



ICCCAD Urban Short Course

Developing Networks to Build Urban Climate Change Resilience

14th to 20th May 2015

Dhaka, Bangladesh

Purpose of the course

In the next 20 years the world's urban population is expected to rise from 3.3 billion to 5 billion. Urbanisation will increase the pressure on infrastructure and services like road networks and the provision of electricity and water and sanitation. Climate change presents additional challenges: increasing temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, rising sea levels and more frequent and severe extreme events threaten to overwhelm urban infrastructure, emergency services, social services and urban management systems. Adaptation to



climate change will require action at the local level to adapt to climate change and protect residents, industries, societies and economies from the impacts of climate change. This needs to be supported by city officials and other practitioners who are able to work in innovative ways to respond to the dual challenges of urbanization and climate change.

Impacts and Outcomes

This course strengthens the capacity of city officials who have been mandated to engage with adaptation and resilience in urban areas, particularly through enhancing their ability to build and strengthen relationships between stakeholders within their cities, and to develop networks with other cities in their country and internationally. It will be particularly appropriate for urban local government employees that have recently identified climate change adaptation as a priority, but that are still at early stages in developing their responses. The course provided participants with a sound understanding of the following topics:

- Drivers and processes of climate change in urban areas
- Key principles and practices of conducting vulnerability assessments
- Developing adaptation plans, and implementing adaptation projects
- Communications for network building
- Specific focus on the principles and practice of building urban networks to support these processes.



Participants are equipped to undertake many of the activities that are necessary to strengthen the resilience of their cities, and will be sufficiently aware and knowledgeable to generate support for these actions within their municipal or local government agencies and networks.

Structure of the course

The short course started on 14th May 2015 at the Asia Pacific Hotel in Baridhara, in Dhaka with Prof. M. Omar Rahman, Vice Chancellor, IUB delivering the welcome address. Dr. Saleemul Huq, Director of International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) introduced the group. Dr. David Dodman and Dr. Diane Archer from the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), London coordinated the course. The course was conducted using a range of teaching methods including lectures, participatory discussions, exercises and case studies. Participants shared their own experience of developing responses (including creating and sustaining networks) to complex environmental challenges – including climate change – in their cities.

Twenty three participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Vietnam, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe attended the entire course until 20th May 2015. The participants work on urban issues and research and are linked with different networks related to environment and climate change like ACCCRN, ACTS, BCCT, APAN and ISET. Besides classroom activities the participants shared their knowledge and experience among each other during this course. They also presented their activities what and how they accelerate climate change issues in their respective countries. ICCCAD also invited sector specialists like Ms. Mousumi Pervin from the Comprehensive Disaster Management Project (CDMP), Dr. Aminul Islam, Adviser, UNDP and Dr. Mostafa Quaium Khan, National Policy Adviser of Bangladesh Urban Forum to enhance the knowledge of the participants regarding climate change.

As parts of the programme the participants attended two workshops: National Round Table organized by Habitat for Humanity at the Daily Star Bhaban and a Learning Hub event at the Planning Commission jointly organized by ICCCAD and Planning Commission, Bangladesh. For hands on experience, ICCCAD organized a day long field trip in the Old Dhaka area with the help of Urban Study Group, a voluntary NGO in Bangladesh. There they have



experienced many of the age old structures of Dhaka city which are very much contradict with modern structures but still standing. They had a short boat ride to see the current situation of Buriganga River to see how the users of this river water are affected with various health hazards.



The short course came to an end with a closing ceremony followed by a formal dinner. Dr. Milan Pagon, Pro Vice Chancellor, IUB, Dr. Saleemul Huq, Director, ICCCAD, IUB and Dr. A Atiq Rahman, Executive Director of Bangladesh Center for Advance Studies (BCAS) distributed certificates among the participants upon successful completion of this intensive course. A good number of guests from the government, INGOs, NGOs, embassies, academia attended the dinner.

Hear from the participants

The course was an eye-opener to me on impacts on, and response to climate change in urban systems. It facilitated me to understand the linkage between scientific evidence, practice, people, and policy on urban and per-urban areas as well as the need to strengthen North-South-South collaboration to facilitate learning from mega and small cities' resilience programmes. I managed to develop a work plan to guide integration of urban resilience into our organization's and climate change networks' programmes and projects in Kenya ." Charles Tonui, Researcher, African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS), Kenya

"As an officer in charge of working at the national level, the course helped me know how to build and maintain networks and relationships among stakeholders. Networks are fundamental in ensuring the sustainability of our methods, schemes, and projects which we have developed through best practices, knowledge sharing and mainstreaming UCCR on multilevel Indonesian policies and regulations," says Putra Dwitama, National partnership officer of the ACCCRN- Mercy Corps, Indonesia.

"ICCCAD and IIED urban short course 2015 is a short course that provides not only contextual experience from Dhaka as real laboratory for climate change impacts, but also relevant material for climate change network settings. Since, many nations joined for the course, my experience is also enriched by others lessons learned from different urban and regional network setting. Though, I didn't find specific material about private sector networking (my focus), I found many insights about private sectors from other participants," says Putri Handayani, corporate liaison, senior officer at Mercy Corps, Indonesia.