



## ADB UCCRTF at The Rockefeller Foundation AsiaXchange 2023

**“Building climate resilience is not just about policy and institutions as it requires technical standards and cost-effective actions across sectors to deliver result outcomes.”**

Virinder Sharma, Senior Consultant and former Principal Urban Development Specialist, ADB

### Event Details

**The Rockefeller Foundation  
AsiaXchange 2023**  
4-6 October 2023  
New Delhi, India

### Forging partnerships and sharing resilience insights

ADB UCCRTF, represented by Virinder Sharma, Senior Consultant and former Principal Urban Development Specialist, ADB, played an active role at the recently concluded Rockefeller Foundation AsiaXChange event held in New Delhi. The event served as a platform to disseminate the Rockefeller Foundation’s groundbreaking ‘OneRF’ strategy, identify opportunities and explore avenues for collaboration for accelerating climate action in Asia. It was attended by over 150 participants from around the world, providing a platform to connect with potential partners and foster innovative ideas for collaboration.

Warren Evans, ADB’s Climates Envoy and Special Senior Advisor for Climate Change, delivered a keynote speech, emphasizing Asia’s pivotal role in sustainable development and encouraging philanthropic organizations to join hands with institutions like ADB to mobilize climate finance and support community resilience.

Marie Stella Tansengco-Schapero, ADB’s Senior Financing Partner Specialist, engaged with the Rockefeller Foundation to delve into the results of the UCCRTF partnership and explore prospects for collaboration in the Urban Resilience Trust Fund (URTF), the second phase of UCCRTF. Although Rockefeller Foundation’s primary focus now

encompasses climate change, health, and energy, this event served as a platform to pay tribute to their pioneering contributions to urban resilience dating back to 2013 which paved the way for their support in UCCRTF.

Virinder, during “Mission Moments” session on October 5th, presented a comprehensive overview of UCCRTF’s achievements and lessons learned. He underscored the critical role played by Rockefeller Foundation as a Financing Partner and advocated for the sustained partnership in the URTF. Representing UK FCDO, a valued Financing Partner of UCCRTF and URTF, Jaya Singh Verma made a dynamic contribution during the Climate and Health session on October 6th. Likewise, Asgar Qadri, Monitoring & Evaluation Adviser from UK FCDO, contributed significantly to the final M&E session on the same day.

ADB UCCRTF achievements and lessons learned were shared with Elizabeth Yee, Executive VP of the Rockefeller Foundation and with Sarah Hanck VP Strategic Learning and Impact. It was agreed that continuation of RF as Financing Partner/ Knowledge Partner in URTF will be followed up with Deepali Khanna, VP Asia Regional Office, and Eric Arndt, Director.

### Key takeaways

- **Multidimensional and cross-sectoral approach.** Embedding resilience for impact necessitates a multidimensional and cross-sectoral approach: (i) incorporating ideas from pre-design stages to shape project components; (ii) spanning various scales and sectors, and (iii) addressing the four resilience dimensions: physical, financial, natural, and social and institutional.
- **Linking grants to ADB projects.** Integrating UCCRTF grants with ADB projects has enabled the influence of resilience-building across different scales and sectors, addressing critical intersections (e.g., climate change and health, etc.)
- **Proof-of-concept and mainstreaming resilience into ADB and DMC (Developing Member Countries) policies.** UCCRTF support has tackled challenges often not prioritized by multilateral financial institutions such as establishing early warning systems, nature-based solutions, community-led approaches, microfinance, among others. Piloting innovative solutions facilitated buy-in and integration of resilience into ADB and country policies and climate goals.
- **Strengthening strategic partnerships.** The collaboration among ADB, Rockefeller Foundation, UK FCDO, and State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) is paramount, not just for leveraging capital, but also for identifying incentives, driving institutional change, and focusing on achieving outcomes and impacts rather than mere outputs.
- **Addressing technical and institutional challenges of DMCs.** DMC governments face various technical and institutional challenges to build climate resilience including lack of information on future climate and lack of robust methodologies for resilience measurement. Attention to these is vital for the effectiveness of resilience efforts and generating buy-in from DMCs and cities.
- **Translating policy into action.** UCCRTF emphasized the need for a comprehensive and practical understanding of the delivery of resilience solutions on the ground.

### UCCRTF Financing Partners



### Further information

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