

# e-communicqué

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## SPECIAL ISSUE ON THE CLIMATE CHANGE ASIA INITIATIVE

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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-Communiqué and other activities, APAN is mobilizing 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).

## WHAT IS THE CLIMATE CHANGE ASIA INITIATIVE?



### Climate Change Asia

311 is the number of government officials in Asia and the Pacific that have been trained under the recently established Climate Change Asia (CCA) initiative.

Operating as the secretariat of CCA, the Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT RRC.AP) collaborates with like-minded partners such as the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to assist stakeholders in the region in accessing key international sources of climate finance, such as the Green Climate Fund.

Through a hands-on capacity building approach, AIT RRC.AP has been building skills in preparing effective and bankable project proposals on climate change adaptation and mitigation. So far, 28 countries in Asia and the Pacific have benefited from the innovative methodologies used, including tailored one-on-one mentoring and follow-up support, to develop their project proposals. With an average of 400 applications per intake, the selection to participate in

one of CCA's training programmes is becoming increasingly competitive!

Ideas like the online forum and "evening clinic", whereby experienced senior advisors are available extra hours to answer questions and provide additional support in preparing project proposals, have been very well received by participants. This further illustrates how motivated countries in the region are to mobilize resources and implement sound solutions in the face of the increasing threats of climate change.

## RECENT ACTIVITIES UNDER THE CLIMATE CHANGE ASIA INITIATIVE

### Training Programme on Developing Project Proposals for Climate Change

#### Government officials from Pakistan gear up to access the Green Climate Fund

7-11 August 2017 | Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand



A diverse delegation of 17 government officials from Pakistan came to the Asian Institute of Technology for five days of intensive practical learning on the operational processes and policies of the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

The training programme focused on the result areas, results management framework, investment framework, and risk analysis of the GCF and the development of a roadmap for completing GCF concept notes and subsequent funding proposals.

**“I learned a lot on how to develop project proposals and concept notes”**

**– Mr. Khadim Hussain,  
Environmental Protection  
Agency, Pakistan**





**“Attending the workshop was very enlightening and I am going back [to Pakistan] with many clear concepts and ideas to share and replicate in other sectors”**

**– Mr. Raazia Shakir, Ministry of Industries and Production, Pakistan**

By the end of the training programme, four initial project ideas were developed relating to integrated watershed management; creation of an enabling environment for climate smart agriculture; combatting deforestation through natural resource management; and the environmental examination of biogasification of cattle waste.

The training programme was co-organized by the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) and the Asian Institute of Technology in response to the request from the Ministry of Climate Change of Pakistan, which is the CTCN National Designated Entity and the GCF National Designated Authority of Pakistan.

For more information, visit <https://aitctctraining.wixsite.com/pakistan>

## Training Programme on Economics of Climate Change Adaptation

21 August - 1 September 2017 | Asian  
Institute of Technology, Thailand



The first run of the joint UNDP-USAID-AIT Training Programme on Economics of *Climate Change Adaptation (ECCA)* that took place between 21 August and 1 September 2017 at AIT was a great success, with overall high satisfaction levels among participants.

The 25 participants - selected out of 300 applications - representing 13 countries in Asia, worked hard during the two weeks of training. Participants learned about climate change impacts on economic sectors, especially in agriculture, and how to conduct and review cost-benefit analysis of adaptation projects, whilst also working on their project proposals.

Besides daily training sessions, participants were also offered a dedicated online forum and evening “clinic” time, where they received support from senior experts in further developing their proposals. This innovative feature of the training gathered great acceptance from participants as the comment on the ECCA online forum demonstrates.

“The training in a way motivated me to learn more and more (...). My previous knowledge of economic analysis was completely wrong, and it has changed. Now I can understand a bit of the language, and I will improve it and apply it when reviewing CBA, decision making and prioritizing adaptation options”

– Testimonial of ECCA  
Participant

## Thanks Doctor King !!

On behalf of all the participants of ECCA 2017, I want to thank our beloved Dr. King for taking so much time out and putting up posts and his thoughts on relevant topics in the last two weeks.

I haven't been able to participate actively, but I have saved all the links, I will definitely come back to you Doctor with queries.

Thanks much

( from ECCA online forum )



### **AIT assumes ownership of the acclaimed Training Programme on Managing Project Preparation for Climate Change Adaptation by USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific**

**4-5 September 2017 | Eastin Grand Hotel Sathorn, Bangkok, Thailand**

Problem and objectives tree, logical framework, adaptation vs. development, and safeguards are just some of the key concepts taught in the acclaimed Training Programme on Managing Project Preparation for Climate Change Adaptation developed by the USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific project. As the six-year USAID project concluded in September 2017, the Asian Institute of Technology now assumes the ownership for the delivery of the Training Programme under the umbrella of the Climate Change Asia Initiative.

To jumpstart the transition of ownership, 13 members of the AIT community gathered for a two-day professional development workshop to learn how best to deliver this training programme. The workshop focused on the pedagogical techniques, key concepts of the training programme, and approaches to the continuous improvement of the learning materials. The workshop was greatly appreciated by the prospective trainers.

The ECCA team will now follow-up on the 12 draft proposals prepared and their potential finalization. The second run of the ECCA programme will take place in March 2018 and the call for applications will open in October.

For more information, visit <https://www.ecca.rrcap.ait.asia/>

The first group of prospective trainers represent a diverse set of faculty and staff from six units of AIT namely AIT Extension, the Asian Center of Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture Intensification, Office of the Vice President for Development, Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific, School of Engineering and Technology, and the School of Environment, Resources and Development. It is also an opportune time for AIT to bolster its expertise as the Climate Change Asia Secretariat was invited by the Adaptation Fund Secretariat to join their Network of Providers of Readiness Support for Adaptation in August 2017.

For more information, visit <https://aitrrcap.wixsite.com/projpreptot>

**“The [Asian Institute of Technology] is taking some positive steps to become a regional resource center and hub for capacity building activities for building resilience and improving adaptive capacity to climate change.”**

**– Dr. Keith Bettinger,**  
**former Team Leader for Capacity Building of USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific**



**“I find the training remarkably useful . . . as we know financing and technology are the two key barriers for developing countries to achieve SDGs and tackle climate change. Gaining more knowledge on financing climate change, in this regard, is extremely important . . .**

**Green Climate Fund, as one of the new financing mechanisms functions as a critical tool to support developing countries to tackle climate change. The training workshop for practitioners from developing countries is not only useful as a knowledge sharing and theoretical learning platform, more importantly, it also helps these practitioners develop the practical skills to gain access to the Green Climate Fund.**

**. . . I highly recommend the training to any professional in the field of international development and climate financing.”**

**– Ms. Qing Xia,**  
**Office of the Vice President for Development, AIT**





## The Training Programme on Managing Project Preparation for Climate Change Adaptation

11 – 15 September 2017 |  
Bangkok, Thailand



Twenty-two representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations from 15 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, together with representatives of various United Nations agencies attended the Training Programme on Managing Project Preparation for Climate Change Adaptation to enhance their skills in effective planning and coordination of the climate change adaptation project preparation process. This training was offered under the umbrella of the Climate Change Asia (CCA) initiative and was jointly organised by the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on 11-15 September 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Mr. Surendra Shrestha, Vice President for Development of the AIT, in his welcoming speech directed everyone's attention to the importance of *"taking collective action in order to accelerate climate action"* and emphasised the necessity *"to engage both the private and the public sectors in adaptation efforts"*.

Mr. Gordon Johnson, Resilience and Sustainability Leader of the UNDP, in his keynote speech said that *"climate change is here to stay"* and emphasized the importance of *"improving government and civil society capacities to access existing sources of environmental finance, and better mobilising resources from the private sector"* stressing that *"resources must be leveraged to strengthen climate action"*.

At the event the participants mastered in practice their newly acquired skills during the group exercises and developed elements of adaptation project proposals, to be finalised when they are back in their respective countries. One of the participants mentioned that *"the group work component of the training was one of my favourites. I learned so much from my peers not only during the group work, but also during the discussions and group presentations. The training team did a great job. I learned a lot at this event, and I believe that other participants also find the week very productive"*.







One of the critical aspects of the training programme was the provision of additional one-to-one mentoring/coaching services, so that the participants can gradually improve their project proposals with guidance and advice from climate finance experts. Participants from 11 countries, including China, Mongolia, India, Vietnam, Thailand, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nepal, Indonesia, Cook Islands, and Palau, benefitted from mentoring support. This innovative feature of the training was highly appreciated and accepted by participants.

The training programme was highly rated by participants as very practical and interactive, and generated high level of satisfaction among all participants and observers. “By far this is the most useful workshop I have been to. The sessions were very interactive, and the facilitators



were encouraging us to actively participate and built our confidence in sharing our thoughts on what we believe are the best practices in project management”.

A pre-, daily and post-training evaluation surveys were used to assess the progress in achieving training programme outcomes and changes in the trainees’ level of knowledge on the content topics. Results of the post-training evaluation confirmed that all outcomes of the training programme were successfully achieved and demonstrated a significant improvement in the participants’ knowledge level on training programme content.

AIT will follow up with participants to offer further mentoring and support.

For more information, visit <https://aitrrcap.wixsite.com/projprep>



**WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE CLIMATE CHANGE ASIA INITIATIVE****December 2017**

- Training Programme on Mainstreaming Gender Considerations into Climate Change Adaptation Projects, being jointly organized with Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management, United Nations Development Programme, UN Environment, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and the Ministry of the Environment of Japan
- Training Programme on Green Climate Fund Policies, Processes, and Procedures, being organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, Nepal, as part of the GCF Readiness Programme for Nepal
- Follow up Workshop to Support Renewable Energy Deployment through Developing Project Proposals to Access the Green Climate Fund in the Pacific, being organized in collaboration with the International Renewable Energy Agency, the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

**January 2018**

- Training Programme on Developing Project Proposals for the Green Climate Fund, being organized in collaboration with the Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center and the Ministry of the Environment of Japan

**March 2018**

- Training Programme on Economics of Climate Change Adaptation, being organized in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme

**April 2018**

- Training Programme on Developing Project Proposals for Climate Change Adaptation for the Green Climate Fund, being organized in collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment of Japan

# APAN PARTNERS







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