



Climate Policy and Public Finance

Regional Approach to Skills Development in Asia and the Pacific
(Achievements 2014-2017)



Closing the Climate Finance Gap in Cambodia: Could Training be the Simple Answer?



“A new initiative designed to train government officials to be better equipped to deal with the pressures of climate change is proving that vulnerability can be reduced through home-grown solutions.”

Background



In Asia and the Pacific, the combination of low-income levels of large population segments and frequent exposure to weather-related hazards render countries particularly vulnerable to climate change. Common threats include rising sea levels, droughts, floods, heat waves and tropical storms. The manifold threats have been recognized by governments in various national and sectoral policy papers.



Notably, countries in the region already spend significant amounts of public money on climate-relevant measures. In Bangladesh, climate spending averaged 6,51% of total government expenditure between 2010-2014. In small island states, these figures tend to be even higher. Albeit regional public climate finance has been on the rise in recent years, many government officials still only have anecdotal knowledge about the causal linkages between climate policy and public finance. Government officials often lack evidence-based policy appraisal methods to identify and assess climate-resilient public investments.

Since 2014, the United Nations Development Programme Bangkok Regional Hub (UNDP BRH) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) have been collaborating to create and implement a regional skills development programme in Asia and the Pacific. The initiative entails skills development both for public sector officials to respond to climate risks through public finance and for training institutions to deliver effective trainings on the issue.



Objectives

Develop a skills building programme on climate policy and public finance for public sector officials

Tailor and deliver training modules in collaboration with national training institutions

Strengthen the capacity of national and regional institutions to deliver training through joint development of materials and experience-exchange

Results

Partners

United Nations
Institute for
Training and
Research (UNITAR)

United Nations
Development
Programme
Bangkok Regional
Hub (UNDP BRH)

Swedish
International
Development
Cooperation
Agency (SIDA)

Cambodia Climate
Change Alliance
(CCCA)

Economics
and Finance
Institute (EFI) of
the Cambodian
Ministry of
Economy and
Finance (MEF)



1 Capacity of national training institution in Cambodia to deliver training on the climate policy and public finance interface strengthened

2 Regional skills development curriculum created

3 Training materials co-developed and tailored to country context with national partners available in English and Khmer

4 Capacity of sectoral ministries in Cambodia to use quantitative policy appraisal tools during national budget negotiations strengthened

5 Awareness about role of climate-responsive budgeting in tackling climate risks among sectoral ministries in Cambodia raised

6 Dialogue among regional training institutions active in climate change learning fostered

Timeline

2014



March:
Learning Needs
Assessments in
Thailand and
Cambodia



May:
Curriculum for
Skills
Development in
Asia and the
Pacific
finalized



25-28 August:
Training of
Trainers with
Economics and
Finance
Institute in
Phnom Penh,
Cambodia



3-6 November:
1st Basic
Training on
Linking Climate
Policy and
Public Finance
in Phnom Penh,
Cambodia

2015



9-11 May:
Applied Training
on Climate-
Responsive
Budgeting in
Phnom Penh,
Cambodia



June:
Climate Policy
and Public
Finance
Learning
Platform
established



27-30
September:
Workshop on
Instructional
Design and
e-Learning
Development in
Phnom Penh,
Cambodia



1-4 November:
2nd Basic
Training on
Linking Climate
Policy and
Public Finance
in Phnom Penh,
Cambodia

2016



<http://www.khmertimeskh.com/news/25133/un-helps-ministries-budget-for-climate-change/>

Key Deliverables

Climate Policy and Public Finance Learning Platform for Asia and the Pacific

E-tutorials Climate Policy and Public Finance (available in English, Khmer, Thai) and Climate Responsive Budgeting (available in English, Khmer)

Basic-level training materials on Climate Policy and Public Finance



Applied-level training materials on Climate-Responsive Budgeting

Curriculum for Skills Development in Asia and the Pacific

Looking Ahead

National discourses on climate-responsive budgeting made significant progress as a result of the initiative. For example, key spending ministries from the Royal Government of Cambodia were able to engage in effective dialogue with the Ministry of Finance on sectoral budgets, and successfully make their case for climate change financing.

Further collaboration can be explored to extend capacity building efforts to support sub-national government agencies in identifying local climate-resilient investments. In addition, a larger number of partnering training institutions can act as regional multipliers beyond the project duration.

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CAMBODIA CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE

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