



6TH ASIA-PACIFIC

**CLIMATE CHANGE
ADAPTATION FORUM**

MANILA, PHILIPPINES

BACKGROUND

Responses to address adverse impacts of climate change have made significant progress in the last three decades. Impressive progress has been made in understanding the scientific dimensions of global warming and climate change as well as its impacts on nature and human society since the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued its first assessment report in 1990. Continuous updates by IPCC through its assessment reports on impacts, adaptation and vulnerabilities, the establishment of the Nairobi Work Programme (2005), and the establishment of financing mechanisms to support concrete adaptation measures in developing countries including least developed countries, have significantly advanced the adaptation agenda. It has further advanced understanding human vulnerability to climate change and recognition of the need to build resilience. The diverse actors and societies of Asia and the Pacific have advanced implementation of climate change adaptation measures, and have both demonstrated their resilience in the face of unprecedented climatic hazards and established the region and its inhabitants as innovative practitioners of adaptation.

The central themes connecting Asia Pacific Adaptation Forums to date have been the imperatives to mainstream adaptation in social and economic development planning and budgeting, and to transform adaptation from theory into concrete actions on the ground. While significant efforts are still required in each of these areas, there is now a corresponding need to understand and foster climate resilient development. This may begin by taking stock of – and learning from - the large and growing set of policies, and practices that have been implemented and are ongoing within the region and beyond, from community to national scale.

Building on the foundation of previous Forums, the 6th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum will bring a sharper focus on learning from action towards climate resilience development. The emphasis on action reflects the views of participants in previous forums and the wider network of APAN partners. *Resilience* provides a unifying theme as it describes the desired end-point of adaptation, applicable to natural, human, economic and engineered systems. Accordingly, the 6th Forum will be built around four “streams” focusing on (i) resilience of social and human systems, (ii) resilience of natural systems, (iii) resilience of industry and the built environment, and (iv) resilience of island communities. The inclusion of islands recognizes that Asia and the Pacific’s numerous and diverse island communities face particular challenges associated with economic shocks and natural hazards, and building resilience is often an existential task. The hosts of this year’s Forum - the Philippines and Palau – embody the diverse experiences of island communities and have compelling resilience stories to share, which many other countries in Asia and the Pacific might identify with and learn from.

The Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum, the flagship event of the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN), is the primary regional platform for adaptation practitioners to meet, share their learning and experiences, and work together towards the pertinent outcomes and practical solutions that are needed to address the challenges of climate change.

The Sixth Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum will be held in Manila, Philippines on the week of 15 October 2018. The Climate Change Commission, Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Republic of Palau together with the Asian Development Bank have kindly offered to co-host the APAN Forum.

6th Asia Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum

“Enabling Resilience for All: Avoiding the Worst Impacts”

Efforts of different actors at global, regional, national, sub-national, and local levels in the last two decades have generated noteworthy information and knowledge on adaptation. These include information and knowledge on different enablers including deployment of technologies for adaptation to reduce vulnerability and avoid potential worst impacts. There is much that needs to be done however, in terms of improving communication and action, with access to practical information on mature adaptation approaches, successful technologies and programmes – and then sharing, learning, and scaling these up. Doing so with a sense of urgency is especially critical as some degree of impacts cannot be avoided, but preparing for worst case scenarios with credible plans is not only prudent but also proactive and even life-saving.

The imperative to move forward, learn fast, and implement approaches that are already proven to work is thus clear and pragmatic. While modifying the future impacts of climate change is crucial, there is a concurrent need to address the effects that are already present, and that are sure to increase. Adaptation action needs to be accelerated because there will still be increasing impacts even if we significantly reduce greenhouse gases through mitigation and meet the Paris goals.

Why this Title?

- *Impacts from climate change are happening now.*
- *Already impacting economic sectors that we depend upon and value:*
 - *Water and Energy Resources*
 - *Transport*
 - *Biodiversity*
 - *Agriculture and Food Systems*
 - *Ecosystems*
 - *Human health*
- *Even if we attain the set targets of the Paris Agreement, we are at already at a stage where such impacts are set and some degree of impacts are unavoidable.*
- *There is still scope, however, for us to do something. While we can no longer escape the impacts or make it zero, we can strive to avoid the worst of them.*
- *How? By enabling the tools and means to resilience with actions that will contribute towards equipping our human systems and communities with the capacity to withstand and moderate the worst-case scenarios*

FORUM STREAMS

Resilience: *The ability of a system and its component parts to anticipate, absorb, accommodate, or recover from the effects of a hazardous event in a timely and efficient manner, including through ensuring the preservation, restoration, or improvement of its essential basic structures and functions.* IPCC¹

As in previous Forums, each of the four streams will be introduced through a Plenary Session during which internationally- and regionally recognized experts can frame the discussion. In the ensuing parallel sessions, special topics and case studies can be examined in greater detail and dialog and interactions among participants facilitated.

RESILIENCE IN HUMAN AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS

Human societies have long demonstrated resilience in the face of ever-changing environmental, political and technological circumstances, although climate change is testing our capacity to adapt, particularly where communities are also struggling to address poverty, environmental degradation and conflicts over land and resources. Resilience strategies must further reflect *inter alia* the special considerations associated with gender and the special needs of highly vulnerable groups in society (children, elderly, differently abled). This stream will focus broadly on evidence of how specific actions and strategies can deliver resilience benefits, emphasizing the linkages between governance (institutions), policy, technology and finance. How resilience of human and social system can be enhanced and build on demonstrated resilience in other areas. Important sub-themes include climate change and food security, health, education, migration and conflict resolution at scales from household to region.

RESILIENCE OF NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS

Natural ecosystems, when wisely managed, can support human resilience through a range of functions and services. Ecosystems are themselves under threat from climate change and variability, and wise management of existing ecosystem as well as human induced modification can improve ecosystem resilience. Reciprocal resilience-building provides the basis for ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) and other nature-based approaches, which can be implemented as stand-alone resilience strategies or in synergy with infrastructure-based approaches (“grey-green”). Potential benefits include disaster risk reduction, livelihood and food security, community health and economic diversification in both urban and rural settings. Significant learning has taken place in recent years within the region concerning the effectiveness of EbA and nature-based resilience strategies, and sessions under this theme will explore that evidence.

RESILIENCE OF INDUSTRY AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Asia-Pacific’s rapid urbanization, catalysed by economic growth and increasing demand for goods and services, represents both concentration of risk and opportunity to invest in resilience-building at large scale. Many organizations are currently working to understand what makes the economic sectors and the built environment - including critical infrastructure - resilient to a changing climate, and are putting this knowledge into practice. Examples of approaches already under implementation in Asia and the Pacific include water-sensitive-, “sponge -” and green cities. Development banks and bilateral development finance organizations have also established extensive portfolios of climate-resilient infrastructure investment. Sessions under this theme will take stock of these experiences and good practices to support climate resilience investment in the built environment.

¹ https://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/special-reports/srex/SREX-Annex_Glossary.pdf

RESILIENCE OF ISLAND COMMUNITIES

International assessments consistently find that island states and communities are among the most vulnerable to climate change and disasters. Islands are highly exposed to stronger cyclones, sea level rise, saline intrusion, and coastal erosion among other impacts. At the same time, these communities have shown time and again their remarkable capacity to survive and rebound from catastrophe, and to adapt and thrive under new conditions. In this way, island communities can be seen as learning “laboratories” of adaptation practices and approaches. With the active involvement of Forum hosts the Republics of Palau and of the Philippines, sessions will address such issues as destination resilience, loss and damage, strengthening commitments and action, and enacting targeted efforts tailored to specific challenges and needs to enhance adaptive capacities.

Each of these themes will be explored from a number of perspectives, including:

- Policy, legislation and institutions
- Planning, designing and implementation;
- Science and assessment;
- Technologies and practices;
- Finance

In addition, sessions will explore the ever-expanding role of the private sector in generating adaptation-relevant technologies, products, finance and knowledge.

Program and Agenda Development

Topics and sessions for each of the four Forum streams will be evaluated for inclusion based on coherence and contribution to the over-all Forum objectives. A separate guideline document for the process will be provided.

Forum Participants

The Forum expects 800-1000 participants from

- Multilateral and regional organizations;
- Government agencies (e.g. environment, planning and finance ministries);
- Academia;
- Engineering and other professional associations;
- Donor and financing institutions;
- Relevant private sector and business;
- Non-governmental organizations;
- Media;
- Youth and community-based practitioners

Virtual Participation and Social Media Interactions

Provisions will be made to facilitate virtual participation (e.g. livestreaming of key sessions). There will be ample opportunities for real-time, social media enabled interactions among Forum participants. Details will be made available on the Forum webpage.

Market Place, Pre-Forum Side Events, Post-Forum Site Visits

To facilitate the sharing of practical climate resilience solutions, we are creating a market place for participants to showcase their offerings of resilience solutions. Details on how to reserve a space at the market place can be obtained from the Secretariat.

In addition, in response to feedback from previous Forums, we are offering a number of extended sessions on such themes as developing viable adaptation finance proposals, adaptation and resilience in the water sector, climate-resilient infrastructure design and others. These will be structured as “deep dive” workshops, enabling Forum participants to deepen their understanding of specific topics and practices with inputs from regional and international experts. Deep Dive sessions will be held at the Forum venue on the Monday and Tuesday (October 15-16) preceding the Forum.

Through the co-operation of the Government of the Philippines, study tours to selected adaptation project sites will also be available. These locations will be posted on the Forum website. For more details, kindly contact the Climate Change Commission team

THE MEANS TO BUILD RESILIENCE ("RESILIENCE ENABLERS")

The Forum streams will be developed with sessions about the means by which each of these systems may be enabled. More than the desire to be comprehensive, the streams will instead be curated to provide some depth of discussion for those resilience enablers where the most critical gaps are or where the lowest-hanging fruits for resilience practices and action, or where good results that are easily scalable can be realized. Equity and inclusivity, cross-cutting aspects (i.e. gender, youth and children, health, capacity development, institutionalization, etc.) are to be highlighted in the sessions.

For these streams and sessions, the Forum will look to offer a series of key questions and thought pegs so that discussions can be even more coherent and interconnected. This will be done so that the conclusion of each session would contribute to Forum stream, and to the greater Forum Theme.

General questions may look like any of the following:

- *What are the key enablers for building resilience (in each of the streams)?*
- *How do other sectors/ drivers influence these enablers?*
- *How do you build capacity in each of these domains (i.e. planning, finance management, assessment, etc.)?*
- *What are the current practices in resilience building in this stream?*
- *What were the lessons learned?*
- *What practices have been successful? What practices have failed?*
- *How can the success be replicated? What action steps should be taken?*
- *What opportunities are there to address gaps and overlaps?*

Such guidance for the tenor of the conversations would be supported by a deliberate Forum design which will be focused on conversations and interaction, practical collaboration, and next-step activities for governments, businesses, and society.

Each session will conclude with clear, "what next?" information for all.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

Notwithstanding the progress in the development of policies and processes on climate resilience, the gaps that are needed to bridge to practice and scale are still quite apparent. Resilience is interpreted in multiple ways, bringing together otherwise disparate groups, institutions, disciplines and scales. Improving transparency of information on climate change adaptation measures provides a driving force for integrating policy measures and implementation, and for committing to greater ambitions and shared actions with encouraging narratives.

Guide questions:

- Are these current policies effective in delivering the desired resilience outcomes and responses?
- If no, why?
- If yes, what further enhancements are needed to allow for scale and greater impact?
- Do these policies address the needs and fit/match the current capacities of the intended target audiences?
- How can equity and inclusivity be ensured when developing policy?

Target Speakers:

- Policy-makers
- Think tanks
- Research Institutions
- Industry
- Legal Institutions (UN Environment & ADB's Office of Legal Counsel)
- NGOs and grassroots leaders

Audience (Who will Benefit?):

- National and local government representatives
- City planners and leaders
- NGOs and social enterprises
- Research Institutions
- Industry

PLANNING AND PROCESSES

Planning, science and knowledge have a role to play in tackling the impacts of extreme events. Adapting successfully also requires a collaborative effort in targeting capacity constraints in planning, policy and processes, along with a more humane and just approach in formulating and implementing policies.

SCIENCE AND ASSESSMENT

There will always be an element of uncertainty to adaptation planning and decision making. The intrinsic variability in the climate and in the human, social, economic, and environmental systems impose this to a certain degree, as does the situation that the knowledge in possession is imperfect.

Guide Questions:

- How does this knowledge feed and inform planning? How does one plan with imperfect information or issues of uncertainty?
- Is the knowledge we have (through all the resolutions and assessments) the right kind of knowledge that is needed on the ground? How do we extrapolate using national data to guide the work in communities and cities, where adaptation interventions need to happen?

Target Speakers:

- Potsdam Institute
- Think tanks
- Research Institutions
- WMO / IPCC
- Adaptation Learning Exchange(s) – (ALE – Community to Community Sharing)

Audience (Who will Benefit?):

- Policy-makers
- Local government leaders / Community-based organizations

TECHNOLOGIES AND PRACTICES

New and innovative climate-smart technologies, big data applications, and social and integrated media for awareness and outreach, unlikely partnerships and collaboration, to create effective cross learning and knowledge sharing opportunities, and actual collaboration opportunities.

Guide questions:

- What are the barriers to implementing these practices? To scaling up?
- What made these successful? How long did it take from pilot to actual implementation?
- What is needed to promote these successful practices?
- How can you effectively communicate how things work so that new practitioners can leapfrog early starting up issues?
- How do you determine cross-cutting challenges when moving to scale?

Target Speakers:

- Technology providers
- Social entrepreneurs and SMEs
- Google
- Local governments
- Industry
- Mid-level institutions with a mandate to train
- University-Local Government Projects (EPIC - Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities, or Bangladesh University Programmes)

Audience (Who will Benefit?):

- Policy-makers
- Agriculture, Industry, Energy, Forestry sectors
- Cities and communities (coastal, peri urban and urban, rural ...)
- Youth
- Educators, Academic and Vocational Institution Leaders
- SMEs and Entrepreneurs

FINANCE

The means to connect finance and investments to projects that build national, local, and community climate resilience and support socio-economic national development, are real and urgent gaps. However, they also present huge opportunities for governments, civil society, and even business. Actions to improve adaptive capacities also help achieve the SDG co-benefits - improved health, reduced hunger and better food security, women's empowerment, and access to clean water and air, among others.

Guide Questions

- Why is it difficult to access available finance?
- How do you successfully apply for GCF funding?
- How can blended finance / green / impact investing help derisk climate projects? A new, realistic metric for investments with social ROIs?

Target Speakers:

- Sovereign and national climate finance facilities
- Insurance Companies (Swiss RE, Munich RE)
- ING, Aviva – the Sustainable Finance Platforms
- Grameen Bank
- UN Finance Initiative
- Retirement funds and pension fund managers
- MDBs / Green Climate Fund
- Green Bond Issuers

Audience (Who will Benefit?):

- Policy makers (Trade and Investment, Finance)
- Project developers
- Entrepreneurs
- SMEs
- Local government units
- Communities

PRIVATE SECTOR AND BUSINESS

The private sector is increasingly recognized as having important potential to help society adapt and become more resilient to climate change. The challenge, however, is how best to collaborate and engage the private sector and philanthropic organizations not only on the funding sources, but as experts and partners in the development and diffusion of technology, livelihood development, and resource management.

Guide Questions:

- How can private sector participation in adaptation be promoted and facilitated? Are the opportunities clear? What information do you need to make better decisions?
- What policies and environment will stimulate and incentivize your organization to invest in adaptation technologies?
- Is it possible to make profit, protect assets and prevent loss of capital through adaptation measures?

Target Speakers:

- Project developers who are early movers in the space
- Entrepreneurs
- SMEs

Audience (Who will Benefit?):

- Policy makers (Trade and Investment, Finance)
- Think tanks
- Social and impact investors
- Local government units
- Industry
- Young entrepreneurs and millennial leaders

HOW IT ALL COMES TOGETHER

