

COP26 Catalyst for Climate Action Assembly at the UN Regional Climate Week for Asia-Pacific

Access to Climate Finance

Thursday 8 July 2021 at 0700-0830 British Summer Time/1200-1330 Bangladesh Standard Time /1300-1430 Indo China Time/1500-1630 Japan Standard Time/ 1700-18.30 Pohnpei Standard Time /1800-1930 Fiji/Tuvalu Time/2000-2130 Cook Island Time (-1 day)

Zoom meeting: [register here in advance](#)

COP26 Catalyst for Climate Action

The Paris Agreement provides us with a truly global framework for climate ambition and action. To unlock the full scope of the Paris Agreement, it is important that all countries can participate to their maximum potential and that a lack of capacity does not hold them back.

In its role as the incoming COP26 Presidency, the UK is committed to better understanding the capacity building challenges faced by developing countries and climate finance recipients, particularly those most vulnerable to climate impacts, and to providing opportunities to share positive experiences and lessons learned across the Asia-Pacific region.

Session background

Through the negotiations and COP Finance campaign, as well as the recent [Climate & Development Ministerial](#) (C&DM) (31 March 2021), the UK has heard from Parties and partners that Access to Finance from a capacity building perspective is an issue they feel needs to be prioritised. As an example, country partners have noted a lack of institutional capacity - for instance within national governments but also at the local level - to access finance from different sources, such as from the multilateral climate funds.

The COP26 Catalyst for Climate Action (COP26 Catalyst) is a UK COP26 Presidency initiative that will provide a framework to convene programmes, projects and expertise on capacity building across five thematic areas. The Access to Finance workstream under the COP26 Catalyst aims to unpack the overarching capacity building issue to understand in granular detail the issues vulnerable and least developed countries and climate finance recipients are facing and the practical actions and support they need to access finance.

The COP26 Catalyst's Access to Finance workstream will complement the work of the Task Force on Access to Climate Finance, which launched at the C&DM, but is separate from that initiative. The COP26 Catalyst's Access to Finance workstream responds to the need partners have raised during the conceptualisation of the Task Force, as a forum to consider issues of institutional capacity to improve access to finance.

Session description

The aim of this virtual session at this year's UN Regional Climate Week for the Asia-Pacific Region is to explore capacity building in relation to accessing climate finance, to understand

in detail the key challenges that Parties and partners have in developing this capacity and to learn from best practice examples. This will touch on experiences of capacity building for access within the region and will look more broadly at global examples where relevant.

Agenda

Time	Theme and speakers
1500-1510 JST 10 min	<p>COP26 Catalyst for Climate Action: Access to Finance</p> <p>Introductions</p> <p>Chair: Nancy Lee Programme Director, Wilton Park</p> <p>Meera Murali Finance Negotiations, COP26 UK Presidency</p>
1510-1540 JST 30 mins	<p>Panel 1: Access to Climate Finance: capacity building challenges on the ground</p> <p>Brief introductions from panellists on Panel 1 followed by panel presentation on the following discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Within the region, what are the key challenges to accessing finance, from a capacity building perspective, and what skills and resources need to be developed institutionally to address these? ● How can climate finance providers and non-state actors support recipients to develop the capacity to access funds? <p>Each panellist will be invited to introduce themselves and then to speak for 3-4 minutes.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <p>Professor Saleemul Huq, Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)</p> <p>Professor Mizan Khan, speaking on behalf of the LDC Chair & LDC group. Deputy Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) and Programme Director for LDC Universities Consortium for Climate Change (LUCCC)</p> <p>Ms Tessa Vaetoru, Development Programme Manager, Development Coordination Division, Ministry of Finance and Economic Management, Cook Islands</p> <p>Mr Exsley Taloiburi, Programme Adviser – Climate Change Finance & Team Leader Resilience, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat</p> <p>Mr Mikko Ollikainen, Manager, Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat</p>

<p>1540-1555 JST 15 mins</p>	<p>Audience interventions on capacity building challenges in the region</p> <p>Questions and comments from audience members building on issues raised by panellists during Panel 1.</p> <p>Audience members will be invited to raise their hands and the Chair will invite them to intervene. The Chair may invite panellists to respond to questions.</p>
<p>1555-1615 JST 20 mins</p>	<p>Panel 2: Access to Climate Finance: capacity building examples in action</p> <p>Brief introductions from panellists on Panel 2 followed by panel presentation on specific case studies and examples of capacity building supporting access to climate finance.</p> <p>Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Examples of ways in which partners have successfully upskilled capacity to access climate finance <p>Each panellist will be invited to speak for 2-3 minutes.</p> <p>Panellists: Shirley Ann Pelep, Senior Grants Officer, Micronesia Conservation Trust Dr Jale Samuwai, Climate Finance Adviser, Oxfam in the Pacific Dewi Rizki, Programme Director for Sustainable Governance Strategic, Kemitraan, Indonesia Tshewang Dorji, Climate Change Specialist, Global Environment Facility</p>
<p>1615-1625 JST 10 mins</p>	<p>Audience interventions on capacity building examples in action</p> <p>Questions and comments from audience members, building on issues raised during Panel 2 on examples in action.</p> <p>Audience members will be invited to raise their hands and the Chair will invite them to intervene. The Chair may invite panellists to respond to questions.</p>
<p>1625-1630 JST 5 mins</p>	<p>Closing remarks</p> <p>Meera Murali Finance Negotiations, COP26 UK Presidency</p>