

Regional Collaboration Centre

Bangkok

November 2020



Welcome to RCC Bangkok newsletter!

In this edition of the newsletter, we bring you an **exclusive interview with Ken O'Flaherty**, the UK government's COP26 Regional Ambassador to Asia-Pacific and South Asia, a compilation of the **upcoming virtual events**, calls to share your inputs on the database of resources for climate action, and an inspiring featured story on one of the **2020 UN Global Climate Action Award Winners** and her Nature-based Solutions practice.

We are happy to start this newsletter with some good news for planet Earth from our region: China, Japan and South Korea, the three largest economies in East Asia now have clear pathways to decarbonization by mid-century. One month after China's President Xi Jinping's statement at the UN General Assembly (UNGA), announcing China's aims for its carbon emissions to peak before 2030, and to become carbon-neutral by 2060, both Japan and the Republic of Korea have committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2050 as part of the global effort to slow global warming. With these commitments, the Asian region has taken some important steps forward on climate leadership and meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change, ahead of COP26 in 2021.

Read on for more!

Your partner in climate action,
RCC Bangkok

An Exclusive Interview with the UK Government's COP26 Regional Ambassador to Asia-Pacific and South Asia



Ken O'Flaherty, the UK government's COP26 Regional Ambassador to Asia-Pacific and South Asia, shares information about his role as COP26 Regional Ambassador, his view on the important elements that need to come together to deliver a successful COP26, challenges and priorities for the region and more.

What is the Role of COP26 Regional Ambassador?

I'm working with governments, business and civil society across Asia and the Pacific to drive action on climate change ahead of COP26 in Glasgow next November.

What are the main priorities and challenges you perceive in Asia and the Pacific

with regards to climate action?

Asia is the driver of the world economy. As economies in the region develop, their demands for energy will continue to grow. So it's essential that we accelerate the energy transition across the region – boosting uptake of renewable energy and driving down use of fossil fuels, particularly coal. Renewables are already the cheapest option for new energy in the vast majority of Asian countries. So we need to make sure that countries have access to climate finance to help them take advantage of cheap, clean energy.

Asia and the Pacific states are already seeing the impact of climate change – whether from sea level rises or extreme weather events. One third of Bangladesh was under water earlier this year. So we are also working to help countries adapt to climate change and build their resilience for the future.

We believe strongly that nature-based solutions must be a key element of our climate response across Asia and the Pacific. That can include working with governments and business to tackle deforestation, protecting mangroves and working to safeguard our oceans.

In your view, what are the most important elements that need to come together to deliver a successful COP26?

When world leaders come together at COP26 next year, it needs to be on the basis of strong action on climate change worldwide. That means driving down emissions in line with ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions and long-term strategies. It will also mean concrete action to support countries dealing with the consequences of climate change. So we are pressing international donors to step up their support on climate finance, following the doubling of our own assistance to £11.6 billion.

Do you have any message to stakeholders in the region, both public and private, regarding how they can contribute to the achievement of a successful COP26?

Governments cannot on their own deliver the massive change that is needed. We need businesses to lead the way by setting their own Net Zero targets and joining calls for action. We are determined that the voices of civil society – women, young people and indigenous people – are all heard and join us in pressing for climate ambition ahead of COP26. I encourage everyone to play their part in delivering action at the local level, and pressing governments and business to accelerate the change on which our planet depends.

Feature Story – 2020 UN Global Climate Action Award Winner Equipped Nature-Based Solutions to Increase Urban Adaptability Women for Results – Thailand



The recipients of the 2020 United Nations Global Climate Action Awards were announced on 27 October 2020, shining a light on some of the best examples of what people across the globe are doing to combat climate change in a year that has cast darkness upon so many.

This year's award-winning projects demonstrate leadership on climate change by nations,

businesses, investors, cities, regions and civil society as a whole. 13 winners from more than 10 countries are awarded under 3 distinctive categories: *Climate Neutral Now*; *Financing for Climate Friendly Investments*; and *Women for Results*. All activities will be showcased at a series of special online events in November and December 2020.

Kotchakorn Voraakhom, a Bangkok-based landscape architect, is among the five winners under the category: "Women for Results". She has established *Landprocess* and the *Porous City Network* to create innovative landscape solutions for urban resilience in Bangkok. Her firm has equipped the city with public green space and nature-based solutions to increase the city's resilience, reduce flood risk and improve the well-being of its citizens. For the first time in 30 years of rapid urban development, 11 acres of property in the heart of Bangkok was transformed into a public park. It was also the first city public park project led by a female landscape architect.

You can read the full story about Kotchakorn's journey in helping the planet and vulnerable people, one landscape project at a time, [here](#)

More on the winners of 2020 UN Global Climate Action Award [here](#)

Share Your Inputs — Contribute to Building a Database of Resources for Climate Action!

Submit a Resource!



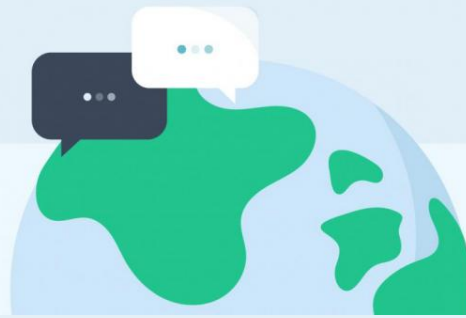
The University of Oxford is developing an Aggregator of Tools & Solutions for Achieving Net Zero. This global, independent, non-profit initiative is **developed in partnership with the UNFCCC secretariat**, global research institutions and environmental non-profits. *Net Zero Climate* will provide a free, interactive, online library of the latest available tools, interventions, and best practices for achieving net zero.

Send your proposals for resources to be included [here](#)

For any inquiries, please contact [Kaya Axelsson](#), or netzero@ouce.ox.ac.uk.

Please Join Us! — UN Climate Change Dialogues 2020

Visit our website



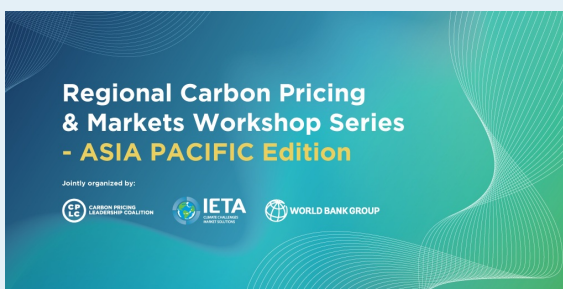
Capitalizing on the experience from the [June Momentum for Climate Change \(June Momentum\)](#) earlier this year, the SBSTA Chair, Tosi Mpanu Mpanu (Democratic Republic of Congo) and the SBI Chair, Marianne Karlsen (Norway), in collaboration with the COP 25 Presidency and incoming COP 26 Presidency, will launch another **series of virtual events, the UN Climate Change Dialogues, November/December 2020 (Climate Dialogues)** to advance work on the subsidiary bodies and COP agendas.

The objective of the Climate Dialogues is to provide a platform for Parties and other stakeholders to showcase progress made in 2020 and exchange views and ideas across the subsidiary bodies and COP agendas mandated for 2020. As guided by the Bureau at its meeting on 25 August, The Climate Dialogues will also provide a platform for advancing implementation of activities mandated for 2020, to the extent possible and, where necessary, identifying any potential further action that the SB Chairs could undertake to help Parties to prepare for effectively engaging in the work of the subsidiary bodies at the sessions to take place in 2021.

Climate Dialogues has started now from **Monday 23 November 2020 until Friday 4 December 2020**. You can check out the schedule overview ([here](#)) and list of events [here](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regional Carbon Pricing & Markets Virtual Series Asia Pacific Edition



[Register Here](#)

This Asia Pacific Edition of the Regional Carbon Pricing & Markets Virtual Series is jointly organized by International Emission Trading Association (IETA) and the Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition (CPLC) and the World Bank.

Join the virtual series on Tuesday 1 December 2020 at 14:00pm - 16:00pm (GMT +07:00)

Further details about this event and update can be found [here](#)

Partnership Briefing: NDC Partnership

NDC Partnership will present findings on how countries have been approaching the enhancement process through the Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP) and the status of 2020 NDC submissions. The presentation will be followed by a Q&A



Photo credit: pexels.com

discussion.

Join us on **Monday 7 December 2020 at 10:00 pm (GMT +07:00)**

You can register to join the webinar [here](#)

Save the Date – Climate Adaptation Summit 2021

Contribute and Be Part of the Summit Here!



The Climate Adaptation Summit (CAS) 2021 is an online global conference to accelerate, innovate and scale up the world's efforts in adapting to the inevitable effects of climate change. Bringing together a range of *participants*, CAS 2021 responds to United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres's call for "more concrete plans, more ambition from more countries and more businesses" to make the world more climate resilient.

You are most welcome to contribute your own digital content or event for inclusion as a virtual 'Side Event' in the online program. You can submit your side event ideas and content [here](#) using this [contribution form](#), no later than **Monday 11 January 2021**.

The conference will take place on **Monday 25 January and Tuesday 26 January 2021**. You can check out the preliminary program [here](#)

Photo credit: ©Claire-Lise Havet / Beeldunie

Explore the New RCC Bangkok Website!

The new RCC Bangkok website is a great resource to find out the ways in which you can contribute to climate action. You can also learn more about our work in the region and keep abreast of the upcoming events, virtual and otherwise.

Visit our website

STAY CONNECTED



This newsletter may contain advice, opinions and statements of various information providers. The United Nations and the UNFCCC do not represent or endorse the accuracy or reliability of any advice, opinion, statement or other information provided by any information provider or other person or entity. Reliance upon any such advice, opinion, statement, or other information shall also be at the reader's own risk. This newsletter may contain links and references to third-party web sites. The linked sites are not under the control of the United Nations or the UNFCCC, and the United Nations and UNFCCC are not responsible for the content of any linked site or any link contained in a linked site. The links are provided only as a convenience, and the inclusion of a link or reference does not imply the endorsement of the linked site by the United Nations or the UNFCCC. Nothing herein shall constitute or be considered to be a limitation upon or a waiver of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations or the UNFCCC, which are specifically reserved.

UN Climate Change | Regional Collaboration Centre | Bangkok|

rccbangkok@unfccc.int | unfccc.int