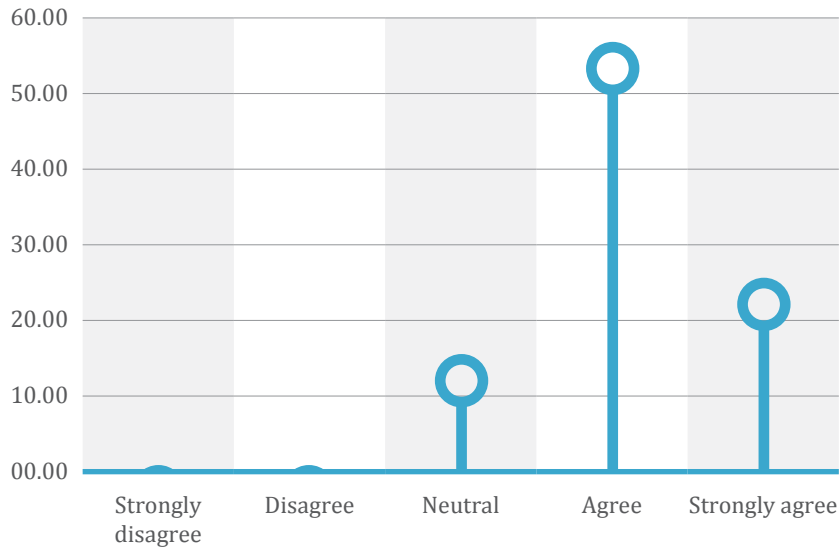
#### A. Adaptation Forum 2012 Design and Approach

##### A.1 The Adaptation Forum 2012 Theme “Mainstreaming Adaptation into Development: Adaptation in Action” was relevant



Around 40% of the respondents agreed that the Adaptation Forum 2012 theme “Mainstreaming Adaptation into Development: Adaptation in Action” was relevant, with 48% of the respondents strongly agreeing.

## A.2 The Adaptation Forum 2012 design/approach was clear

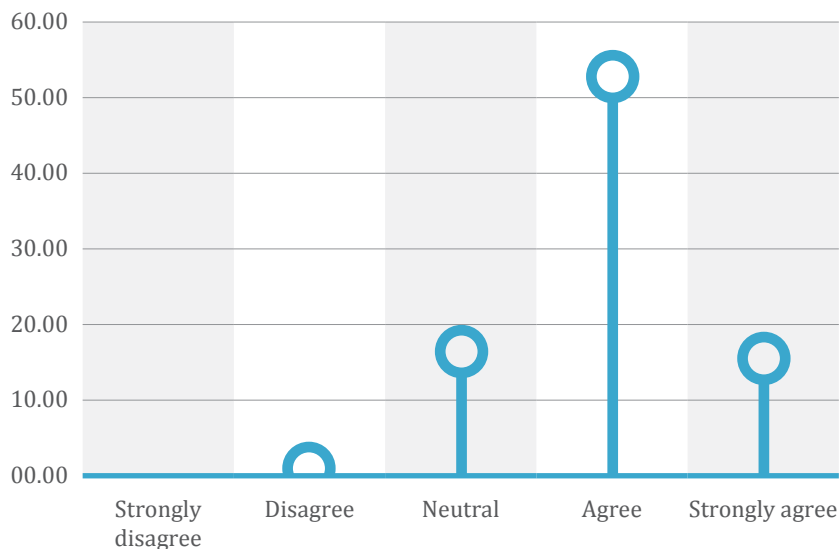


Most of the respondents were in agreement with the design and approach of the Forum. They also approved of the schedule, duration, venue, and most importantly, the content, calling it very useful.

A considerable 57% of the respondents agreed that the Adaptation Forum 2012 design/approach was clear, with 26% strongly agreeing on this point.

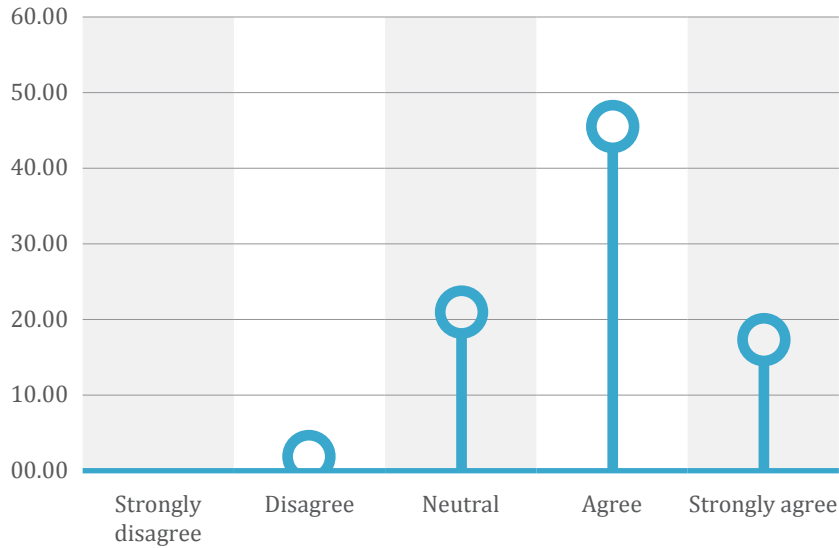
But some respondents felt that the Forum must be output-oriented to which end the organizers should either shorten the number of presentations or increase the duration of the conference. Some respondents indicated that education in enhancing adaptive capacity could be one of the approaches linking learning and action as well as building the capacity of local governments and communities for adaptation planning. Financing adaptation was also mentioned as one of the approaches that could be followed. The respondents commented that the Forum should have highlighted a set of best practices, experiences and new lessons to enhance learning. Some respondents observed that CCA (climate change adaptation) is much more mainstreamed into local government. Respondents suggested that a session on vulnerability and adaptation assessment (VAA) methods should be organized for gaining a clearer understanding about frameworks, approaches, and tools. A session on integrated approaches should also be convened to expand on the ideas discussed in the adaptation/mitigation synergies session.

## A.3 The pace was appropriate



Around 56% of the respondents agreed that the pace of Adaptation Forum 2012 was appropriate, while 19% strongly agreed. Interestingly, not even a single respondent strongly disagreed with this statement unlike the last time when almost 10% of the respondents had voiced their strong dissatisfaction with the pace.

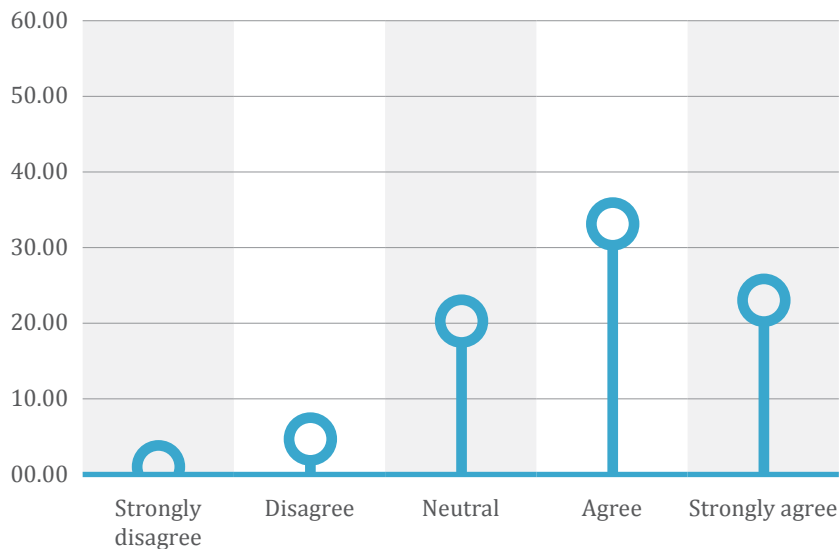
#### A.4 The scheduling was appropriate



Most of the respondents were happy with the scheduling, with 49% in agreement and 19% in strong agreement, and 24% staying neutral.

Those who disagreed with the scheduling expressed their dissatisfaction with the large number of parallel sessions, which made it impossible for them to attend all of them. They suggested that the number of these sessions be pared down from five to three or even two to ensure better participation.

#### A.5 The duration (two days) was appropriate

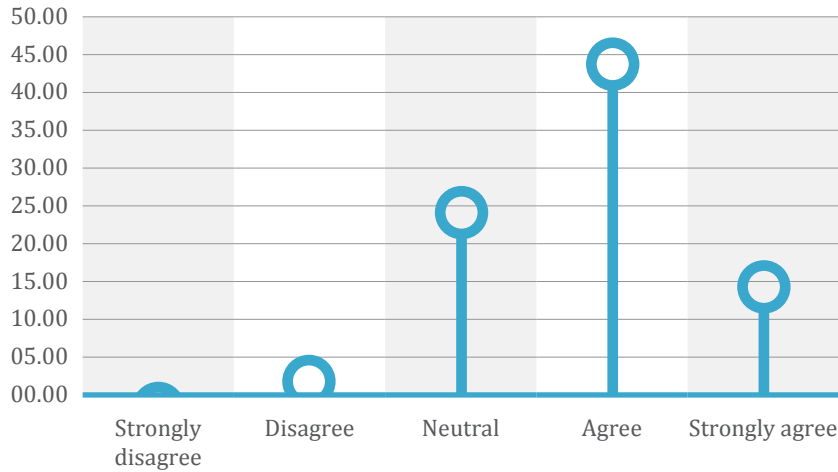


The respondents also seemed contented with the two days allocated to the Forum with only around 10% or so expressing their dissatisfaction with it, which is lesser than the last time.

However, some still felt that the Forum should be extended by a day or two. They argued that this would not only facilitate better pacing of the parallel sessions, but would also allow more time for networking and a field visit.

## B. Adaptation Forum 2012 Content

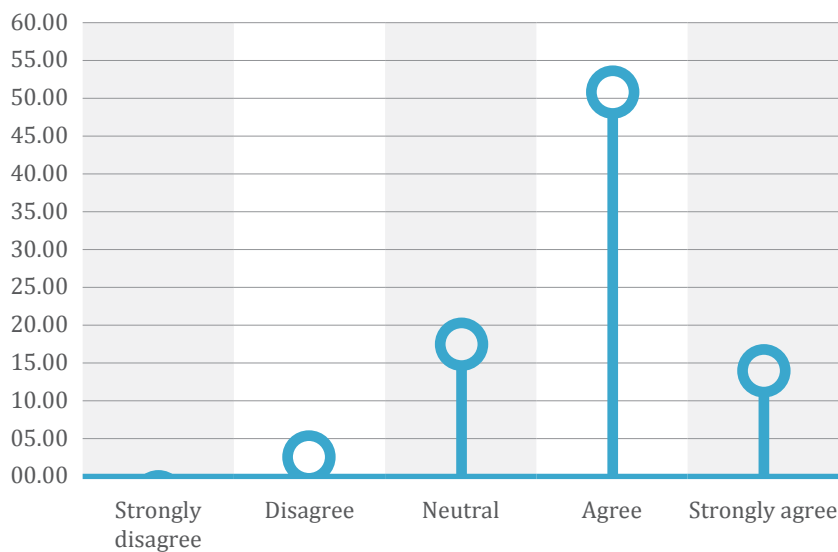
### B.1 Do you think that the panel(s) you attended provided you with new knowledge or information?



A vast majority of the respondents (47% agreed and 17% strongly agreed) lauded the Forum for providing them new knowledge and information. Based on the qualitative assessment, respondents commented that the panel discussions broadened their knowledge, gave them new ideas, and promoted experience-based learning besides validating their earlier understanding. Some respondents also commented that the Forum discussions would make a significant difference to their projects and such applied knowledge discussed at the Forum was not available in books.

But some respondents were not satisfied with the knowledge provided at the Forum, saying it was not new, and it would have been better had the Forum provided more examples of successful projects. Some participants suggested that the organizers should look for new studies/actions to be highlighted at the next Forum.

### B.2 Do you think that the panel(s) you attended provided you with new insights

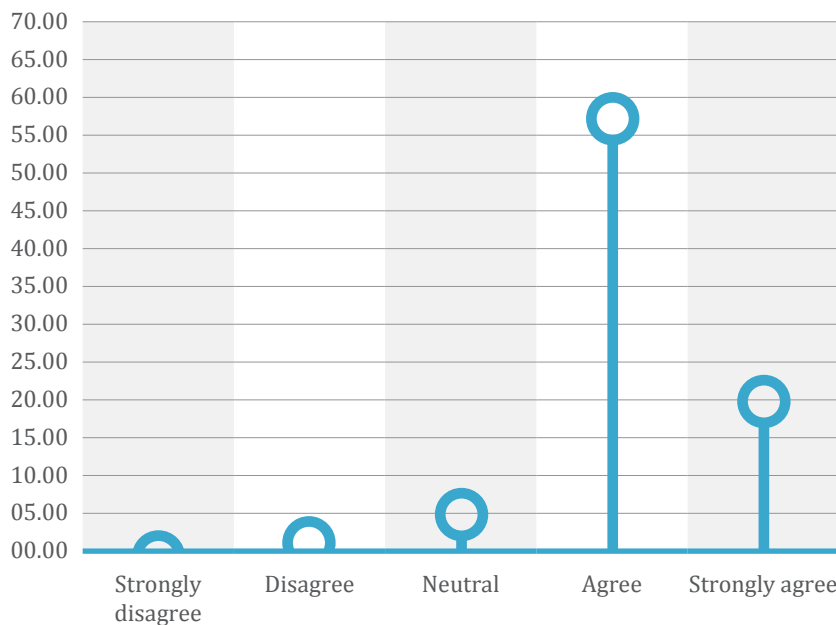


A notable 72% of the respondents (54% agreed and 18% strongly agreed) said the Forum provided them new insights into adaptation.

Based on qualitative assessment, respondents commented that the panel discussions provided them new insights in terms of other governments' initiatives on climate change adaptation besides apprising them about the process involved in implementation of adaptation projects by local governments and communities. It inspired them to take more steps to help the government lessen the impact of climate change. The Forum provided some participants with new insights, which allowed them to reflect on their own country's initiatives in this arena. Respondents applauded the presence of very high-caliber presenters in one session that focused on adaptation for 'people and people matter more than things'.

On the other hand, some respondents said they did not receive any new insights from critical stakeholders in the private sector. They complained that sometimes the issues discussed were too generic.

### B.3 Do you think that the panel(s) you attended provided you with new contacts

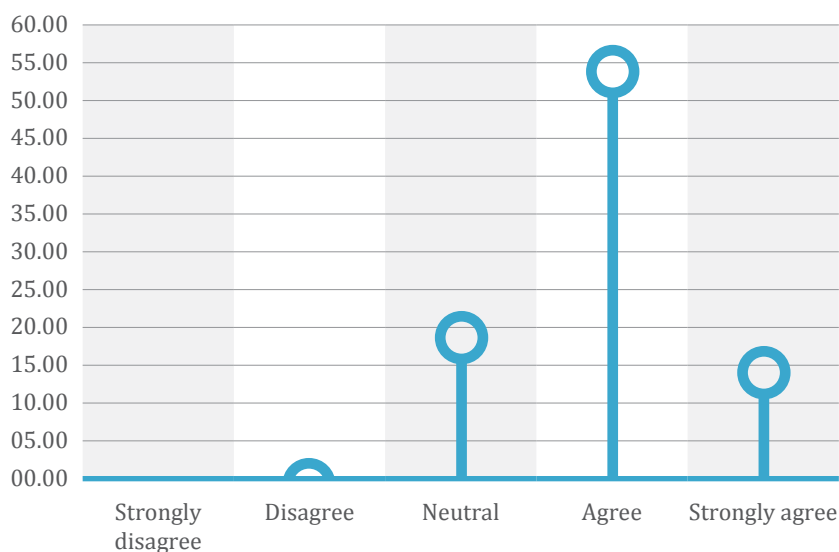


A whopping 84% of the respondents agreed that the Forum gave them a chance to make new contacts.

Based on qualitative assessment, respondents commented that the Forum was not only for "learning", but also for networking and making connections as it brought together experts, researchers, policy-makers, and beneficiaries of interventions. It also helped them to meet donors and funding partners. However, some respondents rued that there wasn't enough time to network due to the hectic schedule.

But some respondents felt there were too many participants from the UN, banks and other donor agencies, and called for greater participation by the NGOs, grassroots workers, farmers, private sector, members of affected communities and the youth. Some even sought the inclusion of children as participants.

#### B.4 Did the Forum do justice to its theme of “Adaptation in Action”?



The response to this question was rather gratifying with the majority of respondents (57% agreed and 18% strongly agreed) agreeing that the Forum had done justice to the theme of “Adaptation in Action”.

They commented that the Forum theme was interesting and enriching. They particularly complimented the organizers for introducing sectoral themes such as mainstreaming adaptation in education, agriculture, governance, water, and food, etc., saying that it offered a new perspective on these areas. Many were all praise for the climate financing panel discussion. Mostly, respondents agreed that all plenary and parallel panel sessions were relevant to the ongoing projects for coastal and highland communities in both Thailand and the Asia-Pacific region. They said the Forum highlighted the cross-sectoral nature of adaptation, and the need to address it at all levels. Respondents also liked the diversity of speakers.

Some respondents, however, felt that there wasn’t enough emphasis on actions on the ground, and the Forum presentations should have been more analytical. Some respondents observed that many panelists used the opportunity to simply present their projects instead of discussing the issues in a broader perspective.

They also espoused greater focus on themes such as health, education, culture, and arts vis-à-vis adaptation.

#### Subjective Assessment

##### *A. Please explain the rating you have given in the above Section B. If you agree or disagree please state WHY.*

This question elicited an assortment of comments, but most respondents agreed that they had gone home richer in terms of new knowledge and insights about adaptation. Almost all the respondents were impressed with the breadth and depth of discussions at the various panels. A discussion that came in for special mention was one that concerned CCA financing. Some respondents even said the knowledge they had garnered during the Forum would help them improve their existing projects. The diversity of topics also promoted cross-learning.

##### *B. We would appreciate your recommendations/suggestions for the next Forum.*

Most respondents said the next Forum could benefit from greater participation of the private sector, which could not only help in financing but also provide a hedge against the risks posed

by climate change in the form of insurance and other instruments. The field of adaptation, most respondents observed, would greatly benefit from the participation of the corporate sector.

The respondents also sought a more diverse set of participants at the next Forum, with the inclusion of more people from NGOs, CSOs, private sector, youth, and local communities. They felt these sections needed to be heard more loudly, both during the panel discussions and at the plenary sessions.

Some respondents also called for making a field visit an intrinsic part of the Forum in order to link adaptation to action on the ground.

Some said adding a day to the Forum would also enrich it by providing more time for informal networking and marketplace stall visiting. It would also facilitate the inclusion of a field visit to experience CCA on the ground.

Many respondents also suggested that the next Forum should focus on learning from documentation of adaptive strategy at local level.

Respondents were also eager to learn more about climate modeling from technical experts. They were equally keen to hear more about the mainstreaming of community-based approach (CBA) to adaptation at the next Forum.

Many respondents were keen to preserve the take-aways from the Forum in the form of printed copies of the various presentations. Others suggested that the organizers put up the list of participants and presenters along with their email addresses on the website to further promote networking among adaptation professionals. Some also recommended that the lessons learned and the solutions thrown up at the Forum should be revisited at the next Forum to ensure that such precious knowledge did not go waste.

### *C. Thoughts on themes for the next Forum.*

The respondents came up with a plethora of ideas for the theme of the next Forum. While some wanted it to deal with upscaling and coordination among various 'levels of adaptation' i.e, local, national, regional and global, others called for a focus on capacity building and coordination. There was also a suggestion to dwell on failure in adaptation or challenges to its success. Low carbon growth, knowledge and advocacy, monitoring and evaluation, politics of environment and knowledge, health and adaptation, technology and adaptation, population and adaptation, CCA financing, climate change migration, children and climate change, sectoral adaptation, CCA and the private sector, and communicating CCA, were among the several other themes proposed by the respondents.

Some called for focusing on the role of education and social capital in adaptation, while others wanted to spotlight mitigation and adaptation and the influence of donors on CCA. Governance of adaptation, CCA and resilience, gender budgeting for CCA, adaptation at the local level, public-private partnerships, best practices, and the importance of bringing policy and research together were among the other themes recommended by the respondents

### *D. List the take-away learnings from the Adaptation Forum 2012*

One lesson that almost all respondents mentioned was the importance of marrying the bottom-up and top-down approach for a win-win solution to adaptation. As one put it: "Grassroots, bottom-up action should complement top-down government measures". They also acknowledged the importance of involving communities in decision-making regarding the adaptation measures to ensure transparency and fairness.

Many said the Forum had taught them the importance of coordination, communication and two-way exchange of knowledge at all levels, be it local, regional, national and global, for the success



of adaptation projects, big and small. They also learned that adaptation was cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary in nature, and had to be dealt with accordingly.

Most respondents said the Forum had driven home the importance of sound financing as well. It also underlined the significance of scaling up local experience. As a respondent wrote: “Think global, act local.”

The Forum further highlighted the importance of integrating adaptation and mitigation actions, while reiterating the importance of mainstreaming adaptation into policy and strategy. Many also realized the significance of ecosystem management and ecosystem-based adaptation. Community-based adaptation was also recognized as a vital tool that made the most of local knowledge.

Many respondents said the Forum provided fresh insights into disaster management and climate change adaptation; the IPCC experience; UNFCCC processes and achievements; and the various international agreements and initiatives.

Respondents also returned with a new respect for a wide gamut of adaptation tools, and data sources. Much of the adaptation, they learnt, was about doing the right kind of development, while factoring in the changing climate. This also brought home the significance of climate-proofing infrastructure, and making cities resilient to climate change.

Respondents said they learned that factors crucial for adaptation include adequate knowledge, appropriate technology, ample financing and capacity for implementation. It is also vital to enhance the participation of both policy-makers and public in CCA.

***E Do you have any plans for applying what you have learned or heard about at the Forum? (e.g. new programme development, partnership building with new groups, institutional capacity building, etc)?***

In a gratifying reaction, most respondents said they would be applying the knowledge gained during the Forum to upscale or improve their projects, develop new programs, educate their communities, and implement different tools/techniques of adaptation in various programs. Some were even inspired to undertake new research or pursue higher studies.

A respondent wrote about developing a new programme and building institutional capacity at the department level. Another said the Forum had given him confidence to assess projects for CCA. Yet another was determined to develop a flood inundation simulation model, thanks to the technical expertise he had gained during the Forum. Many others in the government sector planned to apply the knowledge gained for climate-proofing infrastructure. One promised to set up a CCA demonstration project for local people in Lao PDR.

The Forum also led to a spate of new collaborations between adaptation practitioners at various levels.

Some field practitioners were hopeful that their interactions with representatives of donor agencies would help them in undertaking more ambitious projects besides providing easy finance. Respondents said the Forum had helped them to forge new collaborations with the likes of Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Health Organization (WHO), Mekong River Commission (MRC) and others. Others were inspired to set up platforms and networks of their own in their countries to promote CCA. Some also wrote about setting up online communities / networks for uploading project information.

A respondent said he would soon be organizing a forum on green business in Cambodia. Another said he would be applying some of the learning in policy dialogues in his current work besides writing to newly introduced organizations for collaborative work. Yet another felt so empowered that he had decided to design a curriculum for formal education of CCA at the university level in

his country. Some said they would henceforth focus their efforts on developing clean or green projects. A government official involved in updating land-use planning shared that he would now work for integrating CCA/disaster risk management into it.

#### F. Additional questions for those who participated in the first Climate Change Adaptation Forum, October 2010, Bangkok

**F1. Please describe what, if any, most significant change as a result of participation in the 1st Forum (2010) (e.g. the development of a strategy/project/policy document, or increased budget allocations for training, capacity assessments, partnerships/mainstreaming activities).**

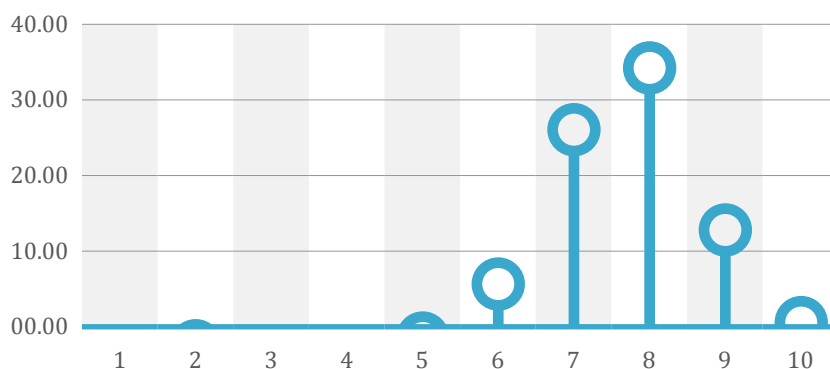
Most respondents who had attended the maiden Adaptation Forum said it had helped them in improving their networks and building new partnerships for CCA projects. Another said it had inspired his organization to carry out tree plantation. Some respondents said, encouraged by the maiden Forum, they had undertaken institutional capacity building in their organizations. Others had invested in better training, partnerships, and plans for mainstreaming adaptation.

Others said the present Forum was an improvement on the previous one in terms of participants and content.

**F2. Were you able to use any of AKP knowledge products in your work? If yes, please state the resource you are referring to.**

Many of the respondents said they had used the web platform of AKP and associated knowledge products for a variety of purposes such as research, and as a resource for media reports. But most importantly, representative of an NGO, World Vision, said they had made use of CCA intervention and technology given on the website. Another said he had benefited from material on community-based adaptation (CBA). Some respondents said information provided on the website had helped them in applying CCA tools to real-life situations. One respondent said the AKP website had also led to the setting up of Nepal Climate Change Knowledge management Center (NCCKMC) in Nepal, while another said it had promoted partnership building and program/project development. The set of AKP scoping reports about various countries in the region had helped a participant in getting a general picture about the knowledge gaps in CCA projects.

#### G. Overall experience of the Forum Workshop



Most of the participants were satisfied with their overall experience at the Forum. A total of 38% of the respondents rated their experience as very good or high (level 8), while 97% of them rated their experience at the Forum as above average (higher than 5). Only three participants rated it as low (below or equal to 5) on satisfaction.