



## BANGKOK REGIONAL FORUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE



Bangkok Regional Forum on Climate Change - “Low carbon and resilient societies: bridging Sciences, Policies and Practices”, held in AIT, Bangkok 1-3 July 2015, gathered over 400 participants. Scientists, policy makers, diplomats, climate negotiators and advisors, representatives from intergovernmental and development agencies, practitioners NGOs, media and other experts from over 20 countries debated on the role of science in elaborating public policies linked to the objective of COP21, with a special focus on ASEAN member states.

Asia is one of the main contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, with half of the world’s emissions, and one the most vulnerable region to climate change. Increased severity of climate events, rising sea levels and changing weather patterns, coupled with a limited ability to cope, have a severe impact. They threaten vital life support, infrastructure, agriculture, biodiversity and food systems, rising the incidence of vector borne diseases, flood and drought and water availability, among others.

The Forum addressed the region’s ability to address Climate Change adaptation and mitigation on three platforms: scientific forum (23 technical sessions with 114 communications), political meetings (ASEAN Climate Change negotiators workshops, UE-ASEAN 3d dialogue on Climate Change), and media training (3-day workshop for ASEAN media). Side events and exhibition booths of NGOs, intergovernmental and development agencies, poster sessions and parallel meetings between scientists also punctuated the three days.

Jose Ramos-Horta, Timor-Leste former President, Mr. Larry Maramis, Director for Cross-sectoral Cooperation Directorate, ASEAN Secretariat, Dr. Pichet DURONGKAVEROJ, Minister for Science and Technology, Royal Thai Government, Philippe ZELLER, French Ambassador at Large for Climate Negotiations for Asia and Oceania, among others, delivered speeches during the plenary sessions.

Nicolas Hulot, Special Envoy of the French President for the protection of the Planet, delivered a video message at the opening ceremony, available @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sX7sqYpHr7s>

### KEY OUTPUTS

The political meetings brought closer ASEAN CC negotiators. UE-ASEAN dialogue discussed ASEAN INDCs (Intended Nationally Determined Contributions), allowing ASEAN and EU diplomats to work on political and bureaucratic aspects of their elaboration, the schedule of INDCs announcements, and the broader challenges met in the process. ASEAN countries plan to elaborate a common declaration for COP21. Their EU counterpart offered technical support in this regard.

The Scientific Forum concluded climate change challenges and opportunities can be tackled provided that



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- reliable impacts measurement and assessment systems provide the basis for cross-sectoral scientific solutions;
- strong institutional mechanisms are built to monitor and regulate their cross-sectoral and societal implementation in a science-to-policy process.

**Solutions for the transition to a low carbon society exist.** The options are complete de-carbonization of energy system, rapid deployment of renewable energy technologies together with carbon capture and storage (CCS), carbon sink enhancement, containing over-consumption, among others.

The pathway to low carbon and resilient societies requires strong political will, translated in the building of institutional mechanisms and investment in knowledge-based region-specific solutions. In this process, adaptation and mitigation cannot, and should not, be taken separately. To this date, win-win solutions are being elaborated (ie: Agroecology, new thermal insulation practices), but they remain sector-based and incremental, hence not sufficient.

On a global scale, mechanisms to support technology needs, financing needs and capacity building, especially for low and mid-income developing countries, must be realized. **The world will notably require the adoption of a global carbon trading system, along with a sophisticated regulation regime, in order to monitor carbon emissions and long term investments.** Other mechanisms such as UNFCC, Technology Mechanism, REDD+, Green Climate Fund, should be strengthened.

On a regional scale, to design the relevant institutions and technical solutions, **Asia firstly needs a reliable region-wide system for measurement and evaluation of local impacts of climate change, following initiatives such as CORDEX/SECLID (CCS).** As Asia is rapidly urbanizing, a fast-closing window of opportunity exists to develop cities with low carbon and climate resilient urban design and infrastructure.

The region also needs a regional platform for science-to-policy and science-to-communities dialogues. Impact assessment, evaluation based solutions, constant dialogue/collaborative work between theoreticians and practitioners, South-South and North-South cooperation should be developed.

### **FOLLOW UP ACTIONS**

One of the overall purposes of the scientific event was to build a regional network of scientists in CC studies. To concretely implement this objective and foster the role of scientists in facing climate change challenges and opportunities in the region, the partners launched RFCC **Call for Collaborative Research Projects.**

**The Call expects to select 3 research projects in the following fields of research:**

- **Climate Change Adaptation**
- **Climate Change Mitigation**
- **Cross-Cutting Studies in Climate Change**

The total indicative amount of the grant is 5.4 million Thai Baths (maximum 150 000 \$), to be distributed among 3 projects. The duration of the project is two years. The Projects should involve at least 3 different



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research institutions: one research unit at AIT, one research unit from France, and one from an Asian country.

Team members should be high levels scientists acknowledged in their field. The role of science in the future is highly dependent on the training of the young generation. **It is expected that each senior researcher will integrate a junior researcher to the project.**

Projects should have clear research outcomes and public policies applications in the middle term.

**TOR and Applications:** <http://www.rfcc2015.ait.asia/Programme>

**Deadline for submitting applications:** 31 October 2015.