



COP26: Climate adaptation in the context of urban setting

EVENT DETAILS

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25 March 2021 | 3:00 - 5:00 PM
Hanoi time | Hanoi + Zoom

Moderator

- **Le Thi Ngoc Bich**, British Embassy Hanoi

Opening Remarks

- **Gareth Ward**, British Ambassador in Hanoi
- **Caitlin Wiesen**, Resident Representative, UNDP Viet Nam

Speakers and Panelists

- **Shantanu Mitra**, Senior Climate and Environmental Advisor, UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)
- **Alexander Nash**, Urban Development Specialist, ADB
- **Derek Murray**, Digital Advisory Leader, Asia, Mott MacDonald
- **Tran Thi Lan Anh**, Deputy Director of Urban Development Agency, Viet Nam Ministry of Construction
- **Nam Nguyen**, City Adviser, Hanoi, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group
- **Vu Thi Vinh**, Association of Cities of Viet Nam
- **Laura Hammett**, UNDP
- **Nanco Dolman**, Royal HaskoningDHV

Outcomes and way forward

- **Ken O'Flaherty**, COP26 Regional Ambassador for Asia-Pacific and South Asia
- **Sitara Syed**, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Viet Nam

ACCELERATING CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND URBAN RESILIENCE IN VIET NAM

The British Embassy Hanoi and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Vietnam held a dialogue on adaptation & urban resilience as part of events in the run-up to COP26 hosted by the UK in partnership with Italy.

Attended virtually or in-person by representatives from the Viet Nam government, research institutions, policy makers, and development partners, the dialogue was held to encourage knowledge sharing on the complex ways in which protecting nature, adapting to climate change, and building resilience are inextricably linked.

In his opening remarks, the British Ambassador in Hanoi emphasized that Viet Nam is among one of the countries most affected by climate change impacts.

Shantanu Mitra of UK FCDO stressed that resilience is multi-dimensional and a challenge to planners; that uncertainties are not an excuse for inaction, and; that we must therefore adapt at the same time and think of new approaches to growth.

“ In order to support urban resilience to climate change, Vietnam will develop urban system in accordance with characteristics of natural ecosystem and specific conditions of the region. This is our strategy to achieve green, smart, sustainable, and climate change responsive urban development.

– *Tran Thi Lan Anh, Deputy Director of Urban Development Agency, Vietnam Ministry of Construction*

The need for holistic and integrated approach to climate adaptation that should include risk-informed infrastructure planning and enhance multi-functionality of urban investments was articulated by Alexander Nash of ADB. His reflections were based on the implementation of [Secondary Green Cities Development Project](#) in Viet Nam which UCCRTF is co-financing.

The dialogue also revolved on ways forward for policy planning, budgeting and actions toward climate adaptation and urban resilience, including the national-level program on urban development response to climate change (2021-2030).

The COP26 Regional Ambassador for Asia-Pacific and South Asia praised Viet Nam in its efforts in disaster preparedness, tackling COVID-19, and ensuring economic growth which proves that the country is in a better position for a clean, green, and resilient recovery.

URBAN CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE LESSONS

- **Risks and impacts of climate change vary** across location, scales, and sectors. Vulnerability and risk assessment is necessary in order to appropriately plan and implement adaptation measures, and to prioritize resources.
- **Making cities resilient involves looking into all aspects of urban systems:** physical, ecological, social and institutional, and financial. There is a need to combine structural measures and investments in social capital, promote nature-based solutions, and maximize digital technologies.
- **Measures to build urban climate change resilience can only be driven and sustained through strong political commitment and actions,** increased community awareness and capacity, and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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This Event Snapshot is published under [TA 9217](#) Knowledge Management and Resilience Measurement for Urban Climate Change Resilience (UCCRTF Subproject 2)