

Regional Collaboration Center

Dubai

July 2020



Regional Collaboration Centre – Dubai

Promoting Climate Action in the
Middle East, North Africa and South Asia

Welcome to the RCC Dubai July 2020 Newsletter

We are excited to share with you the latest RCC Dubai newsletter!

If you have been receiving our previous newsletters, you will notice a new format and approach to this newsletter. If this is your first RCC Dubai newsletter, we welcome you!

The newsletter will now be shorter, crisper and more targeted, and, to ensure you remain up to date on climate action news, we will be sending you more frequent editions.

The goal continues to be to bring to you the latest information on climate action in the region and around the world.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration with you.

Your partner in climate action,
RCC Dubai

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An Exclusive Interview with the Minister of Environment, Jordan

His Excellency Dr. Saleh Al-Kharabsheh, the Minister of Environment of Jordan, shares his perspective on the important role that regional collaboration can play in enhancing momentum for climate action.

Share an overview of successful initiatives of Jordan to promote climate action

Jordan is one of the most active countries in the Middle East in tackling climate change and involvement in international response actions. We were the first country in the region to sign and ratify the Paris Agreement and we have since then geared up our national climate policies to adapt to climate change. 2020 is a big year for Jordan as we have launched a National Adaptation Plan and National Green Growth Action Plan for critical sectors, and we are currently updating our national climate change policy to reflect the latest developments. We have also introduced



climate change into the curriculum in secondary schools and universities to involve younger generations. We have focused on developing national scale, bankable climate actions to stimulate job growth and a circular economy with engagement of the private sector, development partners, and global climate funds. We are also proactively transforming public institutions and spaces to increase energy efficiency. We have retrofitted public schools, installed solar PV systems and implemented LED lights in all municipal streets. Jordan is also a pioneer in electric car mobility in the region.

Information/progress on the Jordan's NDC to promote climate action

Jordan was amongst the first countries in the region to prepare in a fully participatory manner its NDC. Jordan seeks to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 14% by 2030. This is an ambitious target for a small developing country like Jordan, but it reflects and

confirms our commitment towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. At the same time, we are developing our 2nd BUR and updating our NDC. The implementation of a national Monitoring Reporting and Verification system provides us baseline data and strengthens our ability to track progress against our NDC. Our NDC Action Plan underwent national consultation, prioritization, and integration with other relevant policies, such as the National Green Growth Action Plans, to ensure coordination and identify synergies for implementation. We are now finalizing sub-national climate action plans which will ensure mainstreaming of climate action at the sectorial and local levels.

Importance of regional collaboration and role of RCC Dubai for the region

Deepened collaboration and partnerships at the regional level are required to ensure resiliency and sustainable economic growth throughout the Middle East. Regional cooperation can have a catalytic impact on the speed and efficiency with which we all achieve our global commitments. With RCC Dubai providing regional coordination, advanced knowledge of barriers and bottlenecks, research-based technical support, and increasing awareness among key stakeholders, particularly the youth, we can drive substantial impact in improving regional resiliency while increasing sustainable development.

June Momentum for Climate Change

A series of virtual events took place from the 1st to the 10th of June to maintain momentum in the UN Climate Change process and showcase progress in climate action despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

The series, dubbed the “June Momentum”, led to active exchanges among governments, experts and relevant stakeholders around the world and was an opportunity to expand the understanding of climate change, climate action and the negotiation process.

[Check out highlights of the June Momentum for Climate Change](#)



United Nations
Climate Change

Despite it being a time of loss and heartbreak for so many, COVID-19 has also revealed both humanity's great perseverance and its great potential.

It has shown us that societies can, when necessary, pull together to address a global challenge with bold responses.

June Momentum
for Climate Change



Patricia Espinosa
United Nations Climate Change
Executive Secretary

COP Bureau Reschedules UNFCCC Subsidiary Body Meetings to 2021

The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC has decided to postpone the sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB52) until next year.

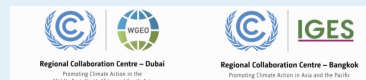
The meetings are to take place in the World Conference Centre in Bonn, Germany, at a date yet to be decided.

The decision by the Bureau was based on the need to ensure not only full inclusion and participation but the well-being and safety of all involved under the current travel restrictions and guidelines from local German health authorities in relation to the global health crisis around COVID-19.

[Read more here](#)

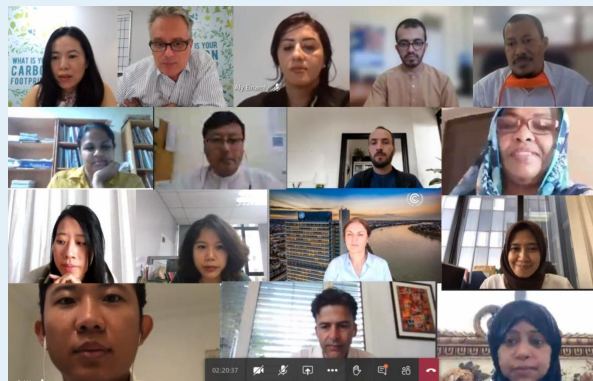
Updates from RCC Dubai

DNA Virtual Workshop Series: First Session



In response to requests for training received from Designated National Authorities (DNAs) of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), RCC Dubai and RCC Bangkok are organizing a series of DNA Virtual Workshops on topics of interest for DNAs in the region.

The first session of the DNA Virtual Workshop was successfully held on the 25th of June 2020 and focused on the role of DNAs in the Modalities of Communication (MoC) and Letters of Approval (LoA) processes. DNA representatives from over 15 countries, from Southeast Asia and South Asia to Central Asia and the Middle East and North Africa, joined the first session.



The second session of the workshop is planned to take place towards the end of July

[More here...](#)

8th Dialogue on ACE - Africa and Middle East Virtual Dialogue



The 8th Dialogue on Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) for Africa and Middle East is planned virtually for **26 August 2020 from 09:00 to 12:00 CEST**. RCC Dubai will provide support in the organization of this dialogue.

The objective of the dialogue is to provide a forum for Parties and other non-Party stakeholders to advance the discussions on recommendations and views on future work to enhance implementation of Action for Climate Empowerment.

To learn more about the 8th Dialogue on ACE in 2020 click [here](#)

Click [here](#) to find out how you can participate in the 8th Dialogue for ACE - Africa and Middle East

N.B: Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) denotes work under Article 6 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, 1992) and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement (2015) and their six elements: Climate Change Education, Training, Public Awareness, Public Access to Information, Public Participation, and International Cooperation on these issues.

Regional Virtual Workshops on Gender and Climate Change



From June to October, UNFCCC will host a series of gender-related online events to ensure momentum and progress despite the postponement of UNFCCC subsidiary body sessions due to COVID-19. Do not miss the regional virtual workshops on gender integration into policies, plans, strategies and action ([Gender Action Plan](#) activity D.6). [Register now](#) for:

Regional workshop, Asia & the Pacific on **22 July 2020**
Regional workshop, MENA on **14 October 2020**

Is your organization supporting the integration of gender into national climate policy and action in the Asia and the Pacific or MENA region? Please contact gender-team@unfccc.int to find out how your work can be showcased in the regional workshop.

Also check the [virtual workshops on the role of national gender and climate change focal points](#).



Arab Climate Finance Mobilization and Access Strategy

Following an [*inception workshop in November 2019*](#) and a [*Technical Workshop for Finance Experts in February 2020*](#), a technical assessment is being prepared on needs identification and prioritization to support the development of Arab Climate Finance Mobilization and Access Strategy.

A High Level Climate Finance Forum will be convened later this year to translate the technical assessment of climate finance needs and priorities of the region into a collectively developed Arab Climate Finance Mobilization and Access Strategy and to further enhance its ownership by building momentum at the political level.

This will be achieved by promoting engagement with key stakeholders, apprising them of the outcomes of the assessment of climate finance needs and priorities, and by facilitating deliberations on key recommendations.

[*Follow the project page here for the latest details*](#)



Implementing Actions to Close Adaptation Knowledge Gaps

Knowledge gaps pose significant barriers to successful climate change adaptation action. Under the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative (LAKI) project of the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP), previous priority-setting workshops identified 10 knowledge gaps in the [*West Asia/Gulf Cooperation Council \(GCC\)*](#) subregion and 18 in [*North Africa*](#) subregion.

RCC Dubai is supporting the NWP to take stock of ongoing adaptation activities in the subregions. A technical expert meeting with partners will likely follow later this year to co-design actions, explore collaboration among institutions, and strengthen existing partnerships with the objective of working towards closing these priority adaptation knowledge gaps in the subregions.

[*Follow the LAKI website for updates on the workshop*](#)

Collaborative Instruments for Ambitious Climate Action (CiACA)

The CiACA initiative was launched by UN Climate Change following the historic Paris Agreement in order to offer assistance to countries willing to explore the use of economic instruments to achieve their Nationally Determined Contributions. Since then, over 20 jurisdictions have approached the secretariat through the Regional Collaborative Centres in order to receive support for conducting stakeholder mapping and consultations, receive technical assistance for the development of plans and roadmaps that can culminate in the adoption of carbon pricing instruments. In Pakistan, for example, the CiACA initiative supported the Ministry of Climate



James Grabert
Director, Mitigation Division
Acting Director, Communication and Engagement Division
UNFCCC Secretariat

In some regions, CiACA has further

Change through high-level technical assistance and by strengthening institutional capacity, which resulted in the launch of the National Committee for the Establishment of Carbon Markets by H.E. Federal Minister Malik Amin Aslam during COP25 in Madrid last year.

contributed to the implementation of climate finance strategies, by strengthening the capacities of countries to identify the most suitable instruments to mobilize funds for achieving sustainability while curbing their GHG emissions. In this short video, Mr. James Grabert provides an overview of the initiative.

Become a Technical Expert for UNFCCC Transparency Processes



Climate change practitioners and experts can contribute to the UNFCCC transparency processes by carrying out the task of reviewing and analyzing national climate reports submitted by Parties. The review and analysis of submissions by Parties is a key aspect of the climate change

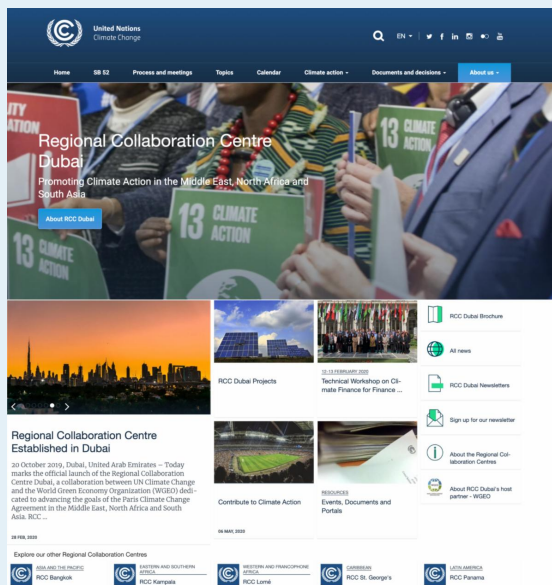
process with a view to increasing transparency, as well as to building trust in addressing climate change cooperatively.

Experts can express their interest by registering online on the UNFCCC Roster of Experts. They then have to get nominated by the national focal point of a country. Nominated experts are invited by the UNFCCC secretariat to complete relevant training courses and pass the necessary exam(s) for chosen areas.

[More information on how to become a technical expert and the current roster of experts can be found here.](#)

Explore the RCC Dubai Website!

The RCC Dubai website is a great resource to:



- [Find out the ways in which you can contribute to climate action](#)
- [Learn more about RCC Dubai's work in the region](#)
- [Keep abreast of the upcoming events in the region, virtual and otherwise](#)
- [Discover a trove of information on climate action by accessing UN Climate Change portals](#)
- [Check out the past RCC Dubai newsletters](#)

...and a lot more!

Visit our website

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