

EVENT SNAPSHOT

Fostering Adaptation and Resilience for a Post COVID-19, 1.5 Degree Future



Women, among the most vulnerable sector, actively takes part in decision-making in their community | ADB Flickr

EVENT DETAILS

South Asia Regional Resilience Dialogue: Fostering Adaptation and Resilience for a Post COVID-19, 1.5 Degree Future

• 17 September 2010 | 3:00 – 5:00PM

REMARKS:

- **Nigel Topping**, UK COP26 High Level Champion
- **Ken O'Flaherty**, UK Regional Ambassador for Asia-Pacific and South Asia

MODERATORS:

- **Saleemul Huq**, International Centre for Climate Change and Development
- **Sanjay Vashist**, Climate Action Network South Asia

PANELISTS:

- **Prema Gopalan**, Swayam Shikshan Prayog
- **Lajana Manandhar**, Lumanti Support Group for Shelter
- **Ziaul Haque**, Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods
- **Sheela Patel**, Society for Promotion of Area Resource Centers
- **Golam Rabbani**, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies
- **Afsari Begum**, Practical Action Bangladesh
- **Manjeet Dhakal**, Climate Analytics
- **Virinder Sharma**, ADB

*This dialogue is one of six regional dialogues organised by the Global Resilience Partnership and Climate Resilience Network of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action with the support of the Chile and UK High Level Champions (Gonzalo Muñoz and Nigel Topping), and UNFCCC. The outcomes of all these dialogues will be used by the Champions to help advance action on resilience.

TRANSFORMATIONAL SOLUTIONS ADDRESSING ROOT CAUSES OF VULNERABILITY

South Asia is widely recognized as one of the major hotspots for climatic disasters. Between the years 1990 and 2019, climate-induced disasters in the South Asia region have affected more than 1.68 billion people and caused over US\$127 billion in damages.

Further, the emergence of the global COVID-19 pandemic has also caused massive challenges for South Asia including loss of livelihoods across formal and informal sectors, and mass reverse migration exerting further stress on the country's economic situation. The super-cyclone Amphan which hit a number of countries in May caused further damages affecting more than 9.6 million people.

While the impacts of these compounding shocks have highlighted the vulnerability of the region, it also shed light on the crucial role of locally-led actions in building resilience.

The dialogue, second of a series of regional dialogues*, and which was co-led by International

Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) and Huairou Commission, discussed how locally-led adaptation and resilience can be scaled up to bring transformative changes, and the financing needs and approaches required for achieving adaptation and resilience goals in the region.

One of the panellists is Dr. Virinder Sharma who leads the implementation of over 70 projects under Urban Climate Change Resilience Trust Fund (UCCRTF) administered by ADB. He emphasized the need to address conventional barriers on financing approaches for resilience actions on the ground, and to develop tailored solutions coupled with technical assistance and capacity services. UCCRTF contributes by providing targeted grants to incentivize private sector participation and community actions including support to ADB [microfinancing project](#); [trade and supply chain finance program](#); and [community-led projects](#) (covering 12 cities in 6 countries).

URBAN CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE LESSONS

- **Scaling up locally-led adaptation and resilience actions** requires providing grassroots sectors with better access to flexible and simple financing mechanisms; skills development and access to resources including entrepreneurial and digital. This should be tied-up with capacity development to access finance, organizational empowerment, and providing them with broader platforms to participate in decision-making at all levels.
- **Financing needs and approaches towards building resilience** must address conventional barriers including lack of resilience policy, planning and project development; lack required of catalytic finance; capital market frameworks that are restrictive to long-term private sector financing to local governments for infrastructure resilience; lack of targeted incentives for private sector returns; and PPP investments in resilience projects.
- **To ensure that financing reaches the most poor and vulnerable, implementation of structured and tailored solutions** coupled with capacity and technical skills development must be enhanced. Examples include de-risking of investments through provision of loss cover, longer tenure of the microloan to extend microfinancing for housing, and water and sanitation provisions; implementing sector-focused or area-focused community-led projects, as well as ensuring environmental/social safeguards, good labor and health policies, and climate change resilience are embedded in projects.

"Solutions for the poor must involve the poor...Locally-led adaptation is a slow process, but it's a better process."

– Sheela Patel, Slum Dwellers International

FURTHER INFORMATION

- **Virinder Sharma**, Senior Urban Development Specialist, ADB | Email: vsharma@adb.org
- [Live recording of the dialogue](#)

UCCRTF FINANCING PARTNERS

