



South-South in Action

Capacity Building for Climate Actions in Southeast Asia

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United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

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Designed by Juan Pablo Ramos Valadez



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Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACCI	ASEAN Climate Change Initiative
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AMS	ASEAN Member States
ASCC	ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AWGCC	ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change
BMA	Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (Thailand)
BUR	Biennial Update Report (under UNFCCC)
CITC	Climate Change International Technical and Training Center (Thailand)
COP	Conference of the Parties (under UNFCCC)
EU	European Union
FSV	Facilitative Sharing of Views (under UNFCCC)
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIZ	German Corporation for International Cooperation
ICA	International Consultation and Analysis (under UNFCCC)
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (under UNFCCC)
IGES	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (Japan)
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (under UNFCCC)
IOs	International Organizations
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LCRS	Low Carbon and Resilient Society
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification (under UNFCCC)
NDA	National Designated Authority (GCF)
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions (under UNFCCC)
OECC	Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center (Japan)
ONEP	Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (Thailand)
PA	Paris Agreement (under UNFCCC)
PaSTI	Partnership to Strengthen Transparency for co-Innovation
PV	Photovoltaic
RCC	Regional Collaboration Centre (UNFCCC)
SB	Subsidiary Bodies (under UNFCCC)
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation (under UNFCCC)

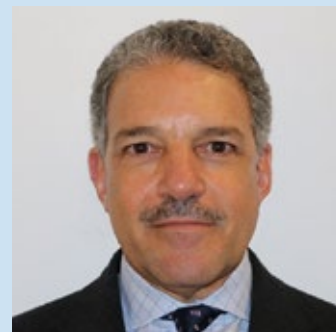
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (under UNFCCC)
SD	Sustainable Development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEP	Sufficiency Economy Philosophy
SSC	South-South Cooperation
TrC	Triangular Cooperation
TGO	Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNOSSC	United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

Foreword

The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), the Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization (TGO) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have the pleasure of sharing the latest publication in the South-South in Action series with you.

Climate change has become a major challenge for the 21st century. Its multifaceted impact is affecting virtually all sectors, people and life on the planet. With a population of 654.3 million and a combined GDP (purchasing power parity, PPP) of US\$8.45 trillion in 2020, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is one of the world's fastest growing regions. It is expected to be the fourth largest economy by 2030. ASEAN is also recognized for its significant climate action as part of the collective effort to maintain changes in global temperatures below 1.50C. The past decade has seen the region actively addressing climate change through policies, strategies and actions and the ASEAN Framework.

In the context of this urgent need for the global community to respond to the challenge of climate change, it is generally agreed that capacity-building is one of the fundamental building blocks for ensuring successful implementation of climate policies and actions to comply with the Paris Agreement and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2014, the Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization (a public body) launched the Climate Change International Technical and Training Center (CITC), to serve as a knowledge hub and training platform to help meet the needs of ASEAN stakeholders to develop their capacity. The CITC places South-South and triangular cooperation at the centre of its strategy, with an eye to strengthening mutual learning and fostering collaboration among ASEAN countries. The Center's objectives include promoting collaborative initiatives and addressing common and specific challenges among ASEAN Member States and stakeholders. This is accomplished through the sharing of experience and knowledge at the intra-regional, sub-regional and bilateral levels.



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This publication showcases five case studies that illustrate the number of ways that TGO/CITC's climate change capacity building is undertaken in the ASEAN region, namely:

- i. Building Regional training capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation and climate finance;
- ii. Regional engagement with the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC);
- iii. Bilateral cooperation between TGO/CITC and Viet Nam;
- iv. TGO/CITC regional conferences; and
- v. Strategic engagement in the United Nations Climate Change Conferences.

The case studies show that South-South Cooperation is at the heart of the Center, through its willingness to share its knowledge and experience. Triangular cooperation, as exemplified by JICA's close support for TGO/CITC, also plays an important role in its success.

Executive Summary

The Climate Change International Technical and Training Center (CITC) was set up by the Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization (TGO) in 2014 to enhance the capacity and ability of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in relation to climate actions. TGO/CITC provides a range of training activities and a networking platform for governments, academic institutions and representatives of the private sector in Southeast Asia. TGO/CITC's training programmes are specifically designed to meet the needs and interests of the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC) and of the ASEAN countries. The CITC's capacity building, training and networking activities are supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and other development partners in the ASEAN region.

TGO/CITC's main services are in four areas:

- i. Continuous and updated training courses on climate change mitigation and adaptation to enhance the capacity of ASEAN countries to address the challenge of climate change. These training courses focus on issues such as climate change and sustainable development, mitigation mechanisms, greenhouse gas inventory, climate change adaptation, climate economics and climate finance;
- ii. Climate change policy dialogue and responses;
- iii. Networking activities and dissemination of knowledge at international, regional and national levels, including support for the AWGCC's Action Plan, TGO/CITC workshops and regional conferences, engagement at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) conferences and side events and exhibitions; and
- iv. Technical support, exchange of expertise and partnerships through South-South and triangular cooperation on climate change, such as the Memorandum of Cooperation between TGO/CITC and Viet Nam and between TGO/CITC and Lao PDR.

TGO/CITC has been involved in South-South and triangular cooperation on climate change capacity building with the ASEAN countries since its inception, in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). This has involved multiple means of engagement.



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Chapter I
A Centre of Excellence for Climate Change Capacity
Building in Southeast Asia



A Centre of Excellence for Climate Change Capacity Building in Southeast Asia

The establishment of the Greenhouse Gas Management Organization (TGO) as a public organization in accordance with the law on public organizations was approved by resolution of the Thai Cabinet on May 15 (B.E. 2550, 2007). While this autonomous public organization has administrative autonomy, it also acts as the centre for collaboration among government, private sector and international organizations. As published in the Government Gazette of Thailand on 6 July 2007 (B.E. 2550, Volume 124, Part 31 A), the public organization known as the “Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management (Public Organization)” was set up under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment with the following objectives:

- to analyse, scrutinize and collect views and opinions in relation to the approval of projects, and to pursue and appraise authorized projects;
- to further the advancement of projects in the market for greenhouse gas quota trading, as approved;
- to act as an information centre for issues relating to greenhouse gas operations;
- to build a database of authorized projects and the approved trading of greenhouse gas quotas, in accordance with the policy determined by the National Board and the TGO Board;
- to foster and enhance efficiency, and to give instructions to public agencies and private bodies in relation to greenhouse gases.

The Climate Change International Technical and Training Center (CITC) was set up by the Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization (Public Organization) on 8 May 2014. The main mission of CITC is capacity building for key stakeholders and disseminating knowledge on climate change and greenhouse gas management in Thailand and Southeast Asian countries.

CITC conducts a range of capacity building activities, including training, seminars, regional events and knowledge dissemination activities on climate change. Its activities are targeted at government officers, students and the private sector in Thailand and ASEAN.

JICA has been involved in long-standing cooperation with TGO, including technical assistance to bring CITC into operation since its launch in 2014. Since then, CITC has built up robust foundations based on its wide recognition as a regional hub for climate change capacity building to enable climate actions in Southeast Asia. CITC epitomizes JICA’s triangular cooperation approach, collaborating with the Thailand-based CITC to encourage climate actions in other ASEAN countries. This form of cooperation, which is captured in this publication, will further accelerate mutual understanding and foster regional cooperation to achieve the shared goal of sustainability.

The climate challenge in Southeast Asia

Climate change is generally defined as ongoing, long-term changes in weather patterns that destabilize the Earth's climatic conditions (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change). Variations in the global and regional climate have significant effects and implications for human livelihoods and the environment. The impacts of climate change are mostly cross-border in nature, creating interdependencies between countries, particularly neighbouring countries such as those in Southeast Asia. The geographical complexity of the region poses risks of climate-related impacts for economic and social development that spill over from one country to another. The cross-cutting nature of climate change requires countries to coordinate their climate mitigation and adaptation measures. Studies reveal that Southeast Asian countries face similar climate-related challenges and vulnerabilities, including rising sea levels, extreme weather events, climate-related migration, altered river flows, food insecurity, deteriorating air quality and human health hazards, particularly transboundary haze. These have short- and long-term impacts on natural and human systems.

Why capacity building matters

Capacity building is indispensable for effective implementation of climate policy and action. It is one of the key building blocks for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as defined in Target 13.3. "Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning". Article 11 of the Paris Agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) stresses the importance of enhancing the capacity and ability of all countries to take effective climate action. The Paris

Agreement also emphasizes that the development of climate change capacity should be country-driven, based on and responsive to national needs, and that it should consider national and local contexts. It also emphasizes that the parties have responsibilities to support capacity-building actions at the regional, bilateral and multilateral levels. Appropriate institutions for climate-response capacity building and action should therefore be established to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Such institutions will also enable exchanges among policy makers, climate scientists and other actors in the climate change system.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a community of ten member countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. ASEAN seeks to advance regional integration and sustainable development through country cooperation and collaboration with dialogue partners. The pillars of ASEAN cooperation reflect strong South-South principles including solidarity, mutual respect and shared benefits and responsibility. As a regional cooperation institution, ASEAN is an active example of the South-South and triangular cooperation approach in action. Cooperation among ASEAN countries includes sharing knowledge, skills, expertise and resources to meet development goals. The ASEAN countries also work with their development partners, who provide capacity building through the provision of funding, training, management, technological systems and other forms of support. ASEAN's South-South and triangular cooperation on climate change capacity building is designed to foster sustainable development within the context of regional integration. This cooperation can help the countries to enhance the sharing of knowledge and technical assistance among themselves and with other development partners.

The ASEAN countries have recognized the imperative of taking action. They have made significant progress on addressing climate change issues and implementing climate change mitigation and adaptation actions. The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2025 aspires to achieve a resilient and sustainable climate community with enhanced capacity and capability to adapt and respond to climate change. The countries have agreed to cooperate among themselves and with their development partners on the climate change response activities in the AWGCC Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change (AAP-JRCC or AWGCC Action Plan). These include capacity building to implement the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the Paris Agreement, as well as strengthening global and regional partnerships for the implementation of the UNFCCC.

The Climate Change International Technical and Training Center (CITC)

The Climate Change International Technical and Training Center (CITC) was launched in 2014 by the Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization (TGO), under Thailand's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE), as a flagship initiative for climate change capacity building in ASEAN. The overall goal of TGO/CITC is to "enhance capacity building and the ability to implement climate actions among Southeast Asian countries by setting up of a one-stop training centre and networking platform for climate change mitigation and adaptation". Its intended outcomes are: (i) enhanced knowledge and response capacity in relation to climate change among government officials, academia, private sector managers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other key actors in the Southeast Asian region; and (ii) an innovative knowledge networking platform for disseminating and

sharing best practices, technologies and tools in relation to various aspects of climate change.

TGO/CITC offers three broad services/outputs as shown in Figure 1, namely:

- i. High-quality technical **training programmes** to enhance institutional and individual capabilities for addressing climate change in response to the needs of ASEAN countries;
- ii. Knowledge **networking and collaboration** among all stakeholders involved in climate actions and responses; and
- iii. Information sharing and **knowledge dissemination and outreach** to contribute to public awareness and policy solutions.

TGO/CITC's capacity building focuses on the main areas of climate change response and mitigation. These include policy actions and measurement, reporting and verification (MRV), science and greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories, mitigation and adaptation, and support mechanisms for climate actions (e.g. economics and finance). TGO/CITC designs and delivers training courses on key knowledge clusters, including estimating and reporting greenhouse gas inventories, climate change and sustainable development, mitigation mechanisms, climate change adaptation, climate economics and climate finance.

Thailand's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP), introduced in 1974 by His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej to guide Thai society towards sustainable development, provides a useful basis for partnership collaboration on climate change. The SEP espouses moderation, reasonableness and prudence as a development framework based on knowledge and virtue, attaching great importance to human development at all levels and emphasizing the

need to strengthen the community’s capacity to ensure a balanced way of life and resilience, fully respecting the environment. The SEP concept thus guides a development model that boosts resilience and adaptive capacity to the adverse impacts of climate change and natural disasters while focusing on local communities.

TGO/CITC, in collaboration with the Government of Japan and the ASEAN Secretariat, has designed and delivered strategic climate change training and networking activities with robust support from JICA since its inception in 2014. As illustrated by the case studies in Chapter II, TGO/

CITC is able to impact regional climate change policy and practice by facilitating long-term climate planning, capacity building activities and cross-cutting partnership coordination among the ASEAN countries and significant development partners. TGO/CITC is recognized as one of the vehicles for supporting implementation of the AWGCC Action Plan. Based on several years of experience, TGO/CITC is committed to excellence in climate change capacity building and networking to reach out to the ASEAN communities and beyond as stakeholders and partners in a climate change knowledge network.

Figure 1: TGO/CITC’s Main Services







Chapter II. Enhancing ASEAN's Capacity to Manage Climate Actions through South-South and Triangular Cooperation Initiatives

Enhancing ASEAN's Capacity to Manage Climate Actions through South-South and Triangular Cooperation Initiatives

TGO/CITC recognizes South-South and triangular cooperation as effective approaches for delivering TGO/CITC's core services, i.e. thematic training, knowledge outreach, focused policy dialogue and professional network building, by bringing together ASEAN countries and collaborative partners with the common objective of regional capacity building. This approach also helps foster practical exchanges to understand the diverse national circumstances across the region. This chapter highlights five case studies involving TGO/CITC in relation to climate change response and mitigation in the region. The case studies are:

1. Regional training on climate change mitigation, adaptation and climate finance;
2. Engagement with AWGCC and ASEAN Climate Change Partnership Conferences;
3. Bilateral cooperation between TGO/CITC and Viet Nam;
4. TGO/CITC Regional Conferences; and

Strategic engagement in United Nations Climate Change Conferences

Case Study: Regional training on climate change (mitigation, adaptation and climate finance)

CITC adopts a needs-based approach to constructing its regional training, reflecting the capacity needs of the ASEAN community. CITC, with support from JICA, has identified the following themes as priority capacity building needs, through a Training Needs Assessment (TNA) in 2018.

- i. Climate change and sustainable development: focusing on climate change science, the impact of climate change, the situation and scenario for GHG emissions, the international climate change regime and regional cooperation in Southeast Asia, SDGs and climate change, climate change strategies and policies in ASEAN countries, and case studies on climate actions in Southeast Asia;
- ii. Mitigation mechanism and decarbonization: focusing on climate change mitigation measures and technologies, the rationale and quantification method for GHG emission reductions, MRV implementation for mitigation measures, mitigation measurement case studies and MRV in ASEAN countries;
- iii. Climate finance: i.e. the landscape for climate finance and its availability, the formulation of bankable climate projects, drafting project proposals using the Green Climate Fund (GCF) as a template and preparation of brief project documents to apply for GCF;
- iv. Climate change adaptation: including

National Action Plan (NAP) options/technologies, practical study of NAP development and mitigating climate risks; and

- v. Greenhouse gas inventory: encompassing the concept of the GHG inventory, practical methods to prepare a national GHG inventory in the energy, industrial processes and product usage, agriculture, forestry and other land use, and refuse sectors (in accordance with the 2006 IPCC Guidelines).

Climate change mitigation

Mitigation involves a collective effort to remove or reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from our socio-economic activities. Mitigation is an indispensable part of the Paris Agreement, which sets out a global framework for avoiding dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C in the 21st century. At the national level, each country defines its mitigation commitment in its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), as part of the 2030 sustainable development agenda. Countries are expected to keep track of progress with the implementation of their mitigation policies and measures, and the attainment of the target. All of the ASEAN countries have put great effort into defining GHG emission reduction targets. The implementation of the NDCs and addressing transparency requirements for tracking progress are key ongoing capacity challenges in the region.

Against this backdrop, TGO/CITC organized a 3-day advanced training event with JICA, the “Enhancing regional capacity of NDC implementation and measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) framework establishment” workshop. This ASEAN course hosted national and sub-national policy makers, as well as sector experts in energy and transport from the ASEAN community. It offered focused, hands-on training for building capacity to translate mitigation ideas into tangible concepts,

and to design MRV frameworks around these concepts.

The country presentations revealed a general preference among ASEAN participants for including renewable energy development and electrification of modes of transport in their mitigation concepts. The technical advice from resource personnel and peer-to-peer comments among country participants provided concrete opportunities to facilitate understanding of mutual mitigation aspirations and the sharing of practical tips on how to improve concept design for effective implementation. The sharing of similar experiences and technical suggestions by Malaysian participants and the proposed electrification of three-wheel vehicles by a Philippine participant provided concrete examples of regional teamwork for overcoming common barriers to NDC implementation and facilitate such peer-to-peer learning. This sharing constitutes a core value and key function of CITC’s regional knowledge platform. Table 1 provides a summary of the results of the “Enhancing regional capacity of NDC implementation and measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) framework establishment” workshop (Bangkok, Thailand, 18-20 December 2019).



The workshop on “Climate Change Adaptation: Climate Change Adaptation National Plan Formulation, Implementation and Framework of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)” for Southeast Asian countries

Table 1: Summary of the implications of South-South and triangular cooperation: regional training on climate change mitigation

Event	Stakeholders	Results
Regional Training Workshop on enhancing regional capacity of NDC implementation and measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) framework establishment (Bangkok, Thailand, 18-20 December 2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from nine ASEAN countries: Brunei, Darussalam Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam Resource personnel from TGO/CITC, JICA, UNFCCC-RCC, NDC-Partnership, USAID, Thailand's National Metal and Materials Technology Center (MTEC) and IGES 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement of national officials from relevant ministries (i.e. energy and transportation sector) in exchanging knowledge and networking Opportunity to understand the NDCs and mitigation-measure implementation and the importance of the MRV system framework, through case study discussions and hands-on experience (e.g. data collection, institutional framework and verification mode) Opportunity to learn from and share peer practices and experiences with significant policy makers and practitioners (e.g. electrification of vehicles, introduction of bio-fuels) Sustained technical support through follow-up activities on NDC mitigation and MRV process

Climate change adaptation

The ASEAN countries are extremely vulnerable to climate change and unavoidable risks associated with climate change impacts, due to their unique geographical, economic and social characteristics. This is because: a large proportion of the population and economic activity is concentrated along coastlines; the region is heavily reliant on agriculture for livelihoods; dependence on natural resources and forestry is high; and the level of extreme poverty remains considerable. With the emerging necessity to adapt to climate change, the countries are designing and implementing adaptation actions to manage anticipated climate change risks at the national, sub-national, local and community levels. Integrating adaptation into national policy development, planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation provides an essential

opportunity for investment in more climate-resilient development.

As outlined in the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprints, ASEAN cooperation on responding to climate change and addressing its impacts aims to enhance regional and international cooperation to address the issue of climate change and its impacts on socio-economic development, health and the environment. Some of the newer and more serious cross-border challenges emerging in the region include haze pollution and natural disasters. The ASEAN countries have agreed on effective adaptation and mitigation policies to prevent further damage to the ASEAN community and its environment. The ASEAN Climate Change Initiative (ACCI) was established to promote collaboration and coordination on key regional

climate change responses and to strengthen the region's capacity. This includes policy and strategy formulation, information sharing, capacity building, technology transfer and joint actions on the global agenda under the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the UNFCCC process. The AWGCC coordinates the implementation of the ASEAN Action Plan under the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint and the ACCI. All ASEAN countries are taking the lead in the implementation of at least one action line under the AWGCC Action Plan.

The three-day "Climate Change Adaptation: National Plan Formulation, Implementation and Framework of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)" regional training workshop was strategically

designed to enhance the system-wide national adaptation policy and planning capacities of ASEAN countries. The target groups included government officials and key stakeholders engaged in national climate change adaptation policy, planning and implementation in the region. The training aimed to promote South-South and regional collaboration through the design and implementation of national adaptation plans (NAPs). This regional training workshop adopted an evidence-based approach to climate change adaptation by analyzing, planning, implementing and monitoring a range of priority actions to strengthen the resilience of the countries to anticipated climate change risks. The outcomes of this regional training on climate change adaptation are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary of implications for South-South and triangular cooperation: regional training on climate change adaptation

Event	Stakeholders	Results
Regional Training Workshop on Climate Change Adaptation: National Plan Formulation, Implementation and Framework of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) (Bangkok, Thailand, 4-6 September 2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants from seven ASEAN countries: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam • Resource personnel from TGO/CITC, JICA, Thailand's Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP), Ibaraki University and Soka University in Japan and Kasetsart University in Thailand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A platform for advancing NAPs formulation, building on the countries' experience and expertise in adaptation • Opportunity for knowledge transfer and enhanced abilities in critical thinking and problem-solving • Introduction to the concept and development of a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework under the UNFCCC's NAP process, with guidelines developed by international organization such as UNDP, and learning from the on-going M&E experiences of developed countries (e.g. various types of progress indicators) • Opportunity to learn and share good practices and solutions that are highly adaptable to local economic and social conditions • Opportunity to enhance networks and engage in effective North-South and triangular cooperation

Climate finance

Climate finance is one of the most important pillars under the Means of Implementation (MOI), which include key enabling elements such as finance, technology transfer and capacity building. This is a critical factor for successful implementation of climate-related measures. Among these, enabling access to financial resources remains a common challenge for developing countries, including those in ASEAN.

The many sources of finance available in the climate regime include two operating sources under the UNFCCC financial mechanism to support the implementation of climate projects: the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Green Climate Fund (GCF). The GCF was established under the UNFCCC in 2010 to scale-up resource mobilization and climate actions in developing countries while catalyzing climate finance to invest in low-emission, climate resilient development, to facilitate a paradigm shift in global and country responses to climate change.

Interest in accessing these international funds has been substantial. Therefore, TGO and JICA co-organized a 3-day “Climate Finance: GCF Concept Note Write-shop” regional training workshop to support ASEAN countries in developing the capacity to formulate concept notes using GCF criteria. The organizers strategically invited country delegates comprising GCF National Designated Authorities (NDAs), existing and potential Accredited Entities (AEs), and National Focal Points (NFPs) to the UNFCCC and sector experts, to work as a team to review requirements and designated formats and to formulate concept notes based on project ideas.

The participants found this training valuable, for a number of reasons. First, CITC offered an opportunity for NDAs, AEs, NFPs and country experts to come together to work in a country team, providing a space for a common understanding

of the requirements for accessing funds and to prioritize project ideas for development. This co-working arrangement offered a better working environment and facilitated relationship building. The intention was to encourage the participants to continue this collaborative working arrangement on return to their countries. Second, the exercise offered direct engagement for participants in the formulation of concept notes, a task which is often outsourced to external consultants. It is critical for key stakeholders, such as NDAs, AEs and NFPs, to acquaint themselves with the basic requirements and have hands-on work experience of drawing up concept notes. This work should nurture organizational memory, enhanced ownership and better project management. Third, CITC offered a continuous learning-by-doing process to improve the drafting of concept notes, with technical support from international resources, including GCF and AEs. While some participants still had the traditional mindset of small-scale project formulation, the training offered an opportunity to expand the project to the scale required for GCF. This was achieved by “bundling” the target regions the project aspires to cover and framing project ideas using a systematic thinking approach by fitting them into the theory of change and presenting transformational values.

As part of this innovative approach, country participants were asked to report back on progress with drawing up a concept note after the training, as part of the results-based training approach. The results of the regional training on climate finance are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Summary of implications for South-South and triangular cooperation: regional training on climate finance

Event	Stakeholders	Results
Regional Training Workshop on Climate Finance: GCF concept note write-shop (Bangkok, Thailand, 10-12 September 2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants from eight ASEAN countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam Resource personnel from UNFCCC-RCC in Bangkok, Climate Policy Initiative (CPI), MUFG Bank (Ltd.), GCF, JICA, TGO/CITC and Ritsumeikan Asian Pacific University 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced knowledge of effective preparation and submission of GCF concept notes and funding proposals Opportunity to learn and update information on climate finance in international negotiations; global climate finance flows, detailed criteria and procedures for accessing GCF, guidelines for developing concept notes and funding proposals South-South climate finance and strategic design through practical exercise, with triangular support from developed countries Sustained technical support through follow-up activities on accessing GCF resources

Case Study: Engagement with AWGCC

It is important for regional capacity building by TGO/CITC to be fully embedded in the regional mandate and processes. Since the sixth AWGCC meeting in 2015, TGO/CITC has been a regular attendee of the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC), which is guided by the AWGCC Action Plan and the ASCC Blueprint. AWGCC meets annually to ensure a well-coordinated and integrated approach is applied and that each ASEAN country is involved, together with relevant development partners, in coping with the impacts of climate change. CITC is recognized by the ASEAN Member States

(AMS) as an important vehicle for implementing the AWGCC Action Plan on capacity building. TGO/CITC and JICA have also joined the ASEAN Climate Change Partnership Conferences, which are convened back-to-back with AWGCC meetings to enhance ASEAN-wide, cross-sector and multi-partner coordination in addressing climate issues in the region. The most recent event was in Singapore in 2019, where CITC experiences were shared, especially with regard to on-going efforts to transform conventional input-based monitoring and evaluation of capacity building into a results-based approach.

Table 4: TGO/CITC's Engagement with ASEAN

ASEAN Climate Change Platform	TGO/CITC contribution
6th AWGCC Meeting Vientiane, Lao PDR, May 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A training curriculum on low carbon and resilient society and a mitigation mechanism were designed and developed to fit the particular needs and development context of the ASEAN countries. • A workshop organized for and delivered to the ASEAN countries on "Capacity Development on Low Carbon and Resilient Society in Southeast Asian Countries" on 22-24 June 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand.
7th AWGCC Meeting Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, July 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the achievements and progress of TGO/CITC in becoming a one-stop technical and training centre on climate change mitigation and adaptation in the Southeast Asia region. • Opportunities for ASEAN countries to share knowledge and experiences and identify innovative solutions to effectively and jointly cope with the climate change challenges facing the countries and the region were discussed and identified for further action.
8th AWGCC Meeting Yangon, Myanmar, January 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of progress with the implementation of TGO/CITC training courses on greenhouse gas inventory management, climate change management for sustainable development, mitigation mechanisms and climate finance. • A plan was proposed by TGO/CITC to collaborate with ASEAN countries on tailor-made curricula designed to fit the specific needs of the countries, such as greenhouse gas mitigation for Singapore, MRV of greenhouse gas mitigation for Indonesia and climate finance for Vietnam.
9th AWGCC Meeting Manila, the Philippines, June 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates were provided on TGO/CITC's capacity building activities delivered in support of ASEAN countries, including the "Mitigation mechanism and decarbonization for Southeast Asian countries" and the "Climate finance for Southeast Asian countries" courses held in May 2018. • Preparation of a training-needs assessment for curriculum development for the 4th TGO/CITC Regional Conference and arrangements for side events at the 24th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

1st ASEAN Climate Change Partnership Conference

Manila, the Philippines, June 2018

- The conference was established as a platform for exploring cross-sector awareness and coordination among ASEAN sector bodies and partners in implementing their climate change activities and projects.
- The conference theme was “Multi-stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships for a Climate Resilient ASEAN”, recognizing the multifaceted climate change issues in ASEAN.
- Attendees included representatives from the ASEAN countries and key dialogue partners (such as UNFCCC, the European Union Mission to ASEAN, the Ministry of the Environment of the Government of Japan, the Norway Mission to ASEAN and the German Agency for International Cooperation).
- TGO/CITC attended the conference to introduce the Center’s activities and contribute to capacity building discussions.

10th AWGCC Meeting

Singapore, August 2019

- TGO/CITC presented updates on activities in support of the AWGCC Action Plan, including a regional training course on climate finance and a regional training course on mitigation to achieve the NDCs and MRV.

2nd ASEAN Climate Change Partnership Conference

Singapore, August 2019

- TGO/CITC’s presentation highlighted the importance of results-based monitoring and evaluation processes for assessing progress with capacity building for climate change in the region.
- Presentation of the results of a regional survey assessing capacity building needs conducted by TGO/CITC and JICA.
- Specific topics to be strengthened across ASEAN were identified, including development of long-term climate change strategy, cross-cutting coordination among relevant agencies, capacity building for MRV, mitigation and adaptation measures, climate projection modelling and climate finance.
- The participants confirmed the recognition of TGO/CITC’s regional capacity building effort through the South-South and triangular cooperation approach as one of the tools for supporting implementation of the AWGCC Action Plan.

Case Study: Bilateral South-South cooperation between CITC/TGO and Viet Nam

Aside from regional training, TGO/CITC engages in bilateral cooperation with ASEAN countries with a strategic, goal-driven cooperation approach, to enhance national climate change commitments through knowledge exchange and networking on issues of mutual interest.

Thailand-Viet Nam cooperation is a leading example of current bilateral cooperation efforts, building on a formal, jointly managed knowledge-sharing platform to foster good climate response practices and solutions. Objectives are set to facilitate learning between the countries, enhance national capacity on climate change and spur greater South-South cooperation. This cooperation entails: (i) expert engagement in training; (ii) sharing and exchange of research results and joint curriculum development; (iii) joint workshops, seminars, training programmes and publications; and (iv) communication (i.e. web-based) and dissemination of knowledge. As of the end of 2019, two non-binding cooperation agreements had been concluded with Viet Nam's Department of Climate Change (DCC) and the Viet Nam National University (VNU) for implementation.

This bilateral cooperation has generated multiple positive impacts and considerable value. First, the policy dialogue with Vietnamese stakeholders enabled in-depth experience sharing on key issues, including the state of NDCs, the climate policy framework, sub-national mitigation efforts, GHG inventory formulation, the MRV process and finance. In addition, bilateral exchange among experts provided further understanding of common challenges and learning from mutual approaches. Second, flexibility in donors' engagement in the dialogue, through experience-sharing (technical assistance support) by JICA in this

case, provided another perspective for discussion of the way forward, developing the dialogue into a triangular cooperation process. Third, the bilateral cooperation helped present Thailand's teamwork. The cooperation mobilized key stakeholders, such as the national climate change focal point of Thailand, as well as several TGO departments, collectively representing a comprehensive country effort. Finally, an in-country visit to Vietnam also provided an opportunity for TGO to meet other stakeholders, broadening its professional network. Dialogue with Viet Nam's Disaster Management Authority and the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), as the NDA for GCF, offered a window of opportunity for more in-depth themed collaboration.

Case Study: TGO/CITC Regional Conferences

Since 2014, TGO/CITC, in collaboration with JICA, has organized a series of regional conferences that have been instrumental in strengthening South-South and triangular cooperation on climate change capacity building in Southeast Asia. TGO/CITC regional conferences are designed to reflect the most recent topics and up-to-date climate change discussions on the global and regional development agenda. This includes the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ASEAN Blueprints.

The first TGO/CITC regional conference, on Launching the Climate Change International Technical and Training Centre and the ASEAN Workshop for Capacity Development on Low Carbon Society: Training Needs Assessment, was held in May 2014 in Chonburi, Thailand. The participants from ASEAN countries and significant partners assessed ASEAN's training needs for

climate change response and exchanged their countries' practices for the development of a low carbon society. They acknowledged the need for capacity building in climate change policy formulation and implementation, as well as the role of TGO/CITC for ASEAN countries.

The second TGO/CITC regional conference, entitled Regional Workshop for Capacity Development on Low Carbon and Resilient Society in Southeast Asian Countries was held in Bangkok, Thailand, in June 2015. The conference was attended by representatives from the ASEAN countries and their development partners. It highlighted capacity development as a key success factor for achieving a Low Carbon and Resilient Society (LCRS) and the role of TGO/CITC in strengthening the capacity of ASEAN on LCRS development and mitigation mechanisms.

The third TGO/CITC regional conference on Climate Change and Sustainable Development: How to Accelerate Climate Actions in Asia through Capacity Building and Climate Finance took place in Bangkok, Thailand, in March 2016. Co-organized by TGO/CITC, JICA and the UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre (RCC) for the Asia-Pacific Region, in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat, the conference engaged participants to identify and discuss mutual interests and concerns. These included innovative climate solutions focusing on accelerating mitigation and adaptation actions through NDCs. It also identified partnership and cooperation opportunities in capacity building, technology transfer and climate finance as means of NDC implementation. Key messages from the conference included: (i) effective climate actions for the Paris Agreement can be performed and accelerated through capacity building and climate finance; and (ii) TGO/CITC will continue and further enhance its function as a regional platform and networking hub for South-South and triangular

cooperation on climate actions and sustainable development in the region.

The fourth TGO/CITC regional conference entitled Accelerating the Paris Agreement Implementation through Climate Finance, Technology and Capacity Building was held in Bangkok, Thailand, in July 2018. This conference focused on capacity building, regional collaboration, climate finance and technology as means of implementing the Paris Agreement and NDCs. It was attended by participants from the ASEAN countries and international partners (i.e. JICA, UNDP and the UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre (RCC) for Asia-Pacific Region). The conference considered the latest global and regional trends in climate policies and actions to enhance implementation of the Paris Agreement and ASEAN strategies. Participants also shared lessons learned and good practices in relation to technology transfer, capacity building for mitigation and adaptation, and regional collaboration. Some of the lessons learned from the panel discussions included the design of various MRV incentives in ASEAN countries and the importance of engaging non-state actors, such as the private sector and civil society organizations (CSOs) in NDC implementation.

The fifth TGO/CITC online regional conference, entitled "Virtual Talks on the Climate Crisis Call for Collaborative Leadership 'Build Back Better Together' in Southeast Asia", was held in Bangkok, Thailand, in September 2020. This conference aimed: to report on climate change progress and action affected by the COVID-19 pandemic; to call for action to ensure a green economic recovery; and to establish a networking platform for sharing and learning from the crisis to prepare for future climate action in the post COVID-19 recovery. The virtual conference was well attended by Thai government and non-government institutions, as well as a wide range of participants from

ASEAN countries. The impact of the pandemic on business sectors such as tourism and the environmental industry, notably waste management, were presented and the ways forward for a green recovery in each sector were explored. The conference also reviewed public policy on climate change in the global and Thai contexts, as well as short-term and long-term goals for climate action. Transformation of the capacity building approach during the pandemic using online platforms was discussed by representatives of the ASEAN countries. Early lessons learned from the pandemic were also shared to prepare for effective climate action in the future.

Case Study: Strategic engagement in the United Nations Climate Change Conferences

CITC sees engagement at the side events at the Conference of the Parties (COP) and Subsidiary Bodies (SB) under the Convention as a strategic entry point for connecting with global audiences and disseminating the results of CITC's regional efforts.

Since 2014, TGO/CITC, working with JICA as a key partner, has organized a series of side events and exhibits to highlight the importance of climate change capacity building and networking, and to share experiences and promote South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation among ASEAN countries. Key activities have included facilitating regional dialogue among ASEAN countries and their development partners, and organizing technical panel sessions. Over the years, the strategic engagement of TGO/CITC in UNFCCC COPs has progressed from showcasing TGO/CITC as a driver of the regional capacity building agenda on climate actions to promoting the implementation of a result-based approach for attaining the Paris Agreement goals, including the NDCs, through South-South cooperation and technical dialogue among Southeast Asian stakeholders and international partners.

Back-to-back side events were co-organized by Thailand, through TGO/CITC and the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP), and Japan, through JICA and the Overseas Environmental Cooperation Centre (OECC), at the UNFCCC COP 25 Conference in Madrid, Spain, in 2019. These side events reported and promoted TGO/CITC's experiences in climate change capacity building in Southeast Asia. These included: the side event on "Southeast Asia Regional Focused Dialogue: Designing National MRV Framework for Tracking Progress of NDCs and City-level Climate Action", aimed at facilitating knowledge exchange and sharing the experiences of ASEAN countries with the MRV Framework, NDC implementation and the results of ASEAN training needs assessment analysis; and the side event on "Sharing Experiences from ASEAN Countries: Developing Country Approaches on NDC Target Tracking and Capacity Building Needs", to facilitate information exchange and discussion among ASEAN countries and partners on specific subjects to enhance understanding of country efforts, approaches and challenges, and to focus remaining capacity needs on effectively addressing climate change, including NDC implementation in the ASEAN region.

Key messages from the COP 25 TGO/CITC side events include:

- i. experiences from the ASEAN countries revealed that legal foundations, systematic institutional arrangements and technical guidance are essential elements for ensuring the effectiveness of NDC implementation;
- ii. practical issues in the tracking system were identified, including designing indicators to track mitigation measures not quantified by the quantity of GHG emission reductions, sector data collection and the time it takes for domestic regulatory systems to adjust to/ accommodate new UNFCCC requirements;
- iii. challenges identified by the development partners included designing holistic approaches to address thematic transparency requirements (mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation), legal systems for NDCs and transparency, and human resource development and capacity retention;
- iv. additional crucial elements highlighted by the development partners included engagement of non-state actors in tracking progress, differentiating tracking of financial flows according to layered NDC targets, harmonizing and sharing methodologies across countries, and a tailored approach to NDC tracking according to various emission profiles (different approaches for energy-based CO₂ vs. Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) based emissions); and
- v. facilitating tracking of the progress of the NDCs and city-level climate action requires coordination and harmonization of the tracking of NDCs with Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) of the SDGs (focusing on national climate focal points vs. Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordination and actions by local governments). This will help to: clarify the scope/target of tracking required (emphasizing actions vs. outcomes, financial flows); and close the gap between the perceptions of stakeholders (particularly citizens and private companies) and their level of understanding of transparency.



CITC attended the United Nation Climate Change Conference 2019 (COP25) at Madrid, Spain



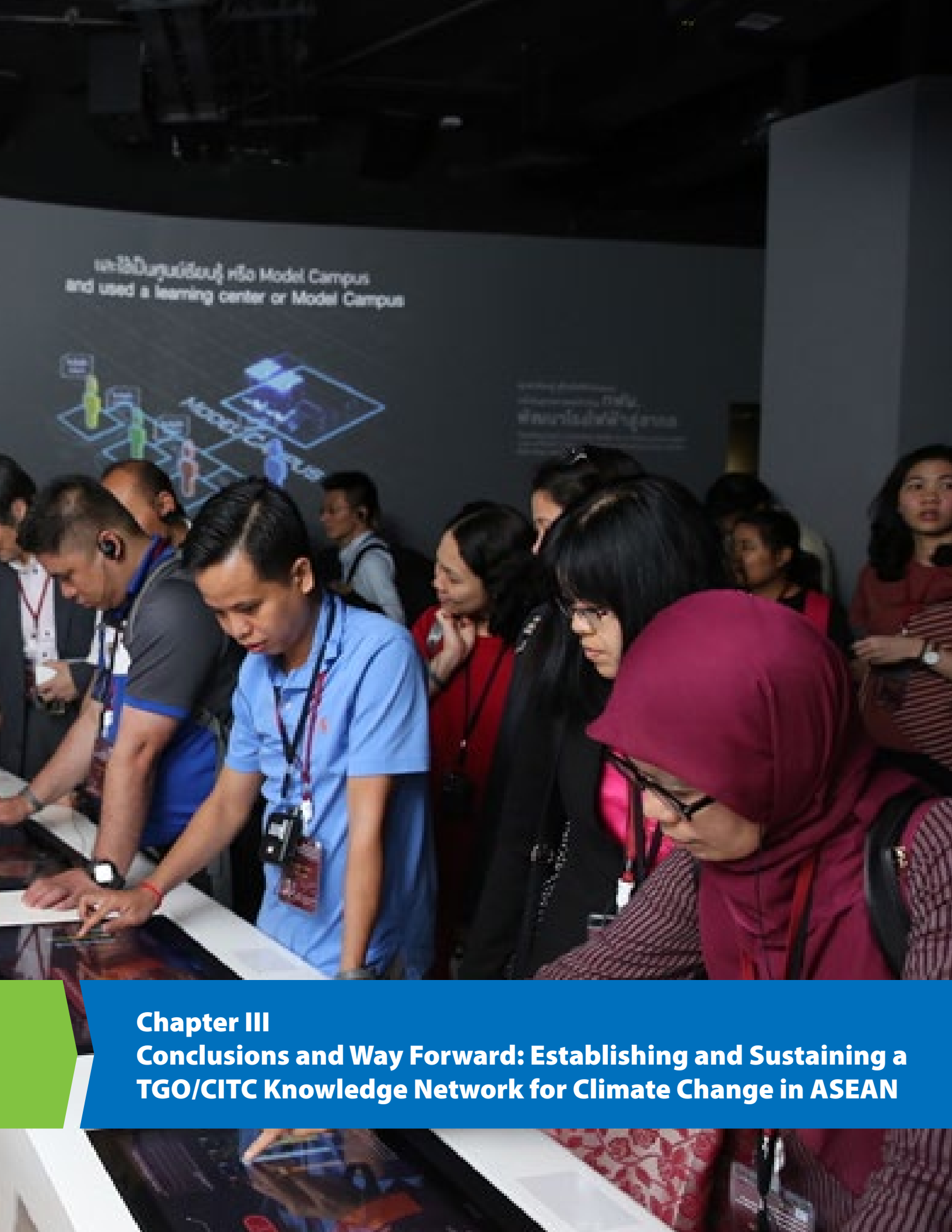
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and used a learning center or Model Campus

Chapter III

Conclusions and Way Forward: Establishing and Sustaining a TGO/CITC Knowledge Network for Climate Change in ASEAN

Conclusions and Way Forward: Establishing and Sustaining a TGO/CITC Knowledge Network for Climate Change in ASEAN

Starting from collaboration between JICA and the Thailand Greenhouse Management Organization, a vision has evolved of developing this collaboration into a regional asset. Although the project formally ended in September 2020, the TGO/CITC created under this collaboration will continue to serve the ASEAN Member States and possibly extend its capacity-building scope to other regions. CITC is an example of institutions developed by countries to support efforts to achieve the sustainable development agenda. It is fitting that Thailand should host TGO/CITC, as ASEAN's coordinator for sustainable development. CITC has built partnerships that will further enhance its outreach and influence as a regional capacity building institution and hub. Its partnership with the UN Office for South-South cooperation brings it into the tent of the UN and other multilateral institutions. Within this scope, TGO/CITC will reach out to other organizations through the South-South Galaxy, a knowledge exchange platform for the Global South.

TGO/CITC plays a key role as a driver of regional capacity building in Southeast Asia, helping countries equip themselves with up-to-date climate knowledge and hands-on skills to enable them to undertake climate actions, as climate change is one of the most urgent issues to be addressed to achieve the SDGs. Therefore, climate change and the sustainable development agenda are interlinked and should not be looked at as separate issues and all efforts must be developed in a complementary and comprehensive way. The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community

Blueprint 2025 shares a common view among ASEAN member states that the region is highly vulnerable to climate change. The Blueprint states the need to find solutions to adapt to climate change in building a resilient ASEAN.

CITC applies a flexible approach to tailor its contents and services according to evolving capacity building needs surrounding the NDCs, implementation of the Paris Agreement and emerging requirements under the Convention itself. The CITC experience proves that a regionalized approach to capacity building in the context of South-South and triangular cooperation can be deemed effective for facilitating and expediting climate actions through enhanced peer-to-peer learning opportunities, exchanges and the sharing of views, as well as expert network building.

The current effort to re-orient its work towards results-based capacity building also enhances capacity building, as establishing a results-based monitoring and evaluation framework for capacity building in the context of South-South cooperation is a relatively new field. CITC's monitoring and evaluation experiences and operational lessons add value to ongoing global discussions in the global South-South cooperation community.

The COVID-19 outbreak has raised new operational challenges, compelling CITC to revisit how capacity building and its momentum can best be sustained in the absence of conventional face-to-face arrangements. Taking these challenges into account, CITC has effectively adopted a new business model that involves going

digital and introducing online training, seminars, conferences and consultations. CITC has recently organized its first online regional capacity building event and training on mitigation, adaptation and climate finance. While the process entails learning-by-doing, CITC managed to connect dedicated climate change professionals, AMS participants, resource personnel and stakeholders online to discuss the topics and enable them to share their views.

The online approach is consistent with the new TGO/CITC Strategic Plan (2020-2024), in which innovative-capacity building approaches will be applied to emerging challenges. This adaptation to challenges will enable CITC to achieve its vision of becoming a regional capacity building and knowledge management hub.

This approach will enhance the development of the professional networks required for climate actions at the regional and global levels. CITC's door is always open to new partnerships and collaborative opportunities to serve the needs of the region to cope with climate challenges in the context of sustainable development.

The attributes, partnerships and adaptation achieved by TGO/CITC will enable it to remain an important regional asset.



The workshop on Climate Finance: GCF Concept Note Write-shop⁴ for Southeast Asian countries



United Nations
Office for South-South Cooperation

