



## **CALL FOR SUBMISSION OF PAPERS**

**Topic: “Best Practices on Climate Change Adaptation”**

### **Introduction/Objective:**

In March 2012, the regional political party network, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD), following on previous workshops in Bangkok, Thailand (28 November – 1 December 2011) and Cagayan de Oro/Bukidnon, Philippines (10 – 14 February 2012), adopted a momentous statement on climate change. Described as both “practical” and “policy-relevant,” the statement addresses broad issues such as policies and mechanisms for building adaptation and resilience, as well as specific concerns such as water-related issues and marine/coastal resource management, land use and demographic settlement, and renewable energy, investment and economic opportunities. (See Annex A for the CALD Climate Change Statement)

Guided by the Climate Change Statement, from 2012 to 2015, CALD member-parties and partner organizations pledged to collectively work on a series of projects that addresses vulnerability and fosters adaptation to climate change. A key element of this initiative consists of a range of commissioned papers with a specific focus on Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) practices.

CALD recognizes that with the adverse impacts of climate change increasingly becoming more frequent and more intense, the world is moving towards an era where adaptation to global warming is becoming not only a lifestyle choice but a matter of survival. Where mitigation was the thing of the past; the present drifts to adaptation as the new trend on climate change governance.

Adaptation refers to “adjustments in ecological, social, or economic systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli and their effects or impacts.” It also pertains to “changes in processes, practices, and structures to moderate potential damages or to benefit from opportunities associated with climate change” (IPCC 2001, Third Assessment Report).

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According to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):

Solutions to adapt to the effects of climate change take many shapes and forms, depending on the unique context of a community, business/organization, country, region etc., and the specific impacts of climate change. There is no 'one-size-fits-all-solution' when it comes to climate change adaptation - adaptation can range from building flood defenses, setting up early warning systems for cyclones and switching to crops that fare better under drought conditions, to redesigning communication systems, business operations and government policies. Adaptation commonly focuses on reducing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, and increasing adaptive capacity and coping range.

Asia-Pacific is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change and its adverse impacts. Now, more than ever, volatile weather extremes are hitting the region more often than any other in the world. And with the physical and economic damage of increased disasters likely to become more extreme in the future, communities and succeeding generations are all put at risk. As such, at a regional level, CALD asserts that there is an indispensable need to foster dialogue and hone collective efforts to address climate change along the lines of adaptation.

CALD is fully aware that climate change demands immediate action at the local, regional, and international levels. Deeply concerned that the climatic stimuli and its severe impacts affect lives and alter the political and economic landscape, CALD, through its network of politicians, members of parliament, public administrators and political party leaders, is in a position to make significant dent on how the region responds to climate change.

CALD's CCA project is composed of three components: (1) a call for papers dealing with CCA best practices; (2) a conference featuring selected papers on CCA best practices; and (3) a publication including the best case studies presented in the conference. In this light, CALD is inviting political leaders, academics, civil society activists, and other interested individuals to contribute papers on CCA best practices. A number of contributors may be invited to present papers at the conference, or to include their papers in the publication.

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### **Specifications of the paper**

CCA best practices papers should provide and present substantial information and key developments on noteworthy CCA practices and initiatives which have had measurable significant impacts on any of the following issue-areas: (1) Policy/Law; (2) Governance; and (3) Community Involvement.

Each paper must concentrate on a specific CCA project and must be policy-oriented and pragmatic. In particular, the paper should include (but not limited to) the following elements:

- A background and description of the key features of the CCA project;
- Issues and problems encountered in the planning and implementation of the project;
- Strategies adopted to address those issues and problems;
- A detailed explanation of why the project can be considered as a best practice, including the extent of its key results and impact; and
- Conclusion and recommendations (i.e. policies, strategies, etc.) for project replication.

Authors of selected papers may be invited to an international conference entitled “Best Practices on Climate Change Adaptation”, which will be held in September 2013, in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. The best papers may also be included in the *CALD Handbook of Best Practices on Climate Change Adaptation*.

### **Applications**

Interested parties are requested to develop and submit an abstract which outlines their CCA project. The abstract should be written in English and should not be more than 2 pages long (800 words). The paper must be saved in *Microsoft Word* format (use either .doc or .docx for the file extension).

All entries must be submitted to [info@cald.org](mailto:info@cald.org), indicating on the email subject “Best Practices on Climate Change Adaptation: Organization name (Abstract)” no later than **5 August 2013**. Please send a courtesy copy of your submission to Mr. Celito Arlegue,

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CALD Executive Director ([lito\\_arleque@cald.org](mailto:lito_arleque@cald.org)) and Mr. Paul Rafael, CALD Project Officer ([paul\\_rafael@cald.org](mailto:paul_rafael@cald.org)). Attach your Curriculum Vitae and include your contact information as well.

The final paper should be between 10-12 pages (5000 words). The assignment should take no longer than 5 weeks to finish from the agreed date of commencement.

A panel will select the best abstracts, which could also be included in a publication.

Those succeeding to have their abstracts selected by the panel will be notified no later than **12 August 2013**, requested to submit the first outline by **19 August 2013**, the first draft by **26 August 2013**, and the final version by **16 September 2013**.

Selected authors will have their papers published and be given an honorarium of 1,000 USD per paper, which will be given upon completion and submission of the final paper.

### **About CALD**

The Council for Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD) was inaugurated in Bangkok, Thailand in 1993, with the support of then Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai and South Korea's Kim Dae-Jung. CALD, which offers a unique platform for dialogue and cooperation, is the only regional alliance of liberal and democratic political parties in Asia.

CALD was formed out of the recognition of leaders of like-minded political parties in Asia of the need for a dynamic forum promoting discussion and exchange of ideas regarding trends and challenges affecting democracy, human rights and the rule of law in the region. The chair parties of CALD since its inception to the present have been the Democrat Party of Thailand or DP (1993-1995; 2002-2004), the Democratic Progressive Party of Taiwan or DPP (1995-1997, 2004- 2005), the Liberal Party of the Philippines or LP (1997-1999, 2005-2007), the Liberal Party of Sri Lanka or LPSL (1999-2000, 2010-2012), the Sam Rainsy Party of Cambodia or SRP (2000-2002, 2012-2014), and the Singapore Democratic Party or SDP (2007-2010).

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The other members of CALD are the Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia (PGRM), the National Council of the Union of Burma (NCUB), the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P), and the Civil Will Party (CWP) of Mongolia. The Liberal Forum Pakistan (LFP) is an associate member while Hong Kong legislators, Martin Lee and Sin Chung-kai, are individual members. In 2010, CALD bestowed honorary individual membership to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Through CALD, political parties, groups, and individuals have a continuing discussion on the developments occurring in the various countries of the region. The aim is to assess the possibilities for liberal solutions to problems facing Asian democracies.

Accordingly, CALD organizes network meetings including those with its partners (Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Liberal International, Alliance for Liberals and Democrats for Europe, Alliance of Democrats, Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs), international conferences on vital issues affecting the region, and regular workshops on communication, political management, and women in politics. It also sends missions for various advocacies, sponsors internship programs in its secretariat and in the European Parliament, as well as maintains a website, a social network group account and a weekly electronic newsletter.



## **ANNEX A**

### **CALD Climate Change Statement**

We, the representatives of the Democrat Party (Thailand), Democratic Progressive Party (Taiwan), Liberal Party (Philippines), Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia, Singapore Democratic Party, Liberal Party (Sri Lanka), National Council of the Union of Burma, Sam Rainsy Party (Cambodia), Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle, and Civil Will Party (Mongolia), full member parties of CALD, on the occasion of CALD Climate Change Conference in Palawan, Philippines, following on our previous workshops in Bangkok, Thailand (28 November – 1 December 2011) and Cagayan de Oro/Bukidnon, The Philippines (10 – 14 February 2012);

Aware that the Asian region is one of the most vulnerable areas to climate change, with climate change impacts resulting in immense loss of life, livelihood, property, and sense of security of the region's inhabitants;

Recognizing further that Asia is home to a large number of poor people; and the more we neglect the ecosystem, the more we lessen the capacity for inclusive growth and consequently, deepen further the poor's poverty;

Acknowledging that climate change can result in sea-level rise, increase in temperature and extreme weather, variations in rainfall, floods and also desertification, all of which have repercussions on the lives and livelihood of people as well as the environment;

Noting that vulnerability to climate change is partly due to absence or lack of adequate enforcement of environmental laws and regulations, resulting in denuded mountains, clogged waterways, polluted bodies of waters, among other problems;

Acknowledging the importance of adequate information, accurate scientific data and research, and effective institutions to address the problems of climate change;

Emphasizing that adaptation to climate change will have to focus on integrated water, land, and coastal resource management;

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Recognizing the importance of educational and information campaigns in enhancing the awareness of all stakeholders, including the general public, on the adverse impacts of climate change and what can be done to address them;

Underlining that mainstreaming the issue of climate change is vital to ensure the attention of all political parties;

Highlighting the need to formulate roadmaps and action plans with clear targets in order to ensure proper monitoring of progress or lack thereof;

Noting that, given also the lack of progress in international climate-change negotiations, national and local initiatives to address climate change must be promoted and encouraged;

Emphasizing that an effective response to climate change requires not merely government regulation, but also deregulation as appropriate and the provision of appropriate incentives for stakeholders;

Recognizing that climate change is related to economic development, and that sustainable development and green economy must be the aim of every society;

Noting that climate change presents not only threats but also opportunities, particularly opportunities to institute changes in society towards sustainable development;

Sharing a vision for an Asian region resilient and adaptive to climate change, and supporting global, regional, national and local efforts to combat climate change with emphasis on the need for those most responsible for climate change, in particular, to take remedial and recompensatory action;





Do hereby:

***On Policies and Mechanisms to Address Climate Change***

1. Urge Asian governments not only to have clear and coherent policies regarding land-use, water, forest and coastal conservation, but also to ensure strict enforcement at all levels of government on the basis of equity and transparency;
2. Ensure that policies are based on consultation with stakeholders and focus on community oriented pro-poor perspectives, and encourage community involvement in initiatives to preserve and protect the environment;
3. Affirm the need for regional, inter-agency and multisectoral collaboration in addressing climate change, with particular attention to reducing socio-economic vulnerability;
4. Suggest that a specific percentage of the national budget should be allocated to finance climate change planning, activities, and policy directions;
5. Underline the importance of adhering to the principles of good governance, particularly transparency and accountability, in any measure to combat climate change;
6. Urge governments to adopt general guidelines, including market reforms that would encourage full private sector awareness and involvement, to promote green, more carbon neutral economies;

***On Building Adaptation and Resilience***

7. Ensure inclusion of climate change and disaster risk information in national education systems as well as community-based awareness programs, with particular attention to decision-makers and administrators, while encouraging community-based preparation and early-warning systems, as well as mitigation and risk-reduction activities;
8. Recognize the particular vulnerability to disaster of poor communities, reiterate the





importance of immediate rehabilitation and resettlement of those who have been affected by erratic weather patterns brought about by climate change, as well as the enactment of measures that aim to return their life to normalcy even while in rehabilitation centers;

### ***On Water-Related Issues and Marine and Coastal Resource Management***

9. Recognize the crucial importance of water resources in addressing problems arising from climate change and environmental degradation, promote expanded rainwater harvesting; water storage and conservation techniques; water re-use; desalination; efficiency in water-use; protection of mountain (snow and ice) and other water sources; and efficiency in irrigation;

10. Recommend that water harvesting and conservation should be accompanied by the development of green spaces as well as inland fisheries on a sustainable basis;

11. Encourage governments to develop effective policies for reversing coastal degradation whilst ensuring the full involvement of local communities in preparation and implementation of plans, that will also encourage local business opportunities that promote sustainable development;

12. Aware that problems with regard to water can lead to regional tensions, encourage active inter-regional cooperation that addresses specific issues in a spirit of understanding and promotion of mutual benefits;

### ***On Land Use and Demographic Settlement***

13. Support rainforest and forest protection and expansion, with particular attention to rehabilitation of degraded watersheds;

14. Register the increasing problem of land degradation, caused often by indiscriminate exploitation of mineral resources, and also the problem of desertification, assert the importance of developing counter-measures and concerted action to reverse this process and ensure continuing land use for pastoral and agricultural communities;

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15. Recognize that unequal development leads to potentially destructive demographic change, advocate programs to increase opportunities and facilities in rural areas and areas currently being denuded of populations;

16. Acknowledge that populations will move to areas with natural resources, advocate regulatory control of such resources through community-based mechanisms;

17. Recommend limitations on hill-slope settlements and developments that cause landslides, and strict enforcement of relevant regulations;

#### ***On Renewable Energy, Investment and Economic Opportunities***

18. Highlight the importance of transition to renewable energy in promoting more sustainable and efficient economy, with emphasis on research and development that encourages public-private partnerships;

19. Develop alternative energy sources with encouragement of investment in particular in bio-energy plants, and others such as solar and wind energy;

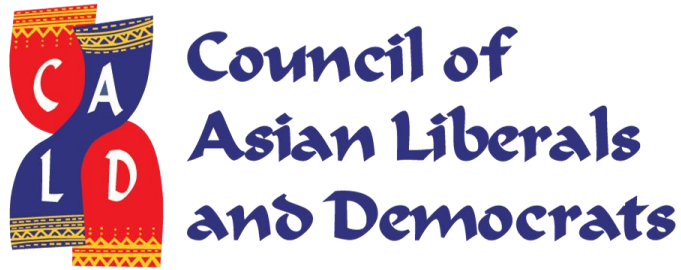
20. Forge partnerships and cooperatives for diversification of agriculture with support for bio-energy sources in tandem with food crops;

21. Recognize that market reforms and a competitive environment could assist in improving energy efficiency and reducing pollution;

22. Emphasize the need to invest in climate resilient or climate-proof infrastructure, with active private-sector participation and innovation, to produce new economic opportunities for sustainable growth; and

#### ***On What CALD Can Do***

23. Require CALD to produce a handbook about common challenges with reports on best practices which can be replicated.



Adopted in Palawan, Philippines  
this 25th of March 2012.

For the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats:

**Neric Acosta**

**Rajiva Wijesinha**

**Ng Lip Yong**

Members of CALD Climate Change Committee