

## ACTIVITY BRIEF

# Regional Training Workshop on Strengthening Capacity on M&E of Climate Change Adaptation Initiatives in Southeast Asia

13-14 August 2013 | Quezon City, Philippines

## BACKGROUND

In Southeast Asia, there are already a number of efforts both at the national and local level on climate change adaptation (CCA). There is an appreciable knowledge base available on CCA. However, what is often overlooked by most organisations and entities implementing CCA interventions is the importance of monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

In 2012, the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) finished a study on “Trends in Adaptation in Southeast Asia (SEA)”. Conclusions from the overall study reiterated the need for the establishment of an M&E framework for CCA. The establishment of such a framework is, however, quite complex due to the cross-cutting concerns that CCA initiatives seek to address.

Against this backdrop, APAN in partnership with its sub-regional node, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, organised a two-day training workshop on strengthening capacity on M&E of CCA initiatives in the region. Attended by 14 participants from seven Southeast Asian countries, the training workshop was held back-to-back with a three-day event titled “Beyond the Climate Change Adaptation Cycle: Learning and Re-learning – A Platform for Peer to Peer Knowledge Exchange and Training.”

## OBJECTIVE

The training workshop aimed to:

- Equip participants with the skills to monitor and evaluate past and/or current CCA initiatives
- Explain the relevance of M&E in the CCA planning process
- Enhance participants’ skills in developing key indicators and setting up of measurement schemes for CCA initiatives
- Facilitate knowledge sharing among Southeast Asian countries on how CCA initiatives can be monitored and evaluated
- Promote networking between and among national and local government representatives working on CCA within the region



*A merchant brings a carabao, or water buffalo, to market in the Philippines.*

## WORKSHOP PARTNER



## ABOUT APAN

APAN is the leading climate change adaptation network in the Asia-Pacific region. Our primary goal is to assist countries to build climate change resilient and sustainable human systems, ecosystems, and economies. Our initiatives turn knowledge into policy action and trainings into tangible benefits.

## APAN PARTNERS



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## OUTCOMES

The experts deliberated on a number of topics during the training:

- Overview of M&E process
- Relevance of M&E for CCA
- Developing indicators and measurement schemes
- Country experiences on M&E
- Framework for M&E of CCA

During the training workshop, the participants discussed the M&E process and how it can be applied in the context of implementing CCA initiatives. Participants also focused on various M&E frameworks in the region that served as possible guides in developing and enhancing their respective M&E plans. There were sessions devoted to country presentations on their M&E plans.

Participants included representatives from both national and local country governments. The workshop provided a platform for both parties to network and recognise each other's initiatives on CCA. The event also helped facilitate an exchange of ideas on what M&E indicators and measurement would work best in the region.

All sessions were facilitated, and technical guidance was provided to the participants, especially during the group exercises. At the end of the workshop, participants received feedback on their proposed M&E scheme for their respective CCA interventions.

## CONCLUSION

The participants gained good knowledge on M&E for CCA through case studies, lectures, and participatory exercises during the training workshop. It should, however, be emphasised that the topic is still an emerging field, slowly gaining prominence among development organisations.

Most of the participating countries are still at the early stage in terms of designing their respective M&E systems. There is therefore a need to build upon the results of this training workshop and focus on skills-based activities and exercises, such as designing M&E systems and developing key indicators in succeeding capacity building activities within APAN.

The inclusion and participation of local government units (LGUs) in the workshop was also a milestone for APAN and ICLEI's training design. Recognising that it is at the local level that climate change adaptation starts, involving LGUs in capacity building initiatives is becoming increasingly important.

Coupled with the involvement of experts and policy-makers from the sub-region, local government participants at the workshop could likely tailor-fit current and future CCA interventions based on the national agenda, resulting in more coherent strategies to combat climate change.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.asiapacificadapt.net/apan-iclei-20130812>