

Regional Collaboration Centre

Bangkok

January 2021



Welcome to 2021 – a year with plenty of aspirations! In 2020, the pandemic has taught us lessons for a lifetime and opened our eyes to the impacts of living in dissonance with nature.

“In overcoming the pandemic, we can also avert climate cataclysm and restore our planet. Now we must use 2021 to address our planetary emergency.”

– António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, December 2020.

Reflecting on the lessons learnt in the past year and echoing the call by the Secretary-General for living in harmony with nature, a “green recovery” will be an integral part of future climate actions. This year also began with the USA re-joining the Paris Agreement - a much awaited and welcome move for global leaders in tackling the climate emergency. With 17 countries updating or submitting new NDCs in 2020 and setting more ambitious climate change mitigation and adaptation goals, support to countries in charting the course of global climate action, on implementing NDCs and capturing the lessons learnt will be an important area of work for RCC-Bangkok in 2021.

Read on for more!

Your partner in climate action,
RCC Bangkok

The World Needs a Swift Transition to Sustainable Energy



“Energy is at the heart of the climate change emergency and it must be at the heart of its solution. A swift and broad transition to renewable energy will be essential to achieve the emission reduction goals laid down by the Paris Agreement,” **UNFCCC Executive Secretary Patricia Espinosa** said on 19 January 2021 at the Ministerial Meeting of the International Renewable Energy Agency’s (IRENA) 11th Assembly.

Whilst setting out key deliverables for the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference, COP26, at the end of this year, Ms. Espinosa underlined the critical importance of a swift transition to sustainable energy to tackle the global climate crisis. Additionally, Ms. Espinosa reiterated the major opportunity to tackle the climate crisis by means of a green economic recovery.

Read full article [here](#)

Photo credit: Welcomia

Regional Climate Weeks to Drive Forward Climate Action in 2021 and 2022



On 1 February 2021, the UN Climate Change Secretariat has announced the **Regional Climate Weeks in 2021 and 2022**. These key meetings will help build regional momentum for the annual UN Climate Change Conferences and drive forward regional implementation of the [Paris Climate Change Agreement](#). UN Climate Change Executive Secretary, *Patricia Espinosa*, said "The Climate Weeks can galvanize crucial climate action at the regional level and therefore make a significant contribution to more ambition globally."

Regional Climate Weeks are open to all stakeholders as a 'go-to' hub to build partnerships and to showcase groundbreaking action in the regions.

Read more detailed information on the Regional Climate Weeks [here](#)

Launching the Race to Resilience

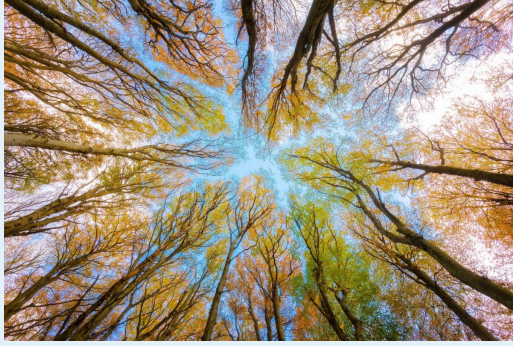


Launched at the [Climate Ambition Summit](#) on 12 December 2020, the [Race to Resilience](#) campaign of the High-Level Climate Champions for Climate Action - Nigel Topping and Gonzalo Muñoz is a sibling to the [Race to Zero](#). It aims to catalyze action from non-Party actors to make 4 billion people from vulnerable communities more resilient by 2030. The campaign was rolled out at the [Climate Adaptation Summit](#) on 25 January 2021, with a mission to catalyze a step-change

in resilience. Through a partnership of initiatives, the campaign will focus on helping frontline communities to build resilience and adapt to impacts of climate change, such as extreme heat, drought, flooding and sea-level rise.

Find out more information and join the Race to Resilience! [here](#)

NDC Updates from Asia and the Pacific



Eight More Countries in Asia and the Pacific Submit their Updated NDCs

Since our last newsletter in December 2020, eight more countries from Asia-Pacific have submitted their updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). These countries are Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Fiji, Maldives, Marshall Islands and South Korea. These updated NDCs set more ambitious climate change mitigation and adaptation goals, and play a critical role in charting the course of global climate action.

You can check latest update on NDC Submission [here](#)



Nepal Reaffirmed Its Commitments and Submits Second NDC

In December, Nepal joined the group of nations in submitting its **second national climate plan** on the eve of the Paris Agreement's fifth anniversary.

Nepal's improved NDC is estimated to cost USD28.4 billion, or over 90 percent of GDP. The updated commitments draw on lessons captured while implementing its first pledge in 2016

You can read more about Nepal's updated NDC [here](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

RCC Bangkok Invites you to Join — Webinar on Intergenerational Action on Climate Crisis

Webinar Series **No.2**

Intergenerational action on climate crisis: Unleashing the power of older people

The climate crisis is the preeminent challenge of our time and the COVID-19 pandemic offers an opportunity to build back a better world. The webinar will highlight the relationship between population growth, ageing societies and climate change. Older people from different regions and a panel of experts will share their views on how older people can play an active role in saving our planet.

Opening remarks from **Patricia Espinoza**, Executive Secretary of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Moderator: **Kaveh Zahedi**, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCAP
Thought piece: **Karl Pillemer**, Professor of Human Development, Cornell University

Climate change and population ageing experts in the region:

- **Jyoti Parikh**, Recipient of Nobel Peace Prize awarded to IPCC authors in 2007
- **Xiao Caiwei**, President, China National Committee on Ageing (CNCA)
- **Preeti Bhandari**, Chief of the Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Thematic Group, Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- **Quyen Tran**, Older People Association Expert, HelpAge International
- **Mozaharul Alam**, Regional Coordinator, Climate Change Programme Asia and the Pacific Office, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- **Prakash Tyagi**, Executive Director of GRAVIS, India

Thursday 4 February 2021 at 15:00–16:30hrs (GMT+7)



Registration:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8tOHDYkkQau4NcMch8WYWg

Event Secretariat
Email: events@helpageasia.org



This is the second episode of webinar series co-organized by [HelpAge International](#), RCC Bangkok, Asian Development Bank (ADB), UNEP, UNESCAP and UNFCCC. The climate crisis is the preeminent challenge of our time and the COVID-19 pandemic offers an opportunity to build back a better world. With **opening remarks from Patricia Espinoza, Executive Secretary of UNFCCC secretariat**, the webinar will highlight the relationship between population growth, ageing societies and climate change. A panel of experts will share their views on how older people can play a role in saving our planet.

The event will take place on **Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 15:00pm – 16:30pm ICT**

You can find more information about this event [here](#)

Register to Participate — Regional Dialogue on Youth Empowerment in Climate Action 2021



Together with several partners in the region, RCC Bangkok is co-organizing a virtual dialogue on youth empowerment in Climate Actions in Asia and the Pacific, which will take place on **9–10 February 2021**.

[Register Here](#)

The dialogue will invite more than 150 youth leaders from NGOs, the private sector and governments to emphasize the importance of youth engagement ahead of the Asia-Pacific Climate Week, the COP26 and beyond. It will also mark the launch of a youth climate platform and several other key partnerships to further enhance the participation of young people in climate action in the region.

Find out more information and register to the event [here](#)

The NAMA Facility Invites You to Its Webinar Series "Introduction to The Ambition Initiative"



To support applicants during the process of NAMA Support Project outline development, the Technical Support Unit (TSU) will hold a series of webinars. The first webinar "**Introduction to the Ambition Initiative**" will be held on **3 February at 2:00 – 3:00 pm CEST**.

[Join the Webinar](#)

The Ambition Initiative of NAMA Facility was launched on 15 December 2020 and will be open until 31 May, 15:00 pm (CEST/GMT+2). By this time, all NAMA Support Project (NSP) Outlines and related application materials must be delivered to the Technical Support Unit (TSU) of the NAMA Facility via [email](#).

The application documents are available [here](#) and the updated General Information Document can be found [here](#)

You can see the full timeline of the Ambition Initiative [here](#).

Marrakech Partnership Climate Action Pathways



The [*Climate Action Pathways*](#) set out sectoral visions for a 1.5°C, climate-resilient world by 2050 and identify change levers and impact areas to transform various sectors of the economy. In 2021, the High-Level Champions for Climate Action will strengthen cross-cutting aspects such as just transition, gender-responsiveness, resilience and circular economy. A finance pathway and specific topics, such as the role of carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS), will be addressed.

Inputs were received for the Pathways at Asia Pacific Climate Week in 2019 and the Champions will be using them to drive Race to Zero sectoral breakthroughs towards COP 26 and beyond. They are keen to liaise with stakeholders to identify and tailor breakthroughs relevant for the Asia-Pacific region. Stay tuned for opportunities to engage!

You can find more information on the Climate Action Pathways [here](#)

Photo credit: Akil Mazumder

Capacity-building Stories from the Paris Committee on Capacity-building Network

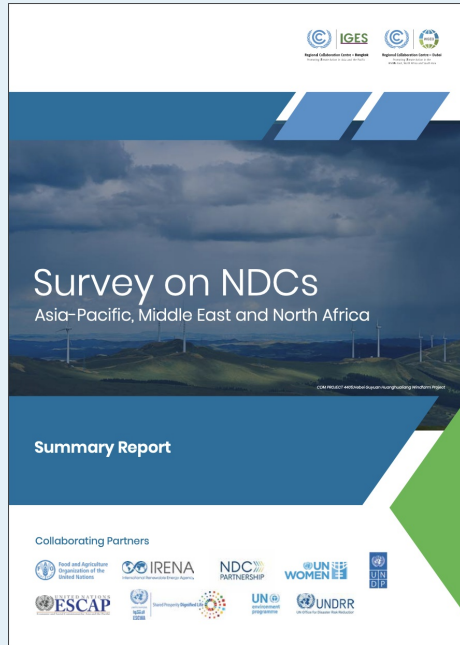


In August 2020, the PCCB Network launched a project entitled Capacity-building Stories, which aims to collect and showcase examples of capacity-building efforts to tackle climate change. The series highlighted some of the ongoing efforts of PCCB Network members on a monthly basis, hoping to turn this wealth of knowledge, experience, and inspiration into learning opportunities for a wider circle of capacity-building actors, and ultimately, into

more impactful climate action. The “Capacity Diagnosis and Development tool” is the latest installment and the fifth episode to the series in December 2020. You can listen to the capacity-building stories [here](#)

[NEW PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE NOW](#)

[Survey on NDCs: Asia-Pacific, Middle East and North Africa](#)

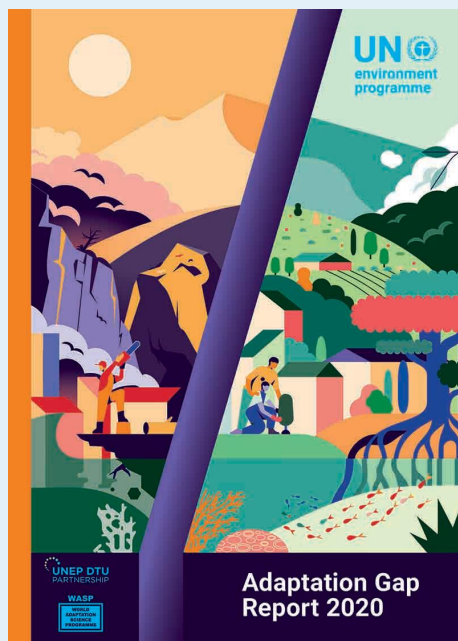


[Download the Full Report Here](#)

Nationally determined contributions (NDCs) are at the heart of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of long-term goals. NDCs embody efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. In order to contribute to an enhanced understanding of the efforts on preparations of updated or new NDCs in Asia-Pacific and Middle East and North Africa (MENA), a survey was conducted by RCC Bangkok, RCC Dubai and their collaborating partners in these regions to seek feedback on the progress and features of their NDCs. The responses, from the participating countries, on the status of the development of NDCs in Asia, the Pacific, and MENA was compiled into a survey report. The report presents the progress made by participating countries in updating their NDCs and provides a regional outlook on the status of their efforts while highlighting the challenges and opportunities in this process.

Read more [here](#)

[UNEP's Adaptation Gap Report 2020](#)



[Download the Full Report Here](#)

The fifth edition of the [UNEP](#) Adaptation Gap Report looks at the state of play in adaptation planning, finance and implementation – with a focus on nature-based solutions. This report presents salient new and updated information related to planning, finance and implementation of adaptation actions and has begun setting criteria for improving the assessment of adaptation outcomes in view of several conceptual and methodological challenges.

Find out more about our work to promote climate action in Asia-Pacific on our [New Website](#)

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rccbangkok@unfccc.int | unfccc.int