

Title *No Distinct 1.5°C Warmer World and Its Impact:
Urgency to Scale-up Adaptation Action to Build Resilience for Asia and the Pacific*

Date and Time 19.10.2020, 14:00 (GMT +7); 16:00 (GMT +9)

Lead organiser Government of Japan / Ministry of the Environment; APAN Secretariat, UN Environment Programme

Background

The special [report on 1.5 degree](#) published in 2018 by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) clearly demonstrated that the impacts of climate change varied widely around the world and future impacts would not be spread evenly too. Temperatures increase at different speed in all places and thus impacts too, with warming generally higher over land areas than oceans. Asia and the Pacific is a very diverse region, not only because of the great variety of terrestrial and marine ecosystems, but also in terms of socio-economic conditions, governance systems and technological capabilities, with impacts and vulnerability to climate change also varying across the region and even within a country.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has plunged the region into an acute health and economic crisis, with unprecedented socio-economic impacts, the adverse impacts of climate change in a 2-degree warmer world scenario, will have an even higher toll on the economy and on people people's health, well-being, and livelihoods than the current pandemic. In the Asia-Pacific, the current crisis risks halting and reversing progress on most Sustainable Development Goals, including targets related to climate change adaptation and resilience. By underscoring the region's fragilities, the pandemic has brought to light and intensified vulnerabilities and inequalities within and among countries, reconfirming the interdependency among systems on which our lives depend on, such as food, trade, health, education, and climate.

Governments in Asia and the Pacific need to respond to the COVID-19 crisis by adopting policy and investment decisions that also tackle the climate emergency. The current global health emergency is undermining years of climate adaptation efforts in the region, but at the same time is opening opportunities to promote bold solutions to adapt to climate change and reflect on the significance of resilience. As the region strives to respond and recover, there is an increased need to reconsider and transform the way we have delivered on climate adaptation and resilience so far, seizing the chance to invest in a recovery path intended to make human society more resilient, more equitable, healthier, and stronger all together. Building back better and forward will imply integrate climate resilience into decision-making at all levels of government and by the whole of society, including private sector, communities, and households.

The pandemic has also forced us to reimagine the way nations cooperate urging for a collective response in unity and solidarity, and pointing to a need for a strengthened, renewed and more effective multilateralism. A multilateralism that is inclusive, based on trust and that builds on networks, partnerships, and multi-stakeholder contributions. At the 75th United Nations General Assembly last month, global

leaders approved a comprehensive resolution to stimulate global cooperation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The resolution, adopted by 169 Member States, identifies international cooperation, multilateralism and solidarity as the only effective response to global crises such as COVID-19, and climate change prompting the global community to adopt a climate and environment sensitive approach to COVID-19 recovery efforts, and emphasizing that adaptation to a changing climate needs to be a global priority.

Scope

This webinar will talk about the urgency to scale-up adaptation action to build resilience for Asia and the Pacific and will introduce how the 7th APAN forum, scheduled for the 8-12 March 2021 will advance it further. It will serve to build understanding on the necessity to step-up on climate adaptation efforts, and to consider how climate adaptation and resilience building can be adequately factored into post COVID-19 decision making processes.

The session aims to have key stakeholders representing governments, business community, academia, as well as civil society organizations take stock of key learnings from current adaptation practices and discuss the role of cooperation and multilateralism to deal with climate change as a planetary crisis. The discussion will help to validate the forum's theme and strengthen the forum's preparation and design.

Key questions to be discussed

- ✓ What will it take to bring about transformational change and scale-up adaptation and resilience?
- ✓ What can we learn from the COVID-19 response and how can we keep momentum to ensure a resilient recovery that addresses climate adaptation?
- ✓ How can we leverage on multi-stakeholder cooperation and multilateralism for a green, equitable and resilient recovery?

Key messages

- ✓ Climate change is unevenly impacting a variety of sectors and aspects of life, which humankind depend upon and value. Even if the global community attains the targets of the Paris Agreement, some degree of impacts is already set and unavoidable. Nevertheless, there is still room to act and avoid worst effects, by enabling actors with tools and means to build resilience and equipping communities with the capacity to withstand and moderate the worst-case scenarios.
- ✓ This is the time for global solidarity. Climate change adversely affects the economy, infrastructure, human health, and ecosystems in these regions and many of these impacts are transboundary. To this end, multi-stakeholder cooperation and multilateralism are key to climate change adaptation.
- ✓ Climate adaptation and resilience need to be incorporated into post-pandemic recovery plans. This crisis provides the opportunity to build back better, by aligning national policies with longer-term climate objectives, building regional partnerships, and mobilizing private sector support to enhance climate resilience.

Agenda

		Time
Registration	Via Zoom	13:30 – 14 :00
Welcome	Mr. Mozaharul Alam , Regional Climate Change Coordinator, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and APAN Secretariat	14:00 – 14:05
Opening remarks	Mr. Takahashi Kazuaki , Director, Climate Change Adaptation Office, Global Environment Bureau, Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MoEJ)	14:05– 14:10
Inspirational Talk	Mr. Anand Patwardhan , Professor, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland	14:10 – 14:20
Entertainment	Ms. Antoinette Taus , United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Goodwill Ambassador for the Philippines, and Founder of CORA	14:20 – 14:25
Interactive Activity	All participants to go to www.menti.com and enter the code: 350818	14:25 – 14:35
Moderator	Mr. Saleemul Huq , Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)	14:35 – 14:40
Panel Discussion	<p>Dr. Oyun Sanjaasuren, Director of External Affairs, Green Climate Funds (GCF)</p> <p>Mr. Batjargal Zamba, Special Envoy of Mongolia on Climate Change, former Minister for Environment of Mongolia</p> <p>Prof. Joyashree Roy, Bangabandhu Chair Professor at Asia Institute of Technology (AIT)</p> <p>Ms. Antoinette Taus, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Goodwill Ambassador for the Philippines, and Founder of CORA</p> <p>Ms. Filomena Nelson, Climate Change Adaptation Adviser, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)</p>	14:40 – 15:10
Q/A from the floor	Moderated audience Q&A	15:10 – 15:25
Closing and Vote of Thanks	Ms. Isabelle Louis , Deputy Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, UN Environment Programme (UNEP)	15:25 – 15:30