

Summary of APAN Capacity Building Activities, 2010-2015

Lessons learned and future opportunities for climate change adaptation trainings at CCA@AIT

Introduction

In support of APAN's broad mission to "build climate change resilient and sustainable human systems, ecosystems and economies" in Asia-Pacific, the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) has provided significant funding to run the network and contribute meaningfully to helping the region's government officials adapt to climate change. A big component of this task is organizing and conducting capacity building activities, particularly targeted training workshops, which were conducted from 2010 to 2015 across 12 countries in Asia and the Pacific.

This paper provides a short summary of the lessons that came out of the numerous capacity building activities implemented over the five-year period. These activities, which comprise training workshops, were financed by MOEJ and organized in collaboration with APAN's eight partner organizations. They are: the [Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia \(CAREC\)](#); the [Environmental Innovators program, Keio University, Japan](#); the [Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme \(SPREP\)](#); the [Climate Action Network for South Asia \(CANSA\)](#); [Local Governments for Sustainability \(ICLEI\)](#); the [Global Water Partnership \(GWP\) South Asia](#); the [International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development \(ICIMOD\)](#); and the [Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture \(SEARCA\)](#). Some of these workshops were also co-financed by other development partners, including the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Korea Environment Institute (KEI).

With a concise summary of the lessons and outcomes from five years of implementing capacity building at the country-level through APAN, this paper serves to help inform training institutions, government agencies and other development partners of the current, on-the-ground needs as they relate to adaptation, while guiding the direction for future capacity building support. Indeed building the region's capacity to adapt to climate change remains a priority and meeting the region's adaptation needs could well be achieved through more targeted and streamlined trainings for government officials – and this could be delivered effectively through Climate Change Asia (CCA@AIT), a program launched at the Asian Institute of Technology and supported by MOEJ.

What is Climate Change Asia?

Climate Change Asia (CCA@AIT) is a program launched at the Asian Institute of Technology to meet the diverse range of capacity building needs required to pursue low carbon development and achieve climate resilient societies in Asia. The program is designed to support the recently adopted Paris Agreement and the 2030 Development Agenda for Sustainable Development. A key feature of the program is to develop capacities in Asia to prepare, finance, and implement 'bankable' climate change mitigation and adaptation projects. The operational unit/secretariat of CCA is hosted by the Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (AIT-RRC.AP).

Source: Climate Change Asia website: <http://www.cca.ait.asia/Pages/Aboutus.aspx>

Adaptation Needs and Challenges in Asia-Pacific

Since 2010, APAN has organized 22 capacity building training workshops in the Asia-Pacific region with its eight partner organizations, which are also known as [APAN sub-regional nodes and thematic nodes](#). These collaborative workshops were organized and conducted in addition to other networking events, such as sub-regional conferences and the large-scale [Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forums](#) organized in collaboration with UNEP and other partners.

The full list of the 22 capacity building training workshops, which includes links to their concept note, agendas and other training materials, is available in Annex 1. The topics of these workshops range from preparing National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) in South Asia to mainstreaming adaptation in the agriculture sector in Southeast Asia.

A collective analysis from the [Synthesis Report on Outcomes and Good Practices from APAN-organized Capacity Building Training Workshops \(2010-2015\)](#) highlighted a number of key challenges that emerged from these training workshops that were held in countries, such as in Cambodia, India, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines, Samoa, Thailand, among others. The broad challenges identified include a general lack of knowledge about climate change science among some of the region's government officials; difficulties in mainstreaming adaptation into sectoral policies at the national-level; and problems in accessing adequate finances to implement adaptation projects.

Based on these broad challenges, a number of more targeted adaptation needs were identified in the report, including: (1) the need to enhance knowledge on climate change adaptation, on its interlinkages with disaster risk reduction, and on integrated development planning that considers climate change; (2) the need to build up technical skills to collect, interpret and downscale climate data and models for better planning and overall preparedness to climate impacts; and (3) the need to develop capacities to prepare adaptation project proposals to access domestic and international climate funds and support services.

A number of APAN training workshops addressed some of those adaptation needs. For example, on climate finance alone, APAN organized three separate capacity training workshops with SPREP, ICLEI and CANSAs. The [workshop with SPREP](#) emphasized that an effective approach to enhancing the capacity of national and regional institutions through proposal development training and simulation, which includes logical framework drafting, donor matching, and monitoring and evaluation planning. Similarly, the [workshop with ICLEI](#) focused on helping government officials to enhance their capacity in proposal writing, thereby lowering the technical barriers to access financing. The highlight of that workshop was hands-on training in developing funding proposals.

Future Opportunities for Climate Change Adaptation Training

Following the groundwork that has been put in place by APAN, it is clear that the direction for capacity building support is centered on imparting *practical and useful* skills to government officials to implement adaptive actions in their home countries. This shift towards implementation and action also resonates throughout the trainings that have been recently conducted by CCA@AIT.

In particular, [USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific](#) – a partner of APAN who has provided financial support and resources to maintain the APAN web portal and implement knowledge management activities, such as the [APAN Exchange Series](#) – is providing a series of practical training courses on managing project preparation for climate change adaptation, among others. USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific is a project that helps Asia-Pacific countries obtain financing to address climate change impacts, through a combination of

technical support in project preparation and capacity building to access climate change adaptation finance. The project views APAN and CCA@AIT as pillars to sustain its knowledge and outcomes.

To date, seven climate change training courses have been conducted at CCA@AIT, with a significant amount of material coming from USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific, as well as other technical and financial support coming from RRC.AP, IGES and MOEJ. The full list of recent CCA@AIT training courses with links to more information is available below:

Date	Title
6-10 Jan 2017	Training course on Managing Project Preparation for Climate Change Adaptation
12-16 Dec 2016	Training Programme on Developing Project Proposals on Climate Change Mitigation
20-22 Oct 2016	Training on Managing Project Preparation for Climate Change Adaptation
6-10 Oct 2016	Training course on Managing Project Preparation for Climate Change Adaptation
19 Sep 2016	Climate Risk Informed Decision Analysis
29-31 Aug 2016	Program on Developing Proposals on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation to access Climate Funds
7-11 Mar 2016	Training course on Urban Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience (UCCAR)

The need to be practical and hands-on has become the hallmark of CCA@AIT trainings. But while it is the general direction to pursue in terms of the method of delivering effective capacity building, a number of new and existing topics related to adaptation were also highlighted in past APAN training workshops that could be further pursued. These topics include Vulnerability, Impact and Adaptation Assessment (VIAA) for climate change based on [a workshop with SEARCA](#) and climate risk management planning and investment based on [another workshop also with SEARCA](#).

The lessons learned from implementing APAN capacity building activities over five years have provided a clear picture of the types of adaptation needs and challenges facing government officials in Asia-Pacific. Importantly, it has demonstrated not only *what* capacity building activities should be conducted, but also *how* they should be run in order to be effective and to reap the best possible outcomes. Going forward, APAN and all partner organizations should continue to look at past trainings, consult with one another, learn from what has been done, and make the best use of the wealth of experience and knowledge that this network collectively brings.

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Annex 1: APAN-organized Capacity Building Training Workshops, FY 2010-2015

	Date	Title	Venue
1.	9-10 Feb 2015	<u>Capacity Building Training Workshop on Climate Risk Management in Planning and Investment Projects</u>	Manila, Philippines
2.	15 Jan 2015	<u>Capacity Building Training Workshop on from Risk to Resilience: South Asia Regional Framework for Sustainable Water Management</u>	New Delhi, India
3.	12-13 Nov 2014	<u>2nd International Conference on Agriculture and Rural Development in Southeast Asia</u>	Manila, Philippines
4.	21-24 Sep 2014	<u>2nd Asia-Pacific Youth Forum and Capacity Building Training Workshop 2014: Adaptation In the Mountains – Issues and Gaps Beyond Boundaries</u>	Kathmandu, Nepal
5.	8 Jul 2014	<u>6th International Symposium on Climate Change Adaptation</u>	Incheon, Republic of Korea
6.	10-12 Feb 2014	<u>Capacity Building Training Workshop on Monitoring & Evaluation and the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change</u>	Apia, Samoa
7.	6-7 Feb 2014	<u>Capacity Building Training Workshop on Building Capacities for Agricultural Competitiveness of Transition Countries in Southeast Asia: Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation in the Agriculture Sector towards Food Security in Transition Southeast Asia</u>	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
8.	3-4 Dec 2013	<u>Capacity Building Training Workshop on Supporting Climate Change Policy Action in the HKH Region: Strengthening Communication Approaches for Science-Policy-Practice Interfacing</u>	Kathmandu, Nepal
9.	4-5 Sep 2013	<u>Capacity Building Training Workshop Needs and Gaps Assessment on Adaptation and Resilience to a Changing Climate in South Asia</u>	Kathmandu, Nepal
10.	19-20 Aug 2013	<u>Capacity Building Training Workshop on Options for an Innovative Climate Finance Regime for South Asia</u>	New Delhi, India

11.	13-14 Aug 2013	<u>Regional Capacity Building Training Workshop on Strengthening Capacity on M&E of Climate Change Adaptation Initiatives in SEA Region</u>	Manila, Philippines
12.	29-30 Jul 2013	<u>Capacity Building Training Workshop on Adaptation to Climate Change through Climate Risk Reduction, Disaster Preparedness and Response in Central Asia</u>	Dushanbe, Tajikistan
13.	10-11 Jun 2013	<u>6th International Capacity Building Training Workshop on Remote Sensing and Environmental Innovations in Mongolia</u>	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
14.	5-6 Nov 2012	<u>Capacity Building Training Workshop on Preparing National Adaptation Plans in South Asia</u>	Kathmandu, Nepal
15.	25-26 Oct 2012	<u>Capacity Building Training Workshop on Climate Change and Financing</u>	Apia, Samoa
16.	20-21 Sep 2012	<u>Capacity Building Training Workshop on Climate Change Adaptation Planning</u>	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
17.	25 Aug-3 Sep 2012	<u>Capacity Building Training Workshop on Educational Program on a Semi-Arid Environment Susceptible to Climate Change in Northeast Asia</u>	Inner Mongolia, China
18.	11-12 Jul 2012	<u>Capacity Building Training Workshop on Evaluating the Effectiveness Of Climate Change Adaptation Practices In Central Asia</u>	Almaty, Kazakhstan
19.	25-26 Oct 2011	<u>Regional Capacity Building Training Workshop on Cross-Sectoral Climate Change Adaptation Planning</u>	Bangkok, Thailand
20.	10-12 Aug 2011	<u>Capacity Building Training Workshop Modules Design Capacity Training Workshop</u>	Bangkok, Thailand
21.	11 Mar 2011	<u>Second Capacity Building Training Workshop Needs Assessment</u>	Bangkok, Thailand
22.	31 Jan 2011	<u>First Capacity Building Training Workshop Needs Assessment</u>	Bangkok, Thailand