

# ACTIVITY BRIEF

## Building Resilience in River Management: Translating Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction into Policy and Action

19–21 November 2014 | Marikina City, Philippines

### BACKGROUND

For a holistic approach to resilience building, it is important to integrate climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) because it would encompass a wider range of present and future risks. Several tools, methodologies, and approaches have been developed which are targeted at mainstreaming CCA and DRR but the need for increased awareness and capacity in managing climate and disaster risks across sectors and at various levels of governments in Southeast Asia still remain.

In the context of river management, rivers are susceptible to both natural and human-induced impacts. At the same time, rivers can pose several challenges and can be very destructive if not managed properly. In order to reduce risks to human health, food security, environmental services, as well as social and economic development, there is a need to manage disaster risks and hazards in river systems.

As a continuation of capacity building efforts in addressing needs in Southeast Asia, ICLEI Southeast Asia Secretariat (ICLEI SEAS), a sub-regional node of the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network, organised a training workshop titled, “Resilience Building in River Management: Translating CCA-DRR into Policy and Action” which was organised at the margins of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International River Summit: Reviving Rivers, Rebuilding Civilization hosted by the City of Marikina, Philippines in partnership with the Rotary Club of Marikina, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the League of Cities of the Philippines.

The workshop was aimed at building capacity on integrating climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (CCA-DRR) into policies, programs, and projects in the context of river management. The event was attended by around 40 participants from nine countries, mostly from Southeast Asia, including some local executives, local government employees, civil society organisations, as well as representatives from climate change offices and other relevant national agencies.

Resource speakers provided rich information about the linkages between CCA and DRR, CCA-DRR initiatives in the Southeast Asia and the application of these concepts in river management through case studies from the Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia. Participants were also guided into a practical and step-by-step guide on mainstreaming CCA-DRR into development and land use planning.



Transport ship sailing along the Pasig River in Manila, Philippines

### WORKSHOP PARTNERS



## ABOUT APAN

APAN is a 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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## OBJECTIVE

The training workshop aimed to:

- Improve awareness on CCA and DRR and the importance of integrating the two;
- Enhance knowledge on different approaches and key issues in resilience building in the context of river management in Southeast Asia;
- Facilitate sharing of practices and experiences among practitioners and country representatives about integrating CCA-DRR in river management, highlighting both the successes and challenges experienced; and
- Familiarise countries with a process of translating CCA-DRR into policy and action and provide hands-on training on mainstreaming CCA-DRR into policies and plans.

## OUTCOMES

At the end of the workshop, participants have:

- Gained a better understanding of the importance of resilience building beyond the river context;
- Become better equipped to respond to the challenges related to resilience building in river management;
- Improved skills in mainstreaming CCA-DRR into governance and natural resource management; and
- Facilitated sharing of learnings to their respective offices and organisations for possible consideration and action.

## CONCLUSION

- Key points that surfaced in the discussions include the importance of evidence-based decision-making, adopting a multi-stakeholder engagement process to legitimise actions, and recognition that resilience building needs a holistic approach.
- Several CCA-DRR initiatives exist in Southeast Asia, but most are DRR in nature.
- There is a need to strengthen the link between resilience building and poverty alleviation to address notions on competing development priorities.
- Although there is a general consensus that integrating CCA-DRR is important, fragmented institutional arrangements, lack of technical capacity and available climate information, and limited resources to implement CCA-DRR initiatives continue to pose as challenges in the region.

For more information, visit: <http://www.asiapacificadapt.net/events/apan-iclei-regional-training-workshop-resilience-building-river-basin-management>