



Regional Collaboration Centre – Bangkok
Promoting Action Against Climate Change



James Grabert
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A Message from James

Greetings to all of our partners across Asia and the Pacific region!

It is my immense pleasure to be traveling to Bangkok this month and bearing witness to all the great work that is being done in the region. 2017 is very much the year of climate action. The message is loud and clear, in order to achieve the ambitious target of holding emissions below 2°C, we must work together. The responsibility for our planet rests on all of us.

*In the spirit of this global collaboration, I am proud to announce that the **Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action** is in the midst of developing a business plan, in consultation with the High-Level Champions, that will set out specific steps and actions illuminating the path forward for this movement of collaboration in a systematic and sustainable manner. We will keep you posted on how this initiative takes shape in the next few months.*

*The second initiative I want to draw your attention to is **Carbon Pricing**. In Asia, momentum is growing to incorporate carbon pricing approaches in national and sub-national climate policy, with Singapore being the latest country to begin consultations on implementing a carbon tax. Supporting countries that are thinking about market mechanisms to regulate the use of carbon is a priority for UNFCCC and the RCCs. RCC Bangkok has reaffirmed its commitment to aiding this policy strategy and I would urge you all to get in touch with our experts at the Centre if you have any questions about carbon pricing.*

Finally, it is heartening to see the continued efforts of RCC Bangkok with regard to the Clean Development Mechanism. They are currently working with the DNA of Mongolia to revise the proposed new Grid Emission Factor (GEF) Standardized Baseline (SB) to address the comments received from the Methodologies Panel, which is part of their 2017 plan of activities to help countries and project participants along the CDM cycle.

But this is just the start. There are so many ways to get involved. Measure, reduce, and offset your own personal carbon footprint through [Climate Neutral Now](#); encourage your city to declare their commitments on [NAZCA](#); build climate resilience into your business plans; launch a new CDM project. It is you who will imagine and create the future, and it is our role to support your vision and your action.

I look forward to being a part of your future.

James Grabert

*Director, Sustainable Development Mechanisms programme
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Welcome to RCC Bangkok's second newsletter.

Our goal has always been to be your partner and support you in meeting the challenge of climate change and we understand that being successful in this endeavor requires the sharing of knowledge and resources across the region. So, for this newsletter we have decided to focus on sharing. Sharing news, stories, knowledge, and expertise.

And, we want you to share your stories. I would like to remind you that the call for applications for the [2017 Momentum for Change Awards](#), which showcase climate action and ambition from around the world, is open. Winning projects will be celebrated and recognised at COP23 in Germany. It is a great opportunity to inspire the world with your work, so apply now!

Additionally, we bring you a roundup of climate news from around the world, the latest updates on climate finance, some events we have attended in the last few months and our learnings from them. Do let us know if you find these helpful.

We also showcase an inspiring CDM story coming out of Cambodia. Watching the video reminded me of why I do what I do. I urge you to take a look and share this story within your networks. It is truly motivational.

Finally, as always, direct your questions and feedback to rccbangkok@unfccc.int. We want to know what you need.

Happy reading,

Jens Radschinski
Team Lead, RCC Bangkok



Jens Radschinski
Team Lead,
RCC Bangkok

Update from Bonn

The CDM Executive Board Simplifies Procedures

After two years of complex discussion and consultation the CDM Board has revised the existing CDM regulations with a view to streamlining and simplifying them for both single project activities and Programme of activities under the CDM, in two distinct sets.

This is great news for our DNAs and project developers as access to as well as the process of the mechanism has been simplified. We do hope you share this within your countries and networks as we work together towards building the robust enabling national and regional ecosystems that will power the fight against climate change.

[Read more about the decisions taken at the meeting here](#)

[Read the full report of the meeting here](#)

[...and, watch the webcast here!](#)

Source: UNFCCC



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NEUTRAL**
**MEASURE
REDUCE
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Support the Climate Neutral Now Campaign

Join the global community of organisations and individuals committing to becoming climate neutral by the second half of the 21st century.

[Learn more about how you can get involved](#)

What's New

Momentum for Change 2017 Awards: Applications Open

On 30th January, the UNFCCC Secretariat opened the call for applications for the 2017 Momentum for Change Awards to showcase action and ambition as national governments work toward implementing the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Selected initiatives, called 'Lighthouse Activities', shine a light on innovative, scalable and replicable examples of what people are doing to address climate change, in the hope of inspiring others to act. The winning activities will be recognized and celebrated during a series of special events in November at the UN Climate Change Conference in Bonn, Germany (COP 23).

Applications are being accepted till **9th April, 2017**.

[Nominate your game-changing projects for the award now!](#)

Source: Momentum for Change, UNFCCC



Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) Survey Confirms Finance is Urgent Need in Asia

Countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean urgently need financial support to green their power sectors and thereby implement their national climate action plans under the [Paris Climate Change Agreement](#). This is a key finding of the report on the NDC survey.

The respondents also emphasized the importance of aligning existing national policy frameworks with INDCs, as well as the key role the private sector will have to play in the coming years with regard to climate financing.

[Read the report here](#)

[Read our Asia focused analysis of the report here](#)

Source: UNFCCC Newsroom



Singapore to Adopt Carbon Tax from 2019

Some very positive news coming out of Singapore, where the the government has announced their intent to put a price on carbon.

Singapore proposes the application of an upstream tax, for example, on power stations and other large direct emitters, rather than electricity users, with a tax rate between \$10 and \$20.

This is an encouraging signal of the momentum for carbon pricing building in the region.

[Read more here](#)

Source: Bloomberg



State and Trends of Carbon Pricing 2016: World Bank Report

One hundred and one INDCs plan or consider using Carbon Pricing to achieve their stated targets. This report, produced by the World Bank, works towards supporting that climate ambition.

It provides an update on national, subnational, and corporate carbon pricing instruments from around

the world. It also makes a strong case for aligning carbon pricing with the broader policy landscape, providing lessons to policymakers on maximising synergies between climate mitigation and other related policies, while managing potential tensions and tradeoffs. The report provides crucial new modelling that demonstrates the benefits of an international carbon market established under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement; reducing the costs to countries of achieving emission reducing targets thus enabling greater ambition across the world.

[Read the report here](#)

Source: The World Bank

Update on Climate Finance



IGES partners with UNEP Finance Initiative

Our regional partner, IGES, has been accepted as a 'Supporting Institution' of the UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI).

UNEP FI is a partnership between the United Nations Environment Programme and the global finance sector, with a mission to promote sustainable finance.

One of IGES' priorities as a supporting institution will be to make strategic policy recommendations for UNEP FI on measures to mobilise private capital, especially from institutional investors and financial institutions.

If you have any questions about UNEP FI or the partnership between the two agencies, please contact us at rccbangkok@unfccc.int.

[Read more about the partnership here](#)

Three New Projects in Asia co-funded by UN Environment's SCAF



Seed
Capital
Assistance
Facility

UN Environment's Seed Capital Assistance Facility (SCAF) bridges the gap between the lack of bankable projects and available financing, by connecting private equity funds and development companies who can provide necessary seed financing and enterprise assistance to early-stage clean energy project developers and entrepreneurs.

In 2016, SCAF supported wind farm project developer The Blue Circle to develop three new projects in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Indonesia.

Are you in the early-stages of developing a clean-energy project? Get in touch with us at rccbangkok@unfccc.int.

[Read more here](#)

Source: Climate Action

Highlights from RCC Bangkok

Roundup of RCC Bangkok Activities

We have had a busy few months at RCC Bangkok. Below is a roundup of some of the activities and events we have been a part of.

As always, if you have any questions or feedback about our activities or if you would like to know more about our role in the region, please do not hesitate to contact us at rccbangkok@unfccc.int.



Sustainable Energy and Technology Asia, 2017

8-10 March, 2017 | Bangkok, Thailand

SETA is an Asian Energy and Technology event. Its aim is to develop an international platform for

the value chain of energy, to discuss the latest issues in policy planning and technology advancement, and to support the global low-carbon advocacy.

RCC Bangkok's team lead, **Jens Radschinski**, presented at the CEO Event of the conference, where he emphasised the need for economy-wide cooperation to achieve the goals set by the Paris Agreement. Technical Officer, **Ariel Yuqing**, shared experiences on regional collaboration on climate change at the seminar.

If you have any questions about their presentations or the event, please do not hesitate to contact us at rccbangkok@unfccc.int.

[Read more about the event here](#)

Source: SETA

IETA-IATA Aviation Carbon Market Workshop

22-23 March, 2017 | Singapore

As you may be aware, Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) recognizes the privileged eligibility of Certified Emission Reduction (CERs), generated from CDM projects, as the offsetting instrument for the international aviation community. They have invited our team lead, **Jens Radschinski**, to deliver the latest updates on Carbon Markets.



[Find out more about the workshops here](#)

Source: IETA

Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2017

29-31 March, 2017 | Bangkok, Thailand

Governments and other stakeholders from the Asia-Pacific region will convene at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD 2017) on the theme of 'Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing Asia-Pacific.

RCC Bangkok will have a booth in the Pavilion of Partnerships at the event and will also be co-organizing a roundtable on SDG 9.

[Find more information on the forum here](#)

The proceedings of the forum will be available on the [ESCAP Youtube Channel](#)

Source: UN ESCAP



The RCC Bangkok team with James Grabert at the Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development 2017 in Bangkok

Stakeholder Stories



Our goal is to bring clean water to 1 million people

Clean Water through CDM

In the absence of water purifiers, the most natural and easiest home-remedy for purifying water is to boil it.

Humanity has been making water safe for drinking by boiling it for thousands of years. But that is not a

sustainable solution anymore. Boiling requires firewood, and firewood means releasing carbon into our atmosphere. And, when hundreds of thousands of households around the world are doing this, the impact on our environment is substantial.

In Cambodia, the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is helping solve the conundrum of water purification through the International Water Purification Programme, which seeks to further the access of families and communities to clean and safe drinking water by promoting low-carbon water purification technologies.

[Watch the video here](#)

News from IGES



IGES Organises the 8th East Asia High Level Seminar of Sustainable Cities

8-9 February, 2017 | Chiang Rai, Thailand

The Governments of Thailand, Japan, and Cambodia, the ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC), and the ASEAN Secretariat hosted around 230 participants, including city officials, national

government representatives, development partners, NGOs, and the private sector, to attend the 8th East Asia Summit High-Level Seminar of Sustainable Cities. The IGES Regional Centre has been serving as the Secretariat for the event since 2010.

Over two days, the participants took part in plenaries and smaller thematic sessions focusing their discussion on the theme: "The Role of Cities: Localising the Sustainable Development Goals to Bridge Policy and Implementation". In their discussion, they agreed that cities are well-positioned to localise and drive the implementation of the SDGs in an inclusive and participatory manner. With the expected incorporation of SDGs into national policies, the participants discussed the policy-implementation connection and the need to scale-up pilot initiatives.

For more information, visit the 8th East Asia Summit High-Level Seminar of Sustainable Cities website:

<http://hls-esc.org/>.

Signing off...

The Green Vacuum Cleaner

We leave you with this eye-popping video from National Geographic and NASA. It tracks the flow of carbon dioxide across the planet over 12 months, starting in January, but the interesting part begins in June, when the Northern Hemisphere has its summer.

As we move into the warmer months and our trees wake up from the winter, trillions upon trillions of leaves are opening, growing, and breathing. Their collective breath literally sucks up the CO2 in the air, cleaning the skies, and storing that carbon in their trunks and branches - the effect is stunning, to say the least.



The video reminds us of the critical role forests play in mitigating climate change, but forests around the world are under threat. According to WWF, some 46-58 thousand square miles of forest are lost each year - equivalent to **48 football fields every minute**.

[Watch the earth's lungs in action here](#)

Source: National Geographic

Illustration:

BSIP SA, Alamy

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We look forward to hearing from you!
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