

Local platforms for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction: The Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN)

**ProVention Forum
Wednesday, 5.30pm
Fuji I Room, 9th floor, Point Hotel**

With ever increasing momentum to develop new financing mechanisms and programs to support countries in taking further steps toward both climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, donors and practitioners alike recognize the need for strong local platforms for action on disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation. Global climate change impacts will fundamentally be felt and must be managed through local level actions. With more than 50% of the world's population living in cities, and a projected increase of 2 Billion new urban dwellers in global south by 2030, cities have the potential to be the front line of global climate change. Cities- traditionally the centers of opportunity, innovation and growth- are also places of concentrated risk. How urban development and management unfolds has the potential to amplify or significantly reduce risk.

This session will present the Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN), a major initiative of the Rockefeller Foundation, as an example of a local platform that brings together disaster risk reduction with climate change adaptation concerns to support cities in addressing the challenges of climate change and urbanization by linking science, policy and action to enhance resilience to climate impacts.

A discussion will follow on how to support these local initiatives for risk reduction and adaptation through greater integration of the disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation communities and exploration of new risk financing options.

ACCCRN:

The Asian Climate Cities Resilience Network (ACCCRN) is supporting a group of medium-sized cities in Asia to develop practical and robust methods, tools and strategies to assess vulnerabilities and enhance resilience to impacts of climate change, with particular attention to poor and vulnerable groups. Cities will have strengthened capacities for planning and implementation of resilience-building measures. It is the aim of the project that lessons learned from these approaches, methods and experiences will be replicated to other cities in the region and even globally.

This four-year program (2008-12) is being implemented in four countries in Asia: Thailand, Vietnam, India and Indonesia. The program prioritizes city-level engagement with multiple actors including government, private sector, community based organizations, and universities and research institutions to develop joint understanding of potential climate impacts and develop plans and activities to enhance climate resilience. This focus on city-level experience is complemented by policy dialogue at state and national levels, and regional and global networking and exchange.

ACCCRN Cities:

India: Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Surat (Gujarat), and Gorakpur (Uttar Pradesh)

Vietnam: Can Tho, Da Nang, Quy Nonh

Thailand and Indonesia: currently under assessment

ACCCRN Approach:

ACCCRN recognizes the complex inter-linked systems of urban/peri-urban areas, and the need to support cities to consider these linkages in understanding and planning for resilience to climate change. The ACCCRN initiative supports a number of Asian cities to better understand these complexities and to develop *practical* climate resilience strategies and measures guided by applied research. In so doing, ACCCRN integrates several of the themes of the 2009 ProVention Forum, working with partner cities to apply them to address the real and potential challenges and opportunities arising from climate change that they face. This involves:

- **Supporting local platforms** for enhancing understanding, dialogue, and coordinated planning for climate resilience among multiple stakeholders;
- **Understanding of climate impacts in city contexts** including the use of climate downscaling and hydrological models to project potential changes at the local level, using a multi-hazard approach with attention both to direct (e.g. flooding) and indirect (e.g. energy demands) impacts of climate change;
- **Integrated vulnerability assessments** that consider biophysical and social vulnerabilities, with attention to most vulnerable populations and sectors, and to inter-linkages across sectors;
- **Analyzing resilience approaches and activities.** Cities will analyze “hard” (e.g. water, energy, transportation infrastructure) and “soft” (e.g. banking and finance systems, disaster management planning) resilience strategies. Interventions will span health, infrastructure, water, disaster, and urban planning/ development issues. Cost-Benefit Analyses, participatory assessments, and pilot initiatives will assist in evaluation and planning;
- **Risk Financing.** The project will support cities to explore innovative financing options to support resilience planning and implementation. This includes leveraging policy incentives and investment funds to improve infrastructure, services, disaster management and preparedness strategies; and
- **Developing Supporting National enabling environments.** Advocating for the development of supportive national policy environments for local level resilience action through information provision, regulatory reform, incentive structures and financing mechanisms.

Consultation Agenda:

Presentations (50 minutes)

- 1) Responding to Complexities of Climate Change in Urban Contexts: Background and overview to the ACCCRN initiative. *Cristina Rumbaitis del Rio, Associate Director, Rockefeller Foundation*
- 2) Bridging Science and Action for Enhanced Resilience: ACCCRN conceptual and methodological approach. *Ken MacClune, Associate, ISET*
- 3) City Assessments and Resilience Planning: Lessons from the field
Dang Thu Phuong, Challenge to Change, Vietnam
Dilip Singh, Associate, ISET, India
- 4) Lessons & Value Added of ACCCRN. *Cristina Rumbaitis del Rio*

Discussion (30 minutes)

- *What mechanisms may best support integration of climate resilient strategies into disaster risk reduction, urban planning and development agendas?*
- *What are existing funding mechanisms for supporting climate resilience at city level? How are funding mechanisms evolving?*
- *How can lessons best be scaled up?*