

ACTIVITY BRIEF

Asia Pacific Youth Forum and Training Workshop 2014 Adaptation in the Mountains: Issues and Gaps beyond Boundaries

21–24 September 2014 | Kathmandu, Nepal

BACKGROUND

It is well accepted that adaptation is the key to mitigating and reducing climate change effects. Although the impacts of climate change continue to increase in mountain areas, there is a lack of knowledge and information about the various adaptation practices (incorporating both science and traditional knowledge) being implemented by societies, institutions, and individuals in the mountains. Accordingly, there is a need to identify the issues and gaps in relation to adaptation in the mountains in the Asia Pacific region and beyond.

Against this background, the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN), through its thematic node for mountains, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), and along with its Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN), organised the Asia Pacific Youth Forum and Training Workshop on 'Adaptation in the Mountains: Issues and Gaps beyond Boundaries' from 21–24 September 2014 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

OBJECTIVE

The main objectives of the workshop were to share evidence-based knowledge to improve the understanding of actions for adaptation and to identify and discuss the role of stakeholders, adaptation options, and cross border issues.

A total of 47 participants from 17 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including government representatives, media personnel, researchers, academics, and members of civil society, convened at ICIMOD's headquarters in Kathmandu to interact with high-level bureaucrats, youth leaders, researchers, and tech innovators to gain knowledge about adaptation issues. The workshop included capacity building and knowledge exchange, leadership exercises, and excursions to environmental projects to learn about adaptation practices on the ground.

As well as presentations from participants, the workshop showcased adaptation technology and an adaptation toolkit and included a market place featuring displays and demonstrations of innovative solutions for adaptations. Workshop sessions covered various topics from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) interface including topics highlighted by the youth constituency at UNFCCC.

OUTCOMES



Participants learning about adaptation practices in the mountains in Kathmandu, Nepal

WORKSHOP PARTNERS

ICIMOD



ABOUT APAN

APAN is a leading climate change adaptation network in the Asia-Pacific region. Our primary goal is to assist countries to build climate change resilient and sustainable human systems, ecosystems, and economies. Our initiatives turn knowledge into policy action and trainings into tangible benefits.

APAN PARTNERS



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From the workshop presentations and field visits the participants learnt about adaptation practices related to water, agriculture, natural disasters, and energy, among other things. Adaptation approaches that can be implemented at the individual, community, and national levels were also identified. The workshop underlined the need to share knowledge on practical on-the-ground options for climate change adaptation.

Participants explored common challenges, opportunities, and examples of good adaptation practices. The gap between knowledge and practices was identified as an issue and communication was acknowledged as vital tool for local, national, and international engagement. The importance of regional knowledge sharing, awareness building, and communicating knowledge to the communities was also discussed.

The workshop provided participants with an opportunity to discover relevant adaptation practices, technologies, and applications that take vulnerable groups, communities, and ecosystems into consideration. Participants agreed to develop learning networks within and between regions in order to share best practices and knowledge on adaptation.

CONCLUSION

The workshop provided young professionals from the Asia-Pacific region with a platform from which to network, collaborate, and communicate on climate change adaptation issues and observe innovative practices on adaptation. Participants expressed their appreciation of the workshop sessions and commitment to share the knowledge gained within their communities and workplaces.

At the closing ceremony, Dr David Molden, Director General of ICIMOD, said, "By sharing knowledge from ICIMOD, we hope to strengthen a network of climate and adaptation aware young ambassadors from across the Asia-Pacific as they network, collaborate, and advocate for solutions to challenges facing mountain communities and environments." He also encouraged the participants to make representatives in their respective countries accountable for their climate-related decisions, as the impacts of climate change will increasingly exacerbate living conditions.

The workshop was highly informative and useful in understanding the importance of the participation of different stakeholders in the implementation of adaptation practices and highlighted the need for increased cooperation between communities, institutions, and countries to address the issues and gaps on adaptation.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.asiapacificadapt.net/events/asia-pacific-youth-forum-and-training-workshop-2014-adaptation-mountains-issues-and-gaps>