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EVENT SNAPSHOT

URBAN CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE TRUST FUND
Asian Development Bank

ADB

HEALTHY OCEANS TECH AND FINANCE FORUM

Innovative Solutions for Asia and the Pacific | 26-28 January 2022

UCCRTF participates in the ADB Healthy Oceans Tech and Finance Forum

Session videos and Virtual Expo booths of the Forum can be accessed within six months at healthyoceans.adb.org.

Event Details

Healthy Oceans Tech and Finance Forum
Innovative Solutions for Asia and the Pacific
26-28 January 2022 | Virtual

UCCRTF-hosted Spotlight Session on Coastal Resilience

Moderator: Joy Amor Bailey, Urban Climate Change Resilience Specialist (Consultant), UCCRTF, ADB

Panelists:

- **Sebastien Boulay**, Director of Business Development / Physical Oceanographer, Sofar Ocean
- **Muhammad Ichsan**, Technical Program Manager, Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF)

Enhancing ocean health and coastal resilience in Asia and the Pacific

UCCRTF participated in the first ADB Healthy Oceans Tech and Finance Forum on 26–28 January 2022 which showcased innovation, technology, and financing solutions that help protect and enhance the health of ocean ecosystems and increase resilience in Asia and the Pacific.

Arranged by themes namely (i) Plastic-Free Oceans, (ii) Coastal Resilience, (iii) Ocean Finance, and (iv) Blue Foods, the forum featured more than 30 deep dive and spotlight sessions prepared in partnership with ADB operations departments, sector and thematic groups, and knowledge partners. The sessions focused on case studies, innovative solutions, and impactful interventions relevant to achieve ADB Strategy 2030.

The Forum also included a Virtual Expo which showcased 40 virtual booths featuring technology and finance solutions and an opportunity to chat with the organizations' representatives. Spatial Data Analysis Explorer (SPADE), an interactive geospatial platform developed by ADB UCCRTF in collaboration with the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, was one of the exhibitors under the 'cross-cutting' theme. SPADE can be used as a tool to communicate the state of ocean health by visualizing Earth observation-derived images on the platform. SPADE can also be used as a tool to validate the location of ocean health projects.

UCCRTF also hosted a virtual booth spotlight session on coastal resilience, which showcased two technologies that have been selected from the Virtual Expo. The 'Spotter' developed by Sofar Ocean, is a low-cost, solar-powered scientific-grade metocean buoy that can measure and calculate wind speed and direction, sea surface current and direction, and temperature, among others. Coral Triangle Atlas (developed by the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security), on the other hand, is an online GIS database providing governments, researchers, and civil society organizations with a view of spatial data at the regional scale to help improve the efficiency of marine management and conservation planning in the region.

The spotlight session highlighted the value of monitoring ocean health and communicating practical data to help inform scalable solutions for coastal resilience.

> *"We need to close the gap between science and local knowledge. Luckily, with growing communication networks, e.g., availability of smart phones and WIFI, dissemination of data is going to be easier. Close feedback loop with communities is needed."*
> **Sebastien Boulay, Sofar Ocean**

UCCRTF finances pilot projects for coastal resilience including the Dong Hoi Integrated Coastal Management, which aims to develop an integrated flood and coastal management plan to rehabilitate the damaged dune systems in Dong Hoi and is expected to benefit around 18,000 people in 3 vulnerable communities in the city.

Other projects include the Hoi An Flood Forecasting and Early Warning System, community-managed recovery and recycling facilities in Del Carmen, Siargao Island, Philippines under TA 9329, and Revitalization of Informal Settlements in Makassar, Indonesia (TA 9593).

Key takeaways

- Consequential and overlapping issues such as food security, climate change, and marine biodiversity should be at the forefront of setting national and regional targets for achieving coastal resilience.
- Fully functioning and effectively-managed technologies are important to collect scientific data for evidence-based climate change vulnerability assessments of the oceans.
- Such scientific metocean data and assessments have to be communicated effectively to support decision-makers and the general public to put in place effective and scalable adaptation measures for coastal communities and ecosystems.

> *"It is important to package scientific data into communicable information like posters, videos, and maps and present them in such a way that the general public can benefit."*
> **Muhammad Ichsan, CTI-CFF**

Further Information
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