



## 5<sup>th</sup> CITC Regional Conference Summary

On 18 September 2020, Climate Change International Technical and Training Center in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency organized a live talk on the 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference on Virtual talks on the climate crisis Call for collaborative leadership “Build Back Better Together” in Southeast Asia brought together over 61 participants, from 8 countries in South East Asia.

The objective is to update situation and action of climate change affected by the disease pandemic, call for climate actions on economic recovery from brown to green, and to share and learn from the crisis to climate action in the future. In this regard, participants both in Thailand and from the ASEAN region attended this online conference.

### Conference overview

#### **Session 1: Climate disruption:** Threat in the next decades

- Climate change and pandemic are posing the largest 21<sup>st</sup> century threats.
- Updating/Re-recognizing/re-discovering the value of climate actions/activities during pandemic period.
- How created new normal from COVID-19 affect climate goal.

#### **Session 2: Recovering for Better:** Shift Economies from brown to green.

- COVID-19 recovery driven by green investment.
- Transitioning into a better new normal to tackle a climate crisis.

#### **Session 3: Transformation to capacity-building approach:** Tools and issues of capacity building to ensure knowledge sharing during the pandemic

- Transform capacity-building for climate action to ensure knowledge sharing in achieving a green economic recovery post COVID-19.

#### **Session 4: Lesson - learned from pandemic:** Learning from the crisis for preparing climate action in the future

- What does coronavirus crisis tell us about the climate crisis?
- Climate emergency is required.
- Response needed to fight the climate crisis.

## Conference Programme

Time	Content
09:50 – 10:00	<b>Welcome Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Natarika Wayuparb Nitiphon (Deputy Executive Director of TGO)</li> </ul>
10:00 – 10:20	<b>Plenary Session 1: Climate disruption:</b> Understanding threat in the next decades The 21 <sup>st</sup> century threat (Climate change and pandemic) (20 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Deo Gabinete (NDC partnership)</li> </ul>
10:20 – 10:35	<b>BREAK</b>
10:35 – 12:00	<b>Discussion Session 2:</b> How does new normal from COVID-19 affect climate goal. (no presentation) Co-Moderator: Mr. Makoto Kato (OECC) Dr. Issara Poljungeed (TGO) <b>1<sup>st</sup> Round:</b> New normal (New abnormal) from COVID-19 (45 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Mushtaq Memon (UNEP)</li> <li>Mr. Watcharayu Kuawong (TAT)</li> <li>sharing from audience</li> </ul> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Round:</b> How its effect to climate goal (short term – long term) (40 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Kollawat Sakhakara (ONEP)</li> <li>Mr. Jens Radschinski (UNFCCC)</li> <li>Dr. Peter King (IGES)</li> </ul>
12:00 – 13:20	<b>Lunch</b>
13:20 – 13:45	<b>Recovering better:</b> Shift economies from brown to green <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Mushtaq Memon (UNEP)</li> </ul>
13:45 – 14:00	<b>BREAK</b>
14:00 – 15:30	<b>Transformation to capacity-building approach:</b> Tools and issues of capacity-building to ensure knowledge sharing during the pandemic Moderator: Koji Fukuda (JICA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Aznie Rahim (Alumni from Malaysia)</li> <li>Ms. Mellissa Low (Alumni from Singapore)</li> <li>Mr. Joe Mari S. Francisco (Alumni from Philippines)</li> <li>Mr. Thawatchai Saengkhamasuk (Director of CITC)</li> <li>Dr. Bundit Limmeechokchai (SIIT)</li> </ul>
15:40 – 16:30	<b>Lesson - learned from pandemic:</b> Learning from the crisis for preparing climate action in the future Moderator: Mr. Thawatchai Saengkhamasuk (Director of CITC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Stefanos Fotiou (UNESCAP)</li> <li>Mr. Koji Fukuda (JICA)</li> <li>sharing from audience</li> </ul>
16:30 – 16:45	<b>Closing Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Takeuchi (Senior Representative from JICA Thailand)</li> </ul>

## *Welcome Remarks*



*Dr. Natarika Wayuparb Nitiphon, Deputy Executive Director of TGO*

### Key Message:

**We are facing severe global challenges** and experiencing the disastrous effects of climate change. **Millions of people are suffering** from the catastrophic events exacerbated by climate change. **According to the IPCC report, if there is insufficient action** to reduce greenhouse gas emission, the global average temperature I likely to rise **by 1.8 to 4 degrees Celsius** by the end of this century, which will trigger serious consequences to humankind.

**The Paris agreement states that “We shall hold the increase in the global average temperature** to well below 2 degree Celsius and pursue efforts to limit the temperature to 1.5 degree Celsius above preindustrial levels.” In order to solve this global crisis, we need to **“Take Urgent Climate Actions.”**

### *Main points for the Conference*

#### **Plenary Session 1: Climate disruption:** Understanding threat in the next decades

**By: Mr. Deo Gabinete, NDC partnership**

Impacts of Climate Change and COVID-19.

-Economics: GDP Growth decrease, the consumption and production of oil fuel in 2020 due to the weak demand in aviation, shipping, transport and manufacturing sectors and Aviation industry is highly impacted due to drastic fall in international and domestic travel.

-Environment: At peak home confinement period, emissions in individual countries decreased, Global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are likely to decline and Governments have the short window of opportunity to shape future global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions pat.

- Health: Deaths and mental health.

- Social: Crime, changes in work routine and increase in domestic violence.

#### **Discussion Session 2:** How does new normal from COVID-19 affect climate goal

##### **1<sup>st</sup> Round:** New normal (New abnormal) from COVID-19

**By: Dr. Mushtaq Memon, UNEP**

On that time the waste from medical waste and plastic waste increasing, there is a many challenge for environmental to reduce waste for further plan to stopping COVID-19 pandemic.

**By: Mr. Watcharayu Kuawong, TAT**

In the tourism sector of Thailand has the Safety Health and Administration (SHA) Project aims to Tourism Business for new normal, there will monitoring and audit at workplace for received a certificate from TAT, there is also a protection section to control the pandemic using Thermoscan, alcohol gel and social distancing.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Round:** How its effect to climate goal (short term – long term)

**By: Dr. Kollawat Sakhakara, ONEP**

Possible impacts Thailand Climate Change Goals;

- 1) Corona virus with tourist gone, wildlife makes a comeback in Thailand.
- 2) Energy consumption decrease in transportations sector, industrial sector and other (agriculture, household and commercial combine sectors).
- 3) Level of air pollution in Bangkok reduction.
- 4) Minister of Natural Resources and Environment to promote green jobs.
- 5) Minister of Natural Resources and Environment to support the circular economy pilot model of plastic waste drop-off station.

**By: Mr. Jens Radschinski, UNFCCC-RCC**

- 1) COP 26 has been postponed to November 2021, A little bit positive impact because there is more time for climate action alignment before COP 26.
- 2) NDC report cannot be prepared by countries because of the pandemic.
  - Downturn of the economic.
  - A bit too early to have a clear picture of impact of COVID-19 on climate goal since it is still a short term of the pandemic, so a strong picture of countries on ambition on climate action and climate goal cannot be seen.
- 3) Continue engagement and commitment of countries.
  - Short term impact: A lot of activities are going on electronic meeting more interaction and training.
  - Long term impact: Electronic meeting could be continued to reach more people for training and maintain commitment and work.

**By: Dr. Peter King, IGES**

Post-COVID Recovery and Adaptation;

- 1) Economic impact of COVID-19 has set back development by decades.

Exports have collapsed, unemployment is at record highs, especially in the entertainment, aviation and tourism sectors.
- 2) Temporary environmental benefits, like reduced GHG emissions and cleaner air.

Fear of COVID-19 is forcing many people to abandon public transport and use their private vehicles to commute to work, waste management challenges have increased significantly as a result of the pandemic and reduced recycling capacity and a collapse of the market price for recycled plastics.

3) There is a lot of discussion about a “green recovery”

Japan’s Minister of Environment and UNFCCC launched 2020 redesign that tracks what countries are proposing to do as part of a green recovery for supporting developing countries' climate action. (more information <http://platform2020redesign.org>.)

4) Planned investment is mostly going into “shovel ready” infrastructure.

While at least 30 countries have directed measures towards greener economies, for the G20 recovery packages, energy and transport are the major sectors, with 52% of energy investment going into fossil fuels.

5) The challenge, therefore, is to ensure that the planned infrastructure is climate proofed. Pre-pandemic a significant amount of external funding has been directed towards community-based adaptation, vulnerability assessments, capacity strengthening, and ecosystem-based adaptation, but as we recover from COVID-19 most of the funding will need to be incremental climate proofing funding.

**Recovering better:** Shift economies from brown to green

**Dr. Mushtaq Memon, UNEP**

Green recovery and response

1) On-going scenario-For UNEP focusing on environment dimension: We have seen major improvement in environment due to the change in the lifestyles that is currently linked with the unfortunate. However, we can learn lesson to support the policies and mechanism that during normal times low the situation for environment remains improved while picking up on economic and social recovery.

2) Post Covid-19 is being debated all over the world and all the UN Country Teams are actively discussing on this for their respective countries including UNCT Thailand. The important aspect for UNEP and our teams our team support these discussions in a way that economic and social recovery creates win-win situation for environmental recovery base on the pressure on governments for creating jobs and economic recovery.



**Transformation to capacity-building approach:** Tools and issues of capacity-building to ensure knowledge sharing during the pandemic

**By: Ms. Aznie Rahim, Malaysia**

Malaysia have written down a start term economic recovery plan on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020, the plan focuses on empowering people got the back of business. For environment and climate consideration, outline a Green new deal economic recovery. Which is a 5 years plan and the next plan will be announced next year (2021-2025) Green new deal is about reducing carbon emission as well as addressing climate change impact.

**By: Ms. Mellissa Low, Singapore**

Green growth and Decarbonization plan are very important and climate science research program office will not only in mitigation but also looking that how we can increase the resolution of the science. In terms of job, economy is likely to shrink 6%. The government announces that 55,000 job in the area of sustainable development in Singapore, green recovery for economy will be announced in August.

**By: Mr. Joe Mari S. Francisco, Philippines**

For COVID-19 recovery, Philippines launches a recovery blueprint “we recover as one”. Containing program policy in terms of recovery process after COVID-19 or post COVID-19 strategy. Current economic stimulus package 28.7 million buy US Dollars, under the environment action will in specific measure on how to shift to greener economy after COVID-19 pandemic. 2021 proposed national budget called “reset rebound and recover”.

**By: Mr. Thawatchai Saengkhamasuk, CITC and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bundit Limmeechokchai, SIIT**

Since early 2020, the COVID-19 CITC to revisit how capacity building and its momentum can be best sustained in the absence of conventional face-to-face arrangements. In this regard, CITC is a new model to go online platform for the organized of training, seminars and conferences. CITC most recently organized the first online regional capacity building and training on mitigation, adaptation and climate finance. While the process entails learning-by-doing, CITC managed to connect dedicated climate change professionals, ASEAN Member State participants, resource persons and stakeholders online to collectively discuss the covered topics and sharing of views.

**Lesson - learned from pandemic:** Learning from the crisis for preparing climate action in the future

**By: Dr. Stefanos Fotiou, UNESCAP and Mr. Koji Fukuda, JICA**

- COVID-19 get up negative benefit from the Environment on the plastic waste and micro plastic, and the member countries need the green recovery in order to improve the capacity.
- The challenges in operating on the sustainable development and SDGs goal.
- Take with opportunity go to green recovery and low carbon investment in order to a get better for the economy, environment and climate implementation.
- A balance between economic and health and all so environment improved as well.
- Promote recovery to stop fossil fuel use and we go to carbon neutral in the further.
- *Climate action lesson learns From the COVID-19 pandemic (Seven climate lessons learn) from UNESCAP.*

- 1) Put science and scientists first
- 2) Adopt a “whatever money it takes” approach
- 3) Protect and improve common goods
- 4) Focus on those already left behind
- 5) Make the global value chains climate resilient
- 6) Fix and make sustainable the food systems
- 7) Ensure credible information and not fake news leads the public discussion






Please refer to the *Seven climate lessons learn* at;

<https://www.unescap.org/blog/climate-action-lessons-covid-19-pandemic>



## List of Speakers and Resource Persons

No.	Name	Position	Picture
1	Mr. Deo Gabinete	Regional Manager, Eastern Europe, Asia and the Pacific, NDC Partnership Support Unit	
2	Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Memon	Regional Coordinator for Resource Efficiency, United Nations Environment Programme, Asia Pacific Regional Office (UNEP)	
3	Mr. Watcharayu Kuawong	Chief of Special Interest Product Section, Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT)	
4	Dr. Kollawat Sakhakara	Environmental Officer and Director of Thailand UNFCCC Focal Point Section, the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP)	
5	Mr. Jens Radschinski	Head of the Regional Collaboration Centre Bangkok, UNFCCC	
6	Dr. Peter King	Senior Policy Advisor, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)	
7	Ms. Aznie Rahim	Principal Assistant Secretary, Climate Change Division, Ministry of Environment and Water, Malaysia	
8	Ms. Mellissa Low	Research Fellow, Energy Studies Institute, National University of Singapore	
9	Mr. Joe Mari Francisco	Development Management Officer, Implementation Oversight Division, Climate Change Commission, Philippines	

10	Mr.Thawatchai Saengkhamasuk	Director of Climate Change International Technical and Training Center (CITC)	
11	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bundit Limmeechokchai	School of Manufacturing Systems and Mechanical Engineering, Sirindhorn International Institute of Technology, Thammasat University (SIIT)	
12	Dr. Stefanos Fotiou	Director, Environment and Development Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)	
13	Mr. Koji Fukuda	Chief Advisor, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)	
14	Mr. Makoto Kato	General Manager, The Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center (OECC)	
15	Dr. Issara Poljungeed	Technical Expert of Climate Change International Technical and Training Center (CITC)	