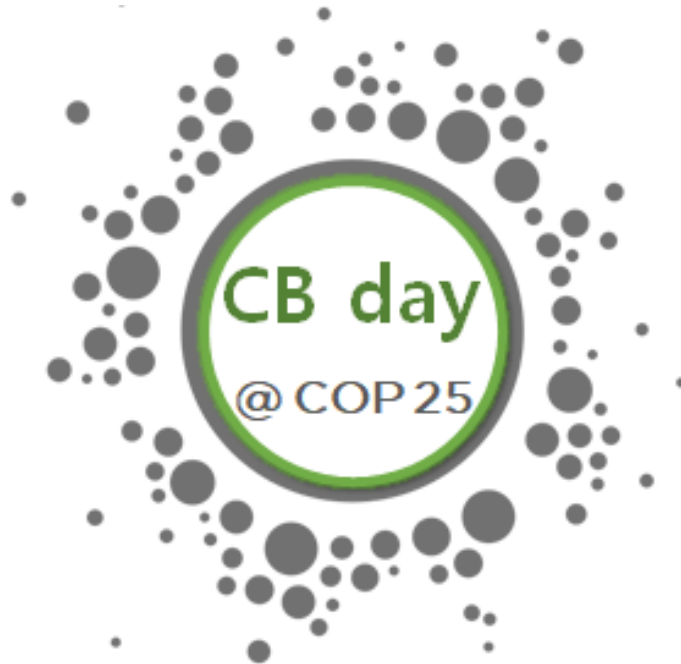


EVENT REPORT



Capacity Building day at COP25-Madrid, Spain *Role of Universities in Capacity Building*

4th December 2019, PCCB Capacity-building Hub

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United Nations Climate Change
Paris Committee on Capacity-building



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Background

The third Capacity-Building day, a thematic day under the side event of second Capacity-Building Hub at the 25th Conference of Parties was held on 04 December 2019 in Madrid, Spain. The Capacity-Building Hub event had seven different thematic days, starting with the Capacity-Building Day. The aim of the daylong event was to highlight innovative solutions for climate-related capacity-building at different levels including the local, subnational, national and regional levels.

Capacity-Building is crucial for developing country as a condition for implementing their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. The need to build capacity stands at the core of climate action. Articles 11, 12 and 13 of the Paris Agreement focuses on a new paradigm of Capacity-Building of transiting to a low emissions pathway and deal with the impacts of climate change. According to the guidelines of Article 11 of Paris Agreement, it is important to design long-term, country-driven and in-country capacity that responds to the needs and contexts of developing countries at the national, subnational and local levels.

The Paris Committee on Capacity-Building (PCCB) was formed in Marrakesh at COP 22 to oversee the Capacity-Building work under the Convention to identify gaps, needs and to ensure coherence and coordination between think tanks. The theme of the Committee's work for this year is Capacity-Building initiatives for implementation of the NDCs.

Purpose of the event

At COP25, the Capacity-Building Hub event was hosted by the Paris Committee on Capacity Building (PCCB). This event had seven different thematic days which started with the Capacity-Building day where the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) worked as the lead partner.

Capacity-Building Day is an opportunity to bring together diverse communities of practice such as researchers, academics, development practitioners, UN staff, consultants, youth delegates, policymakers, negotiators and civil servants. The event served as a platform for strengthening partnerships and building network among relevant actors from different sectors, to implement the Paris Agreement.

The first Annual Capacity-Building Day was held as a side event during COP23 in Bonn, Germany in 2017. The second was organized in Katowice, Poland in 2018. The day-long event featured discussions and presentations on initiatives that enhance the implementation of NDCs. The events brought together diverse communities of practice such as researchers, academics, policymakers, development practitioners, UN staff, consultants, negotiators, youth delegates and civil servants. The presentations and discussions during the event focused on adaptation, mitigation, loss & damage, agriculture, tracking and measuring activities, youth capacity-building and the work of academia.

Summary of the day

The event was organized with 13 presentations with 31 panelists attending the event. Maintaining gender balance was a crucial part of the event. All sessions were designed as panel discussions except for one round table discussion organized by UNU-EHS and Climate Ledger Initiative. In total 27 organizations were involved including the affiliated entities of invited panelists. Through the interactive panel and round table discussions, capacity-building day provided a platform for different stakeholders to share knowledge and exchange experience on digitalization and climate action.

The day started with a brief overview of previous Capacity-Building days, followed by the 'PCCB Network' consultation attended by the Capacity-Building Hub lead partners, co-organizers and other interested actors. The presentations and discussions during the event focused on 'M&E indicators', 'Innovation and digitalization', 'local financing', and 'cross-cutting issues' in capacity-building initiatives. Other highlights of the day were 'key legal developments in capacity-building arrangements under the Paris Agreement', 'capacity-building needs and gaps', and 'the role of youth in capacity-building efforts'.

After the opening session, PCCB discussed how actors from all levels (local, national, regional and global) can collaborate together to strengthen networks and partnership which will enhance synergies among the actors and promote knowledge as well as experience sharing. The sessions also focused on raising awareness about the potential of technological tool for education and social media in capacity-building among climate policy makers and practitioners. The sessions were designed to mainstream gender considerations and youth involvement in climate policy instruments and taking advantage of the NDC enhancement process. All the sessions highlighted good practice, lessons learned, and recommendations regarding international partnerships and co-operations for capacity-building.

The opportunity of having a specific day dedicated to the question and discussion for climate-related capacity-building helped scale up and replicate the successful long lasting initiative to enhance the global state of knowledge on capacity-building.

Important discussion and recommendations

Saleemul Huq, Director, ICCCAD, recommended organizing an event by the PCCB to enhance capacity of young researchers. He also talked about the initiation of the PCCB hub and the capacity building day. He mentioned that, what happens in the capacity building hub till the end is very important saying, the ball is in our court. He also encouraged everyone to be more imaginative and more effective.

One of the participants of PCCB Network Consultation mentioned that this is a vital area for everyone, especially for the policymakers because they have the power to take action. He also asked about the composition of the PCCB network. According to him, PCCB cannot implement anything rather it can bring different partners into one platform.

Another participant mentioned that the opportunity to be used more in different languages would be very helpful. To this one speaker mentioned that the work is in progress. But it would be

wonderful if the partners of the network could support the PCCB in this regard. Receiving materials from the partner organization would be very important for the PCCB network.

Alejandro Kilpatrick, team lead of Capacity-Building from UNFCCC mentioned that the membership is not a rigid task rather it focuses on the mandate of the PCCB. Anyone can join for free. At the same time, regional climate weeks, bulletins, newsletter can help in keeping up the activities but the ongoing interaction among the network members is active. **Rita Mishan**, Co-chair of PCCB also mentioned that it is an innovative exercise so it will be improved in future.

Another participant from Uganda asked how PCCB is integrating works from other countries to be a better network and what other capacity building initiatives are there in the world. **Alejandro Kilpatrick** mentioned that funding is not the focus and issue of the PCCB. Financial resources are not part of the objective rather the network is. The focus is to bring together the organizations. PCCB is not a capacity building organization but rather a catalyzing element for the national capacity building strategies.

Another participant from the Bahamas enquired about the idea of the PCCB network to achieve the best coherence with other partners possible. He mentioned that the more people get involved the more they achieve the objective.

Marzena Chodor, co-chair of PCCB, also mentioned that we do not have that many answers ready at this point since it is only in the pilot phase. This network is supposed to give an opportunity in bringing together similar minded organizations to build a bigger network.

Key takeaways

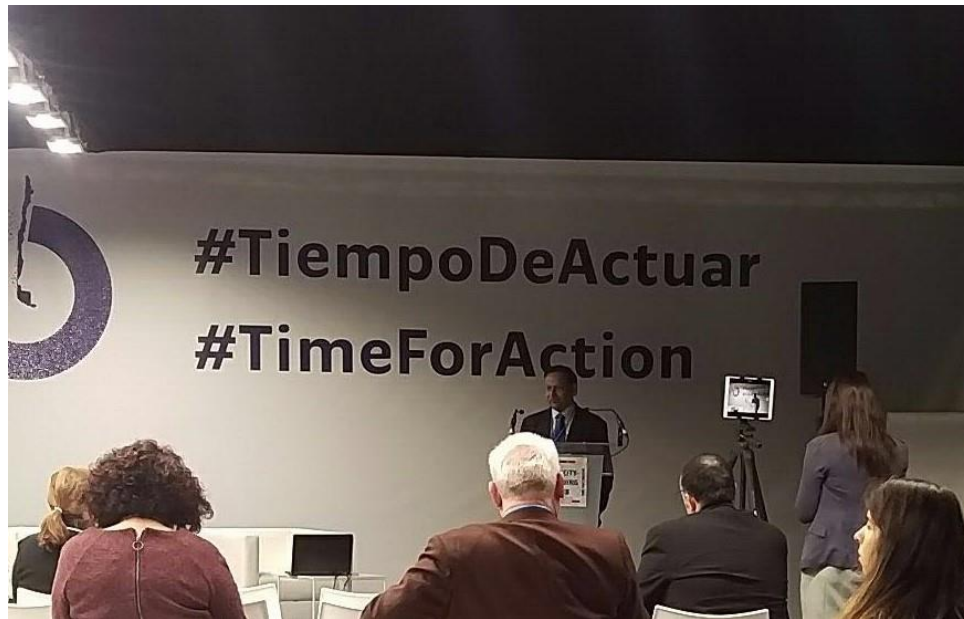
The National University of Singapore offered to organize ‘MOE Geography Symposium 2020’ focusing on climate change, and a training workshop on ‘biodiversity and climate change’ for youth and educators 2020. **Saleemul Huq** recommended that PCCB can organize capacity building hub for the youth participants.

Marie Clare, Senior Director of CISDL proposed two initiatives to the audiences. Among them one is to start an online petition to gather lawyers globally to get pro bono cases. Second initiative is to harness some of the climate change knowledge and literature on climate change to identify the gaps and opportunities for lawyers and also there is a need for legal institutions to integrate climate change as a fundamental element in existing governance structures.

Proceeding

Opening session

Martin Frick, Senior Director for Policy and Programme Coordination, UNFCCC, officially opened the 2nd Capacity-Building Hub by welcoming the partners and participants of the event. He also introduced ICCCAD as a lead partner for Capacity-Building Day after which **Saleemul Huq**, Director of ICCCAD, officially inaugurated the Day. During the inaugural session, **Saleemul Huq** argued that Bangladesh has one of the best disaster preparedness programme in the world because it is not only the government's initiatives that supports the programme but also the citizens taught themselves to be better prepared for the extreme events. He also talked about the Least Development Countries' Universities' Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC) initiatives and how the global and regional partnership can help build a better network for capacity building initiatives.



Picture 1: Opening remarks by Saleemul Huq

Session 1: PCCB Network Consultation

The session on 'PCCB Network Consultation' was a panel discussion which began with a short presentation.

Main Topic: PCCB Network

Moderator: Jeniffer Hanna, PCCB member

Panelists:

- Marzena Chodor, PCCB co-chair
- Rita Mishan, PCCB co-chair
- Roberta Iaana, PCCB member

The session started with the breakdown of the format of the session by the chair.

Marzena Chodor highlighted on how PCCB fosters synergies through cooperation. She mentioned that a systematic and coherent approach will be explored. Building networks is also crucial. This is going to be a pilot phase for a year which will give way to move forward in the future.

She also talked about multi-stakeholders and systematic knowledge management of the PCCB where co-production of knowledge is key aspects of the phase. Long term development strategies and National Determined Contribution (NDCs) which boost holistic capacity building and the implementation of the SDGs. Knowledge sharing will be a key to enabling network opportunities for everyone and knowledge sharing.

She talked about the benefits of joining the PCCB network and also talked about the possible yearly activities which consist of annual meetings, some fixed PCCB events, social media engagements etc. The network members can co-organize events and together the ideas can turn into concrete plans which will help move the Paris Agreement forward.

Floor for discussion

Saleemul Huq spoke about Gobeshona which is an opportunity for showcasing capacity building for climate change adaptation network. He also mentioned the Adaptation Future Conference organized by TERI in India which will have a capacity building hub for young researchers. He suggested that maybe PCCB can use this as capacity building opportunity.

One participant from Uganda mentioned that this is a vital area of focus for everyone and especially for the policymakers because they have the power to take it into action. He enquired about the composition of the network. It was said that PCCB cannot implement anything rather it can bring different partners into one platform.

Another participant mentioned that use of different languages would be very helpful. To this one speaker mentioned that the work is in progress. But it would be wonderful if the partners of the network could support the PCCB.

Alejandro Kilpatrick mentioned that the membership is not a rigid task or anything. They are looking for organizational membership which has a focus on the mandate of the PCCB. So the PCCB can be benefitted. It's free to join. At the same time, regional climate weeks, bulletins, newsletter can help in keeping up the activities but potential interaction among the network members is active. **Rita Mishaan** said that it is an innovative exercise so it will be improved in future.

Another participant from Uganda asked how PCCB is integrating works from other countries to be a better network/capacity building, what other capacity building initiatives are there in the world. **Alejandro Kilpatrick** mentioned that funding is not the focus and issue of the PCCB. Financial resources are not part of the objective rather the network is. The focus is to bring together the organizations. PCCB does not do any capacity building organization but it is trying to catalyzing the national capacity building strategies.

The UNFCCC specifically mentioned ‘youth’ in their mandate. Therefore, the issue of youth is being considered as well.

Another participant from the Bahamas asked about the coherence among partners. The more people are involved, the more support PCCB will receive in order to achieve the objective.

Marzena Chodor also mentioned that they do not have that many answers ready at this point since it is only in the pilot phase. This network is supposed to give an opportunity in bringing together like-minded organizations to build a bigger network.



Picture 2: Discussion during the session of PCCB Network

Session 2: Developing indicators for monitoring & evaluation of capacity-building initiatives

Main Topic: Capacity building needs for adaptation MRV – Evidence from four countries

Moderator: Saleemul Huq, Director, ICCCAD

Panelists:

- Riadadh Hossain, Programme Coordinator, ICCCAD
- Henry Neufeldt, Senior Scientist, UNEP-DTU Partnership
- Nelly Cuello, Consejo para Nacional para El Cambio Climatico Y Mecanismo de Desarrollo
- Timo Leiter, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, London School of Economics (LSE)

This M&E initiative session was designed as a panel discussion to present on an approach undertaken by a multi-country initiative, and to understand the capacity building needs of stakeholders within a country for establishing efficient systems on MRV of adaptation at the national level. The session also shed light on the priority needs for capacity development of these stakeholders.

Saleemul Huq began the session by providing an outline of the session. He mentioned that we are looking at article 7 and article 13, and how to do adaptation action in a transparent manner. After a brief description about the project, different countries shared their experience.

Henry Neufeldt gave a brief description about the center and how it is related to UNEP etc. He then talked about ICAT as a project and then the adaptation component of ICAT that started at the very beginning of this year. He also talked about the initiation of ICAT as a project and went on to discuss the ways in which these goals can be achieved. He also shared how the policies put in place are being implemented and the purpose of ICAT, what are the similarities and differences between ICAT and CIVET.

ICAT engages with the government and other partners. It is more proactive and innovative with the methodologies that can be developed. It was dreamed up before the Paris agreement at a time when transparency was like inventory. However, the Paris Agreement changed that, now it is all about transparency and how ensuring transparency as key for climate action. He then mentioned the partners of ICAT, participating countries, pilot countries, overall objectives of ICAT project. He talked about the priority areas and the cross cutting areas, ICAT Adaptation and Achievements, transparency tools and methodologies.

Saleemul Huq said that it is good that it was a bottom up process. It is ‘learning it did not start off with a pre-set tool kit. What we are trying to do is to see if we can have a bottom up effective measure for enabling and capacitating the most vulnerable groups to build resiliency against climate change.

Riadadh Hossain shared a Case Study of Bangladesh from ICAT project. He aimed to talk through the tool kit. He started off by talking about capacity building and measuring capacity building. He then talked a little about the ICAT project and then linked capacity building for adaptation M&E for strengthening the capacity of institutions to monitor and evaluate (M&E) adaptation efforts.

He then went on to talk about the Stakeholder Mapping and the map developed for Bangladesh. The stakeholder map is based on Interest and Influence of stakeholders in relation to the project goals. It is important because it helps understand whose capacity we need to build and what approach we should take for this. In order to assess capacity needs we developed a tool for capacity assessment (CAT4CAT). This tool can be applied to a wide range of stakeholders. The tool has been adapted from existing frameworks but tailored to the needs of the ICAT project. The tool does the following:

- Helps set a standardized baseline of needs of organizations.
- Assessment is built on 4 domains and sub domains under these domains- Goals and Strategies, Systems and Infrastructure, Human Resources, Organizational Assets.

- The tool also comes with a manual for those using the tools- with instructions, questions and guidance questions.
- Analyzing the results
- Supplementary documents to help produce graphs and documents

Panel Discussion

Following the presentations there was a panel discussion. **Saleemul Huq** then reiterates the questions for the facilitated discussion. Then **Melody Braun** talked about IRI research and BACS and wanted to learn more about the project and it can possibly collaborate.

Through the panel discussion it came out that we only look at high level documents and it does not tell anything about what is being achieved on the ground. Many capacity building initiatives do not monitor or evaluate the gaps. It is not about finding indicators only there is a need to understand the mechanism and process. In this regard it is often valuable to interview target groups to better understand how the actual change is taking place.

In addition, another point of discussion was to understand whether isolated capacity building workshops have any lasting impacts of participants. An example was shared where it stated that one particular intervention does not attribute to any significant outcome.

To conclude the discussion session **Riadadh Hossain** then referred back to the presentation and talked about the tool and how the supporting documents can help assess the capacity of institutions. Following this **Henry Neufeldt** talked about the Theory of Change for the ICAT project. He mentioned that it is necessary to address all of the components and pieces of the puzzle to make sure adaptation is truly happening. In terms of Article 7: Global Goal on Adaptation, there is still a debate about what the goal will actually entail. No one has decided on details, so there is an ongoing discussion regarding the MRV of adaptation; in this regard the ICAT project hopes to contribute to the system. And in terms of Article 11: Capacity Building- needs finance for Adaptation, there is a need for monitoring the adaptation efforts. When we are able to measure it ourselves, that is empowerment and that is capacity building.



Picture 3: Session on ‘Developing indicators for monitoring & evaluation of capacity-building initiatives’

Session 3: Innovation and digitalization

Main Topic: Connecting the dots-Join the interactive sprints on Digitalization & Block-chain, Climate Action and Education

Moderator: Sarah Leugers, Gold Standard

Panelists:

- Owen Hewlett, Gold Standard Foundation
- Alberto Sanchez, UNU-EHS
- Juerg Fuessler, INFRAS & CLI
- Sven Braden, CLI
- Ana Lucia Moya Mora, SINAMECC, Costa Rica

To make the session more interactive, the session was conducted as a roundtable discussion. The session started with an introduction to Climate Ledger Initiative (CLI) and a description of the collaborate platform of CLI. **Owen Hewlett** talked about CLI’s activities, the flagship report of 2018 CLI at COP Katowice, and the flagship report of 2018 CLI at COP Madrid. He also talked about the CLI navigating block-chain and climate action report 2019.

Following this **Alberto Sanchez** gave a brief introduction of the United Nations University Institution for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS). He also talked about the aims of Pan African Cooperation and Educational Technology programme (PACET). He then discussed the UNU-EHS sessions at 2019 regional climate weeks and community of practice for university.

Roundtable Discussion

The roundtable discussion was focused on ‘five parallel sprints to drive into key topics of digitizing climate action’. Participants were given a number of options, and combined with their previous experience and guidance from the facilitator to make informed choices about how they think technical or abstract information could be translated into activities that would contribute towards a lively and inspiring community and towards efficient climate action. The themes of the five sprints were: designing online collaborative platforms for capacity-building, next-generation registries on block-chain, using block-chain for transparency in climate finance, emerging digitized markets for decentralized renewable energy, digitizing measuring reporting and verification (MRV).

After the first roundtable discussion, participants swapped tables for the second round. Moderators stayed at their tables, briefly presented the main results of the first round and facilitated a discussion to translate the analysis of the first round into actionable solutions for climate actors, tech companies and policymakers. One person from each group then gave a dot pitch about their table discussion.



Picture 4&5: Round table discussion of Innovation and digitalization session

Session 4: Cross-cutting issues, Gender

Main Topic: Gender equality as a gateway for enhanced & inclusive climate action: a capacity-building perspective

Moderator: Lorena Aguilar Revelo, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Costa Rica

Panelists:

- Steven Augusto Petersen Rojas, Undersecretary of Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Ecuador
- Johanna Arriagada Diaz, Project Coordinator of NDC Support Programme and 4NC/3BUR, Climate Change Office, Ministry of Environment, Chile
- Lilian Andrea Gregorio, President of the Board of Directors, Plurales
- Marcella Ribeiro, Legal Advisor, Human Rights and Environment Program, AIDA

The vice-ministerial level panel discussion co-organized by AIDA and UNDP, with governments of Costa Rica, Chile and Ecuador as partners, aimed to support a dialogue between government representatives and civil society organizations from Latin America to help bridge knowledge, address gaps, strengthen capacities in the long term through partnerships that lead to inclusive participation in order to better integrate gender equality and women's rights in national climate agendas, policies and actions.

Speakers discussed the progress made by countries in Latin America in the past 10 years to comprehensively mainstream gender into climate change policy instruments. Ecuador, Peru and Dominican Republic, for instance, have been engaging with civil society and indigenous groups as part of their long term strategy to include them in these processes.

Gender has also been more comprehensively integrated, particularly in the energy and forestry sectors, in Latin America. For instance, in case of Costa Rica it has been integrated into REDD+ strategies and in Peru there is an energy NAMA which includes energy school for women to teach them how to fix solar panels and cooking stoves and develop economic enterprises to sell these technologies.

Countries have demonstrated political will, which presents a great opportunity to exchange experiences in a more systematic way. For instance, specialized technical hubs could be created so that countries are able to better share the experiences and know-how amongst themselves within the region.

Speakers and the moderator stressed on the availability and use of data as a challenge. Not only is there a lack of data on gender and climate change in the region, but also a need to analyze the data appropriately to apply it for finding solutions. Ecuador has ensured a participatory process in the development of its first NDC, by engaging the National Council for Gender Equality as well as various women's organizations. The same inclusive process is planned for the development of its NDC implementation plan.

In Chile, although the first NDC did not have a gender component, the government is planning to include gender equality as part of the revised NDC.

Representative from AIDA stressed that when supporting climate action, it is important to understand the role of women in the particular community, how they rely on natural resources and what their concerns are regarding the impacts of climate change. When there is involvement of women; their voices heard in the discussions and their needs aligned with climate actions, there will be better climate outcomes.

The speakers for the session stressed on the importance of connecting the dots, building alliances and exchanging experiences between the community and the policy makers. Building capacity is critical and engaging the civil society in the development of climate policies, strategies and initiatives can ensure a more systematic integration of gender.



Picture 6: Session on 'Cross-cutting issues, Gender'

Session 5: Key legal developments in capacity-building arrangements under the Paris Agreement & Katowice Rulebook

Main Topic: Creating Climate Law Capacity for Compliance Advancing Legal and Governance Capacity-Building to support Paris Agreement Implementation

Panelists:

- Marie-Clare Cordonier Segger, Senior Director, CISDL, Executive Secretary, CLGI; Professor, University of Waterloo
- Alexandra Harrington – Lead Counsel & Research Director, CISDL / Fulbright Fellow, BSIA
- Adv. Ayman Cherkaoui – Lead Counsel, CISDL / Coord, Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection
- Saleemul Huq – Director, ICCCAD
- Miguel Saldivia – PhD Candidate, University of Cambridge / CLGI
- Emily Morison – Co-ordinator, CLGI Secretariat

The session was designed as a panel discussion aimed to establish a create dialogue amongst participants from a broad range of legal and governance fields, enabling them to create linkages across sectors, through providing for a high level of audience participation. The purpose of this session was to learn from the insights of renowned international legal experts, and also to

connect with practitioners from different fields, deepening their understanding of the legal and institutional mechanisms available to implement their NDCs and the Paris Agreement

Emily Morison presented on the institutional capacity-building mechanisms under the Paris Agreement and how development of these mechanisms led to the formation of the Katowice Rulebook at COP24. She highlighted that global carbon emissions have increased by almost 50% since 1990, and between 2000 and 2010 emission levels grew far more quickly than in each of the three previous decades. Therefore, the use of low-carbon technologies to strengthen adaptation and resilience, and the promotion of renewable energies are essential. There is a need to scale up investments and employ market instruments to enhance ambition and build capacity in developing countries.

She then spoke about an essay competition and the specialization course on ‘Global Climate Law and Governance’ which both undergraduate and graduate students can apply for.

Panel discussion

Marie Clare highlighted that every year, there appears to be increasing interest among law students understand climate negotiations.. Students are keen on learning by doing and now have the opportunity to explore possible options to do so. When deciding what to study or what work to do, majority of students feel now prioritize pursuing something that will make a difference.

Saleemul Huq began by highlighting that one of the things that the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, has not been able to successfully do is financing loss and damage. Knowledge research is supported but anything to do with finance is disregarded. This should be one of the agendas for this year’s COP. He recommended setting up a dedicated financing facility for loss and damage, but pointed out that this might be subject to opposition, especially from the G77 countries.

He then spoke about ICCCAD’s Least Development Countries’ Universities’ Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC) initiatives. There are presently 20 participating universities in the consortium and there is scope for further expansion. . He stated that the LUCCC network can be leveraged to build capacity to demonstrate and measure loss and damage from climate change. Considering the importance of legal recourse in L&D discussions, lawyers and legal professionals have an important role to play.

Marie Clare further emphasized the need for litigation expertise in climate action and highlighted that all parties in the law sector need to be trained about climate change issues. To promote climate justice, there is a need for increased collaboration among relevant actors. . She then shared her experience of working in an organization called ‘Legal Preparedness for Climate Change, where one of the things they would do is hold a nationwide competition inviting young lawyers to share their insights. This provided an opportunity for emerging lawyers to identify holes in their countries’ legislation.

She ended her remarks by suggesting that one of the things that could come out from this year’s COP is a petition from lawyers who are willing to provide legal support free of charge. This will

send a message out to negotiators that there are people who believe in justice and will stand behind climate vulnerable and affected people.

Open discussion

Saleemul Huq remarked that capacity building is unlikely to be a major hot topic in this year's climate negotiations and no extraordinary decisions on the issue are expected to come out. He mentioned that before Paris Agreement came to action, capacity building had been included in Article 6 of the UNFCCC. Over the years, a significant amount of financial resources has been invested in it. However, short term, consultant-driven, fly-in fly-out model of capacity building has employed so far, which has largely been unsustainable.

Going into the Paris Negotiations, the LDCs argued for a separate article for capacity building to build capacity building systems at the national level. The developing world has a lot of knowledge and experience on tackling climate change, which the developed countries can learn from.

Adv. Ayman Cherkaoui emphasized on the importance of indigenous knowledge and the need for driving community-based solutions to tackle climate change.

Marie Clare added by highlighting that capacity building has to be a bottom up process. There is a need to involve lawyers and legal professionals in the process. She ended her remarks by proposing two initiatives - the first would be to start an online petition to gather lawyers globally to provide pro bono support. Second, it would be important to review existing knowledge and literature on climate change to identify the gaps and opportunities for lawyers and also there is a need for legal institutions to integrate climate change as a fundamental element in existing governance structures.



Pic 7&8: Panel discussion on 'Key legal developments in capacity-building arrangements under the Paris Agreement & Katowice Rulebook'

Session 6: Capacity-building Needs and Gaps, Local level capacity-building financing, Youth

Main Topic: Innovative Partnerships for Bridging Capacity Building Gaps: Lessons from Community, Youth and Education Organizations

Panelists:

- Melissa Low Yu Xing, Energy Studies Institute, National University of Singapore (ESI-NUS)
- Eric Bea, Researcher, Asia-Pacific Center for Climate Law, National University of Singapore
- Huan Zheng, Guangdong Harmony Community Foundation (GHCF)
- Sarah Voska, Care About Climate
- Renata Koch Alvarenga, Care About Climate

The session was a panel discussion consisting of case studies of successful collaboration to build collective capacity to ensure community and youth groups have the skills, attributes, and knowledge to be effective change makers.

Huan Zheng mentioned Guangdong Harmony Community Foundation (GHCF) works with the youth and the community members to build on their knowledge of climate change. Community based climate action (CAP) progress also came up through the presentation where capacity building, eco-friendly technology promoting and stakeholders' engagement, and education and mainstreaming were discussed. She also discussed about community meteorological safety toolkits.

Eric Bea spoke about a project that they have been undertaking with students at his university to build their capacity in alignment to UNFCCC. They provide training-of-trainers to educators to build their capacity on climate change negotiation. Educators need to be armed with the right knowledge and tools to teach in more effective ways. The world has evolved such that children and youth now have more access to information, so new pedagogy and methods must be integrated in the classroom.

He ended his remarks by mentioning about the MOE Geography Symposium 2020 focusing on climate change and the training workshop for youth and educators on Biodiversity and Climate Change, which they would be organizing in the coming year.

Renata Koch Alvarenga talked about the education and empowerment of youth. She mentioned the barriers to youth participants are lack of funding, poor quality education, more pressing issues, cultural bias, and unclear path to leadership. If climate change is not a popular topic, it will be hard to advance this cause. For youth leadership, it is necessary to provide capacity building support, especially for the trainers. To train young people to be effective climate activities so that they may have a measurable impact on their local environment, there is a need

them the knowledge and tools to develop active climate mitigation or adaptation projects in their own communities, which achieve real carbon emissions reductions.

Following the presentations, the issue of measuring the impact of such training workshops was brought up. In response, a few ideas were put forth. One way would be track participant's progress on the initial pledge. This could be accomplished by establishing a network of participants and maintaining follow-up communication with them over time. A pre and post-training survey can also be conducted to measure the change in knowledge and awareness of training participants.

Closing session

Saqib Huq, Programme Coordinator, ICCCAD, opened the closing session by sharing a short summary of the day. He mentioned that over the following six-days, the Capacity Building Hub will be hosting other thematic sessions and urged the audience to attend so that they can further exchange knowledge and insights among different stakeholders. He then thanked the participants and organizers for their contribution towards making the event successful.



Picture 9: Closing remarks of the day

Renilde Ndayishimiye, member of PCCB, briefly spoke about the upcoming thematic day at the Capacity-building Hub and also invited the audience to participate at the transparency day, and concluded with a round of thanks.

Evaluation

While the schedule and agenda of the day were well planned out, an unexpected late change in the COP venue led to delays in execution of some activities. However, all the session organizers were very cooperative which helped to make a successful event.

All the sessions' organizers applied for the session through a formal application process of PCCB. Applications were selected focusing on internal consistency of the proposal, experiences on capacity-building and linkages with PCCB's work, gender balance, innovation in proposed approaches and methodology, institutional and sectorial balance, and coherence and diversity.

Agenda for the event were set in several steps. All the sessions' organizers were closely involved in setting the agenda. The sessions were designed as panel and roundtable discussion to make it more interactive which worked very well during the event. The active engagement, interactions and contribution from participants at the sessions were noticeable.

Session organizers were well connected to each other via email and Skype calls in planning for the event. PCCB and ICCCAD were responsible for logistics support which was well maintained.
