

# e-communiqué

Issue 60  
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Welcome to the platform that gives you up-to-date information on climate change adaptation activities happening in the region. This monthly newsletter is brought to you by APAN – a leading climate change adaptation network working across the Asia-Pacific region. Through this E-Communique and other activities, APAN is mobilising knowledge and building capacities for climate resilience.

We are happy to spotlight your climate change adaptation activities, announcements, events and new initiatives. To be featured in our newsletter, all you have to do is send a brief write-up and a web link to [info@asiapacificadapt.net](mailto:info@asiapacificadapt.net).

## APAN CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

### SEARCA, KU, and Partners Finalise New MS Program



A total of 33 representatives from 16 partner organisations convened at a workshop held at Kasetsart University (KU) in Bangkok, Thailand on February 2017 to finalise the training tracks and develop a quality plan for the Master of Science in Food Security and Climate Change (MS FSCC). The project is an initiative of the Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (<http://uc.searca.org>) led by KU and

SEARCA with Dr. Poonpipope Kasemsap of KU serving as the MS FSCC project leader.

Graduates of the MS FSCC will receive two degrees from two universities. The students will be spending at least a month in a second university and take a summer course possibly in a third university.

The Call for Applications for the MS FSCC opened at the start of March.

For more information, visit: <http://searcha.org/index.php/news-and-events/searcha-news/2740-searcha-ku-and-partners-finalize-new-ms-program>

## UPCOMING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION EVENTS

### Call for applications: Training Programme on Economics of Climate Change Adaptation

**Organizers:** the United Nations Development Programme and the United States Agency for International Development Adapt Asia-Pacific Project in cooperation with the Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific, Asian Institute of Technology, under the Climate Change Asia Initiative.

**Dates:** 21 August to 1 September 2017

**Venue:** United Nations Convention Center, Bangkok, Thailand

**Objective:** The training programme aims to equip government officials and other stakeholders in the Asia and the Pacific region with economic tools necessary to identify, prioritize, design and implement climate-resilient projects and policies, formulate national adaptation plans and access climate finance for adaptation action.

**Content:**

- Introduction to key economic principles and review of impacts of climate change in Asia and the Pacific
- Assessment of economic impacts of climate change, cost-benefit analysis of investment projects and climate-proofing options
- Proposal development

**Target audience:** (1) policy and technical staff from line ministries and national agencies who are involved in national adaptation planning process, development of project proposals on climate change adaptation and mainstreaming climate change adaptation issues into national strategies and plans; and (2) experts in the field of economics or statistics from governmental, non-governmental and academic institutions who are involved in economic analysis of climate change adaptation actions and climate-resilient investments.

**The training programme is limited to 25 participants as follows:**

- Ten participants from target countries of the UNDP “Economics of Climate Change Adaptation” capacity building programme, namely Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam, will receive full scholarships covering travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses.
- Five participants from Thailand and 10 participants from other countries of Asia and the Pacific can attend on a self-funded basis.

Further details on the application process are available at [www.rrcap.ait.asia/ecca](http://www.rrcap.ait.asia/ecca)

**The deadline for applications is 31 May 2017.**

For more information, please contact: [ecca@rrcap.ait.asia](mailto:ecca@rrcap.ait.asia)

### Disaster Preparedness Forum

**28 March 2017 | CSR Asia, Bangkok, Thailand**

Now in its fourth year, the theme for the 2017 Disaster Preparedness Forum will focus on building resilient homes and schools for Asia’s most vulnerable communities. Bringing together business, government and civil society leaders, the Forum will focus on the need for more strategic collaboration and greater investment for safer buildings. Join over 100 executives and experts and hear from Arup, AECOM, Build Change, Covestro, the International Finance Corporation, UN Habitat and many more.

For more information, visit <http://www.csr-asia.com/dpforum2017/index.html>

See the full speakers’ list and register here [http://www.csr-asia.com/dpforum2017/presentation\\_slides.html](http://www.csr-asia.com/dpforum2017/presentation_slides.html)

## CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION NEWS

### Changing the paradigm of low-income housing and post-disaster reconstruction – the example of Base

February 22, 2017, by Helen Roeth | CSR Asia Weekly



Asia and the Pacific is the most disaster-prone region in the world. Yet, about 30 percent of the 570 million people making-up the region's urban population live in inadequate, unsafe

housing. The region is therefore well-poised to benefit from Sustainable Development Goal 11 - which calls for improved access to adequate, safe and affordable housing for all by 2030. It also calls for financial and technical assistance for least developed countries in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilising local materials.

Base was set-up in 2012 with the aim to develop and bring affordable, sustainable and resilient housing concepts to the market for all income groups, and particularly for the urban poor in Asia and the Pacific. The organisation is a spin-off from a partnership between Hilti Foundation and UNESCAP that leverage Hilti Group's extensive technical and business expertise in the construction and building sector to research and develop scalable solutions to meet this tremendous housing need. While the organisation is funded by the Hilti Group, the aim is for Base to grow into a financially independent entity.

In an interview with CSR Asia, Base's Managing Director Corinna Salzer spoke about how the organisation is transforming the housing sector in Asia, starting with the Philippines.

For more information on Base, visit <http://www.base-builds.com/>

Communities in Asia face multi-dimensional threats: poverty, tenure insecurity, and natural hazards. The construction sector is one of the most carbon emitting industries, further exacerbating the climate change risks faced by these communities. Consequently, housing solutions for low-income communities need to address these complex threats and work on many fronts to tackle the region's housing needs.

The need to rebuild quickly after a disaster and to meet the needs of a tremendous number of people affected often undermines the ability of interventions to bring about long-term change and address the root causes of vulnerability. To tackle all dimensions of vulnerability, low-income and post-disaster housing need to be designed and built in ways that consider technology, community, economy, environment, and governance issues. In the Philippines, Base's programmes drive:

- **Environmentally-sound technology:** Base invested in research to drive innovation in building design and construction practices, with a focus on the value chain and ensuring the use of locally sourced, sustainably grown and processed raw materials. In the Philippines, bamboo was identified as a building material that could drive the successful scale-up of much needed housing solutions.
- **Local community involvement:** To ensure community acceptance, build local capacity, and support livelihood opportunities, Base involves communities, including urban slum dwellers, in the design and building process.
- **Advocacy for higher minimum standards for social housing:** Low-income housing is often exempted from local building regulations. Base has engineered a new housing system that complies with the national building code of the Philippines and advocates for the inclusion of the system into the code.

**Housing solutions engineered to meet community needs using sustainable, locally sourced raw materials**

Conventional building technologies often do not address the economic and social requirements of the urban poor. To address this, Base focused the first two years after its founding on research and testing alternative building material to identify scalable building concepts. In the Philippines, bamboo was identified as a suitable locally available and affordable raw material. Using structural bamboo, Base developed a housing concept that stood out due to its cost-efficiency, disaster resistance, environmental performance, user comfortability, and the potential to support local skills building. Bamboo is a rapidly renewable and durable building material that can be harvested in just three years, ten times faster than traditional timber. Due to its abundance in the Philippines, it has a long tradition of utilisation in rural housing construction. However, access to bamboo of the quality needed for safe building construction is limited. Base thus aims to support inclusive value chains for bamboo-based construction across the Philippines.

Base has merged traditional bamboo-based construction practices with modern technology and design to develop a state of the art housing concept that can withstand winds of up to 240 km/hour. The pre-fabricated, modular housing system enables scalable, low-cost, high-performing housing construction in both rural and urban settings. By the end of 2017, Base aims to build 500 houses in ten provinces across the Philippines.

**Housing to empower local communities and economies**

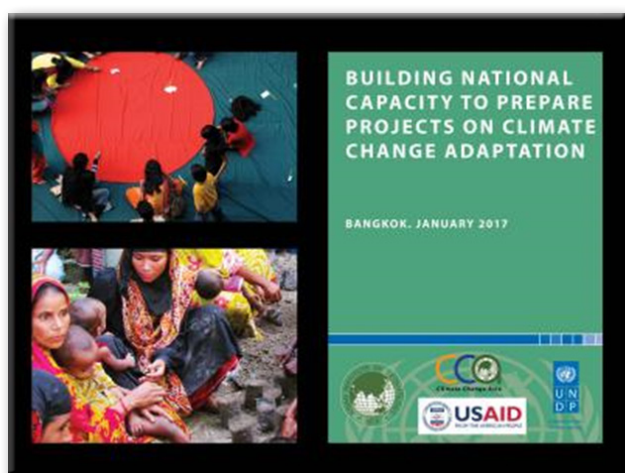
To ensure long-term sustainability and scalability, Base aims to provide a market-based housing solution by establishing local bamboo value chains. It acts as an incubator for start-ups that provide employment in bamboo farming, processing, and prefabrication and works with local partner organisations for housing construction. The start-ups produce strength graded bamboo of structural quality and manufacture quality-controlled, modular house components to meet increasing market needs. To date, 200 farmers and workers have been trained and employed in these start-ups.

“Our experience shows that engineered bamboo-based structures are not only accepted by low-income groups, but can provide an important entry point for overall social uplift and empowerment through a participatory process. When their needs are addressed in partnership with stakeholders from the government, international organisations, engineers, architects, urban planners, NGOs, social enterprises and others, the application of cost-efficient bamboo structures can provide a superior value proposition and has significant potential to reach scale.” Corinna Salzer, Managing Director, Base Builds PTE LTD.

For more information, visit <http://www.csr-asia.com/csr-asia-weekly-news-detail.php?id=12659>

## Building National Capacity to Prepare Projects on Climate Change Adaptation: Training Seminar on Developing Skills to Build Bankable Climate Change Adaptation Projects

January 16-20, 2017, Bangkok | UNDP Climate Change Adaptation Bulletin | Issue No. 24



### Overview and Objectives of Training

This workshop focused on developing skills among project proponents that are essential for engaging in or supervising the preparation of a bankable climate change adaptation projects. Skills developed during the workshop will allow participants to effectively address the most important adaptation needs while attending to the goals and requirements of specific financiers. These skills include:

- Prioritising adaptation needs according to environmental and socio-economic criteria
- Identifying financing sources and their requirements
- Understanding and complying with fiduciary requirements of financiers (e.g. procurement, financial management, economic and financial analysis, financial and operational sustainability, risk assessment and risk management)

### Outcomes

The workshop provided basic tools to help participants develop a “roadmap” to move from project concept to project design. Some of these initial documents can be further developed into full-fledged proposals to access suitable financing sources, including domestic and international options.

During the five-day conference, participants were able to leverage the experience and expertise of the UNDP and the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific project to develop a clear plan that outlines the steps, responsibility, and timeline for completing the project design document as well identifying where additional necessary support can be mobilised. At the same time, the workshop will familiarise participants with the basic concepts associated with blended finance and public-private partnerships to strengthen scaling-up and sustainability of the proposed concepts. Skills developed in this course will enable participants to eventually develop proposals for larger funds, including the *Adaptation Fund* and the *Green Climate Fund*.

### Partners

*Asian Institute of Technology, Climate Change Asia, UNDP Climate Change Adaptation and USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific*

For more information, visit <http://adaptation-undp.org/managing-project-preparation-climate-change-adaptation>

## Building Capacity to Advance National Adaptation Plan in Viet Nam: Training workshop on Introduction of Integrating Agriculture into National Adaptation Plans in Viet Nam

1-2 December 2016, Hanoi, Viet Nam

UNDP Climate Change Adaptation Bulletin | Issue No. 24



As one of the countries most adversely affected by climate change, the issue figures prominently in all key *national development strategies and plans* in Viet Nam. Just six months after Viet Nam ratified the Paris Agreement, the Prime Minister approved an ambitious and comprehensive Plan for Implementation of the Paris Agreement in October 2016, which included as a priority developing a NAP.

The *cost of adapting to climate change* is estimated to be 3% to 5% of GDP by the year 2030. However, with competing demand for resources, it is critically important that various climate adaptation actions are prioritised and mainstreamed into all relevant development and budget plans with a results-based monitoring and evaluation system to ensure achievement of sustainable outcomes.

Using exercises and case studies to enhance interactive learning, this two-day workshop built

the knowledge and capacities of stakeholders at national and local levels to undertake adaptation planning in the agricultural sector. Over 80 participants representing the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development from three provinces (Quang Binh, Binh Dinh, Ninh Thuan and Binh Thuan); the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE), and the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) took part, as well as representative of civil society and agricultural research institutes. In supporting the Government to prepare its National Adaptation Plan (NAP), UNDP's climate planning and finance experts led the training, supported by *GIZ*, *SNV* and *FAO*. The workshop facilitated a discussion on multi-stakeholder collaboration through a better understanding of the elements of the NAP process, and presented lessons and tools to address topics such as: stock-taking and prioritising adaptation options, understanding how climate change will affect society and agricultural livelihoods, how to undertake cost-benefit analysis integrating climate risk, how to integrate climate adaptation programmes into budgeting and financing plans, and how to take into account climate risk and disaster risk in local and provincial level development plans.

### Key Results

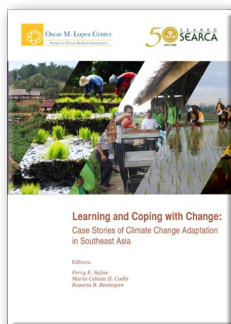
- Significant gains in participants' level of understanding on various aspects of adaptation planning
- Workshop-related materials and discussion to guide a NAP road map that integrates concerns of sector.
- Increased understanding of monitoring and evaluation of climate adaptation processes.

For more information, visit <http://adaptation-undp.org/building-capacity-advance-national-adaptation-plan-viet-nam>

## CCA INFORMATION RESOURCES AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

### Learning and Coping with Change: Case Stories of Climate Change Adaptation in Southeast Asia

by Percy E. Sajise, Maria Celeste H. Cadiz,  
and Rosario B. Bantayan



This book is intended to enrich knowledge and enhance awareness among various stakeholders and policy and decision makers that adaptation efforts not only address the challenges brought by climate change, but the implementation of these CCA initiatives also

fulfills goals that greatly benefit society, such as sustainable agricultural and rural development, disaster risk reduction, and improvements in quality of life. Although there is no “one-size-fits-all” adaptation, there are similarities in approaches, methodologies, and processes involved in identifying and implementing CCA goals and strategies as narrated in the 13 case stories featured in this book.

This book is available for download for free.

For more information, visit: <http://searca.org/index.php/knowledge-resources/1603-pre-download?pid=331>

### Green Climate Fund Approves First Fast-track National Adaptation Plans Grants for Liberia and Nepal

UNDP Climate Change Adaptation Bulletin |  
Issue No. 23

The LDCF grant USD\$7 million was issued by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) on May 27, 2016, to expand ongoing support to Least Developed Countries with Country-driven processes to advance National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

Under the fast-track procedure, Liberia will receive US\$2.2 million with UNDP acting as the delivery partner to support the National Adaptation Plans process, whilst Nepal will receive a grant of US\$2.9 million via UN Environment.

For more information, visit <http://adaptation-undp.org/ldcf-grant-usd7-million-expand-support-naps>

### Integrated Flood Management to Enhance Climate Resilience of the Vaisigano River Catchment in Samoa

UNDP Climate Change Adaptation Bulletin |  
Issue No. 23

The GCF-funded Integrated Flood Management to Enhance Climate Resilience of the Vaisigano River Catchment in Samoa project will enable the Government of Samoa to reduce the impact of recurrent flood-related impacts in the Vaisigano river catchment. The primary direct beneficiaries of the US\$65.7 million project include approximately 26,528 people in the Vaisigano river catchment who will benefit from upgraded infrastructure and drainage downstream, integrated planning and capacity strengthening, including planning for flooding caused by extreme weather events, and flood mitigation measures especially riverworks and ecosystems solutions in the Vaisigano River Catchment. Overall, 37,000 people will also benefit indirectly from project interventions.

For more information, visit <http://adaptation-undp.org/projects/gcf-samoa>

### Scaling-up of Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) risk reduction in Northern Pakistan

UNDP Climate Change Adaptation Bulletin |  
Issue No. 23

Over 7 million people are threatened by outburst flooding events in Pakistan. The US\$37 million GCF-funded Scaling-Up of Glacial Lake Outburst Flood Risk Reduction in Northern Pakistan project will strengthen early warning systems, build new engineering structures such as dams, and support capacity building and improved disaster management policies to reduce risks for people affected by melting glaciers in Northern Pakistan.

For more information, visit <http://adaptation-undp.org/projects/%E2%80%A8scaling-glacial-lake-outburst-flood-glof-risk-reduction-northern-pakistan>

## Photo Essay: Climate-Smart Water: Restoring an ancient hydraulic system to improve water access and climate-resilience in Sri Lanka

Story by Marta Baraibar, Andrea Egan and Tharuka Dissanaiké

January 9, 2017 | UNDP Climate Change Adaptation Bulletin | Issue No. 24



Photo: Marta Baraibar and UNDP Sri Lanka

Over 2,000 years ago, Sri Lanka, a tiny country near the southern tip of India, flourished into one of the finest hydraulic civilizations of the world. This country, at the core of the south east monsoon, has 80 percent of its territory covered by a dry zone prone to water scarcity. Its ancient kings built a sophisticated network of small tanks connected by canals to large reservoirs to collect and redistribute water, replenish soils, and balance the needs of the entire ecosystem.

Sri Lanka's 30-year long armed conflict has had significant impacts on the population. Most aspects of life have suffered: people have been displaced, institutions disintegrated, and essential communal and public infrastructure damaged.

But out of the destruction comes new opportunities.

After the war ended in June 2009, the Government of Sri Lanka made a concerted effort to recover from the long years of conflict and restore essential services in all parts of the country.

However, the negative impacts of climate change, like droughts and flash floods, are making it more challenging for communities to recover their livelihoods despite the post-conflict investments by the government.

In order to enhance climate-resilience, and with funding from the Global Environment Facility's Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), a project, *"Strengthening the resilience of post-conflict recovery and development to climate change risks in Sri Lanka,"* is introducing climate-smart policies and actions.

UNDP is working to ensure that in the post-conflict landscape, opportunities to rebuild better and stronger and smarter are being harnessed. These efforts include reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes in the Northern Province and Eastern Province.

Working with the Ministry of Disaster Management, UNDP is supporting the rehabilitation of 34 ancient water tanks - reintroducing ancient features of the water tanks that were forgotten over the centuries and upgrading and adapting them to new climatic conditions.

Today, climate change is exposing Sri Lanka to higher temperatures, heavier and more irregular rains, and longer droughts.

As a result many farmers are accumulating debts.

However, for Ganga, a young mother with three children, who lives next to the Kallanciya water tank, the rehabilitation of the tanks provides her family a place to bathe, to have a surplus of crops, water in the wells, and nourish their garden (which has over 50 types of fruits, vegetables and herbs).

Balancing the needs of the people living in these areas, and the needs of the entire ecosystem, the project is working to revive the ecological balance that had been achieved in ancient times and ensure climate resilience well into the future.

For more information, visit <https://undp-adaptation.exposure.co/climatesmart-water>

## APAN PARTNERS





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