

Enabling Resilience for All: The Critical Decade to Scale-up Action

8-12 March 2021

Source: 7th APAN Forum [website](#)

EVENT DETAILS

7th Asia Pacific Climate
Change Adaptation Forum

**Enabling Resilience for
All: The Critical Decade
to Scale-up Action**

8 – 12 March 2021 |
Hosted by the Ministry
of Environment of Japan
(MoEJ, together with the
APAN Secretariat at UNEP)

**March 12 Sessions
supported by UCCRTF**

**Climate finance
for catalyzing
transformative economic
development**

- Organized by ADB
- Speaker: **Roberto Leva**, Investment Specialist, Private Sector Operations Department (PSOD), ADB

**Partners not
Beneficiaries –
Empowering local
communities as climate
finance actors**

- Organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Speaker: **Joy Amor Bailey**, Urban Climate Change Resilience Specialist, ADB-UCCRTF

SCALING-UP FINANCE AND INVESTMENTS TOWARDS RESILIENCE

The [7th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum](#) is the flagship regional event of the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network, the largest gathering of climate change policymakers, experts, and adaptation practitioners in the region.

Under the theme Enabling Resilience for All: The Critical Decade to Scale-up Action, the 5-day forum was organized around the **five enabling conditions** through which resilience may be built on, maintained, and strengthened including: a) climate governance and policy; b) planning and processes; c) science and assessment; d) technologies and practices; e) finance and investments.

UCCRTF-supported projects were featured at two sessions focusing on finance and investment. The sessions provided deeper understanding on how finance and investment currently supports resilience building; where trade-offs may occur and how to minimize and avoid them; and how to scale up good examples and practices towards resilience.

Climate finance for catalyzing transformative economic development

Organized by ADB, this session featured presentations and bursts from various finance-related institutions including Philippines Department of Finance, UN Capital Development Fund, International Fund for Agricultural Development, Adaptation Fund and ADB. The discussion focused on the importance of increased finance for resilience; changes needed in financial systems to deliver resilience; and innovative financial instruments that can help scale up resilience.

Roberto Leva, Investment Specialist under PSOD and Project Officer of the UCCRTF-supported Trade and Supply Chain Finance Program (TSCFP) presented how TSCFP is helping in integration of climate considerations, gender equity, environmental and social safeguards in the TSCFP Partner Banks and their clients, including

small and medium enterprises (SMEs) who manage the trade supply chain of goods/ services. The presentation features the innovative work to be done by Halotrade & Global Bright Futures (dealing with India garment industry supply chain and labor issues) which will facilitate the inclusion of social controls in the program by promoting the implementation by factories of voice tools for employees to log employment concerns in exchange for favourable financing rates.

As international financial institutions are piloting Economic, Social and Governance (ESG) standards mainstreaming, ADB TSCFP is also supporting ESG controls via the implementation of ESMS (environmental and social control systems) in five pilot banks, and with the creation of new industry leading safeguards policies on subjects such as palm oil, child and forced labour and climate.

Partners not beneficiaries – Empowering local communities as climate finance actors

Led by UNDP, this session discussed how climate finance can be designed to meet local-level needs and how to shift the paradigm on the role of local communities in adaptation financing from beneficiaries to partners. Speakers from local organizations stressed that cumbersome processes and strict fiduciary requirements hamper communities' access to climate finance.

Joy Amor Bailey highlighted how ADB-UCCRTF is implementing locally led adaptation that can inspire ADB and Developing Member Countries (DMCs) to channel climate finance to communities. She stressed lessons from ADB-UCCRTF's experience including (i) working at different scales; (ii) the value of demonstration projects, proof of concept, and working with civil society organizations; (iii) Investing in capacities of local actors to be able to access climate finance and absorb it; and (iv) use of development finance for small-scale adaptation projects.

“ It is hard for local banks to bring themselves up to global standards without help; so we help them, and look at the risks, and identify gaps and opportunities for risks to be mitigated. We deepen awareness of Environmental and Social safeguards through knowledge products and activities. Our job is to ensure the message reaches all levels of supply chains, from global and local financiers down to the corporates and SMEs.”

– Roberto Leva, Investment Specialist, PSOD, ADB



UCCRTF-SUPPORTED PROJECTS

Community-Led Projects (CLPs) | [TA 9329](#)

Funded by ADB-UCCRTF, the goal of the project is to contribute to climate change resilience by empowering vulnerable communities through community-led initiatives. The project is implemented in 9 pilot communities in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Philippines, and Myanmar.

It is being implemented by Oxfam Great Britain with local partners Oxfam Pakistan, Oxfam Bangladesh, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, and Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement.

Capacity Building for Enhanced Safeguards, Anti-Corruption and Integrity Measures, Gender Equity Policies and Digitization of Trade Finance Program Banks | [TA 9669](#)

ADB's TSCFP empowers countries to meet Sustainable Development Goals by closing market gaps through guarantees, loans, and knowledge products. ADB-UCCRTF's support to TSCFP helps in the integration of climate, environmental, and social safeguards in the TSCFP Partner Banks and their clients, including SMEs.

A pilot project, through Halotrade & Global Bright Futures, will test a Financial Technology system to transform Supply Chain Finance into a driving force for better ESG standards. The project will connect with international fashion retailers and their garment suppliers producing in Delhi, India. The Halo system, receiving ESG data from a Worker Voice Tool, will offer preferential supply chain finance for conformance with ethical workplace standards.

URBAN CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE LESSONS

“ *There's a need to put emphasis into investing on people, not just physical assets. There's always a tendency to invest in big-ticket projects but we need more investments that ensure communities, especially the poor and vulnerable, really absorb climate finance – Joy Amor Bailey, Urban Climate Change Resilience Specialist, ADB-UCCRTF* ”

Shifting the paradigm – communities from beneficiaries to partners

- In addition to access to finance, communities and local actors **need to have the capacity to absorb finance and meet fiduciary requirements.**
- Climate finance project tenure **must be lengthened and be more flexible to meet communities' and local actors' needs**, with greater efforts to finance small-scale projects directly.
- Local communities must be **treated as leaders and partners rather than beneficiaries**, and national governments will play an active role in scaling of successes and lessons learned.

Climate finance for transformative economic development

- **Integrating ESG standards into the heart of daily business and supply chain operations** is important. This way, buyers and financiers can more effectively act on their responsibility to build resilient and sustainable supply networks for the benefit of all.
- There are certain gaps especially in the developing countries that must be addressed including **lack of access to proper technology and infrastructure** (e.g internet) **to facilitate better flow of financing.**
- We are seeing new financial models and instruments that are tailored to meet local climate adaptation needs, as well as enhance mitigation efforts with strong emphasis on reducing the vulnerability of urban and rural communities. **Scaling up and fostering innovation to find better business models to unlock investments** is an ongoing process requiring dialogues and knowledge sharing across all sectors.

UCCRTF FINANCING PARTNERS



FURTHER INFORMATION

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