



CONCEPT NOTE

The Universities Network for Climate Capacity (UNCC)

Prepared and initiated by the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCAD) at Independent University, Dhaka, Bangladesh (IUB) and the Climate Change Policy Working Group, Oregon Climate Change Research Institute (OCCRI) at Oregon State University (OSU), Corvallis, Oregon, USA

BACKGROUND

At the December 2015 United Nations climate change meetings in Paris (COP21) negotiators from throughout the world addressed in depth the issue of capacity building. Developing country delegates led the effort to include capacity building prominently in the Paris Agreement. After considerable discussions, Article 11 of the Paris Agreement reaffirmed that capacity building and climate education were essential to climate action. Since Paris, the emphasis has shifted from short term capacity building to include long term capacity building. The Paris Agreement mandated the creation of the Paris Committee for Capacity Building (PCCB) which was constituted at COP22 in Marrakech, Morocco in November 2016.

During COP22 in Marrakech the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) and the University of Cadi Ayyad in Morocco held a half-day side event to discuss the role of Universities in implementing Article 11 of the Paris Agreement and providing support for the work of the Paris Committee on Capacity Building. Also the Research and Independent NGOs (RINGOs) group, along with IUB and the UNFCCC Secretariat, held another side event on the same topic. There was overwhelming support from many students and faculty of universities from both the Global South and the Global North; from both developing country universities and developed country universities to build a network of universities to build climate capacity that focused primarily on adaptation at every scale, particularly in the most vulnerable countries.

Summary of Article 11

Intended to enhance the capacity of developing countries to address climate change through various activities (technology transfer, access to climate finance, trainings and awareness, transparent, timely and accurate communication).

Should be country-driven, based on countries needs and guided by lessons learned.

Needs to be an iterative process that is participatory, cross-cutting and gender responsive.

Implemented by regional, bilateral and multilateral approaches.

Developing countries should report on capacity building programs, plans, actions and measures.

Capacity building will be supported through appropriate institutional arrangements, which the COP will consider and adopt.



OBJECTIVES

1. To stimulate cooperation between universities who are engaged in capacity building about climate change issues (such as adaptation, mitigation, technology, finance, governance) and foster a north-south collaborative organization for enhancing research capacity and proficiency in climate change.
2. To enable those universities that need further capacity on any relevant climate change topic to acquire such additional capacity from other network member universities; to support in-country universities to provide leadership for building in-country climate capacity.
3. To engage with and support the Paris Committee for Capacity Building (PCCB) of the UNFCCC and Parties as they implement Article 11 on Capacity Building of the Paris Agreement.
4. To develop the capacity of universities to design and implement teaching and training programs on different climate change topics with a significant focus on culturally responsive climate change adaptation, especially community-based adaptation.
5. To work on climate response actions with and for the most vulnerable at every scale, including community-based adaptation methods and frameworks. This effort will be a two-way collaborative capacity building program. UNCC members will offer help to countries, communities, NGOs, and universities as well as seeking help from these parties to build their own climate change capacity.

ORGANIZATION OF THE UNIVERSITIES NETWORK FOR CLIMATE CAPACITY

The consortium will be led and managed by two universities: (1) From the Global South – Independent University Bangladesh (IUB), Dhaka, Bangladesh; and (2) from the Global North – Oregon State University (OSU), Corvallis, Oregon, USA. The UNCC will be guided further by a steering committee with diverse representation.

PROPOSED INITIAL ACTIVITIES

- Establish a Steering Committee.
- Set up a website.
- Publicize the Network and solicit members.
- Engage with Paris Committee on Capacity Building.
- Construct an inventory of university-based climate change research, academic, and service programs.
- Identify non-government institutions and organizations that address capacity building and climate change.
- Develop a data base of ongoing capacity building activities in member (or also non-member) universities and NGOs – match country and communities needs with university resources.
- Develop a strategic plan for a shared Secretariat; leadership, governance, funding, etc.
- Launch the UNCC formally at COP 23 in Bonn, Germany, November 2017.

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