

Executive Brief (II) of Climate Action Resource Network – Asia Pacific (CARN-AP)

Several working experiences at different areas have promoted a quest for developing a space as a knowledge sharing platform on Adaptation to Climate Change and Enhancing Community Resilience to discuss, share and disseminate the learning, techniques, best practices, innovations and success on adaptation and community resilience to increase the understanding and knowledge of the stakeholders, students, learners and researchers in the Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) arena. It would be difficult to work better and be able to take the climate change impacts more thoroughly for their dynamic mitigation for community as a whole and the affected marginalized communities of rural, semi-urban and urbanized spaces. We felt many hurdles like availing required data, operational software for prediction modeling, linkages with organizations with higher skill frame and better knowhow. We also felt that the infrastructural scenario of the institutions of higher learning in our lined domains as well as that of the NGO's, GO's and several autonomous organizations of social studies are not equipped either in their resource fields. Networking and linkages among the institutions are not very active either, and yet highly skilled resource persons are working on many burning issues, often replicating in space, process and outputs. With these feelings inhouse thinktank deliberated on developing a **Climate Action Resource Network** as a space that would be repository of available data, technology and approachable platforms for enquiring, exchanging and utilizing all such resources in an absolutely transparent platform.

Because of our involvement at various levels developing an understanding on the Changing face of disaster risk; Common concerns and A common conceptual understanding of risk, which are as follows.

- Climate change is altering the face of disaster risk, not only through increased weather-related risks and sea-level and temperature rises, but also through increases in societal vulnerabilities, for example, from constraint on water availability, on agriculture and ecosystems. Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation share a common space of concern: reducing the vulnerability of communities and achieving sustainable development.
- There is significant convergence of the problems that disaster risk reduction and climate change resilience seek to address. Populations are already exposed to climate-related hazards and effects will be at greater risk due to a projected increase in the frequency and/or intensity of those hazards and effects as a result of global climate change.
- Furthermore, populations exposed to hazards may experience stresses due to longer-term changes in the climate - such as changes in seasonality, unpredictable rainfall and temperature rise and sea-level rise - that affect their livelihoods and health, making them more vulnerable to all types of traumas, events and further changes.
- Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation also share a common conceptual understanding of the components of risk and the processes of building resilience. The two approaches regard risk as the product of exposure and vulnerability, either to hazard(s) or effect(s) of climate change, or both. Greater the vulnerability, exposure and magnitude or likelihood of the hazard/climate change effect, the greater the risk.
- Thus, to reduce disaster and climate change risk, exposure needs to be minimized, vulnerability reduced, and capacities for resilience strengthened in ways that address both disaster and climate change risk simultaneously, neither approach compromising the other. This is a dynamic process requiring continual effort across economic, social, cultural, environmental, institutional and political spheres to move from vulnerability to resilience.

With this realization we have decided to initiate the process to integrate DRR and Climate Change Resilience issues. We realized that the warming planet Earth needs our help! We initiated the Innovation and Promotion of locally appropriate sustainable, scalable and affordable solutions for Disaster and Climate Change Resilience. However, the magnitude of Climate Change is so enormous that it might appear that any individual effort will be inconsequential. However, by acting collectively a great deal can be accomplished. Being convinced with the fact that a consistent and concerted effort is required to push the agenda, special emphasis was given on: a) Sharing learning and experience, and promotion of common understanding of all stakeholders, b) Promotion of convergence among all lateral stake holders with the help of strong database built on the basis of analysis of all data and their dissemination at all levels and c) Building of a collaborative framework with clearly defined role and domain of each actor.

The rational part includes arguments why there is a need to form a network of agencies and professionals in an era of 4IR¹ and when conventional approaches show less promise to bring change in the lives of people and environment. We agreed that (i) voices of the vulnerable are not appropriately, adequately heard, (ii) people do not still access to knowledge, information and resources so that they can be change-makers in the society leading to social transformation, (iii) Government policies and actions, in many instances, deny common people's access to natural resources, (iv) longstanding actions rarely support enhancing community resilience where food and nutrition, health, education etc. are secured, (v) sustainability model is non-existent in development programming.

The space would enable us to spread the message that Climate Change is the most important issue and community resilience would be the ultimate. Through this space we could spread awareness about the impacts of climate change and promote a shift to renewable energy & sustainable land use in the local community, educate common people on the threat we all face from the climate crisis, engage public in conversation and decision making processes, together we could develop sustainable climate change solutions, coming together for collective actions to combat climate change and making the transition to a clean energy economy, address the climate crisis to usher in the transition to a sustainable society as swiftly as possible. The space would also help us catalyze a global solution to the climate crisis by making urgent action a necessity across every level of society. This would also lead to persuading political will at different levels to support solutions to the climate crisis and a transition to a clean energy economy.

Our vision is to create, for all of us and others who are working in similar domains, a network/ space that will be capable of forwarding the required inputs of modern technological tools, designs and strategies.

¹ *The Fourth Industrial Revolution, 4IR, or Industry 4.0*,^[1] conceptualizes rapid change to technology, industries, and societal patterns and processes in the 21st century due to increasing interconnectivity and smart automation. The term has been used widely in scientific literature,^[2] and was popularized by Klaus Schwab in 2015, the World Economic Forum Founder and Executive Chairman. Schwab asserts that the changes seen are more than just improvements to efficiency, but express a significant shift in industrial capitalism. (cited in https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fourth_Industrial_Revolution).

BACKGROUND

We had a meeting on 10th October 2018 at Save the Children's Office at Kolkata. Participants were Debadrita Sengupta, Antara Dhargupta, Anurag Danda (partly), Chitta Priya Sadhu (partly) and Aniruddha Dey.

Discussions:

Initially we had discussed on the name for a better clarity among the participants. The name was finalized as CLIMATE ACTION RESOURCE NETWORK.

But after discussions with some of our Network Partners we have decided to add **Asia Pacific**, considering our geographical jurisdiction. So, the name is ***CLIMATE ACTION RESOURCE NETWORK – ASIA PACIFIC***.

To cater to the needs as well as interests of the members it was suggested that **Eight (8) thematic sub-groups would be formed** like:

1. URBAN CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE
2. SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT
3. WASH
4. HEALTH
5. ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION
6. INNOVATION & APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY PROMOTION
7. FOOD SOVEREIGNTY-SAFETY-SECURITY-NUTRITION
8. HABITATION

All the above-mentioned sub-themes would focus on Extreme Events, Risk Reduction and Resilience. All the sub-themes should include the cross-cutting issues like, Gender, Children & Youth, Equity, Sustainability, Development, Governance, etc.

The network will act on a two-dimensional matrix objective, i.e., thematic versus ecosystems or other. Injection or integration of science for social change will be adopted and we may innovate tools methods in this regard. Our approach will adopt actions to demonstrate good practices of partner agencies and individuals where appropriate - this will help the network to work as a catalyst to bring big changes through actions of others. We may adopt, promote systems thinking approach in showing cases interrelated, fused and impacts radiate far from the origin.

The activities would include:

(i) Perform actions towards knowledge gap analysis in different thematic sectors, then prepare analytics, info-graphs and visualizations of challenges - this will help in motivating the grassroots actors and other entities to participate in critical review exercises; (ii) do online based seminars involving a range of stakeholders including the grassroots actors (ensure inclusivity), these will happen for all eight thematic domains (This should be well documented and published through our network website. Continuously doing of workshops will supply us enough information from different sections of the society including local level which we will be able to use to contribute, make papers and submit in the international/ national negotiation meetings like COPs); (iii) performing actions towards GIS based story telling of both successful and also failed interventions; government agencies and donors would realize the root causes of

unsuccessful interventions; (iv) network members would get an opportunity to share and showcase their good-practice examples with potentials for replications with contextualization, which would generate huge resources of climate smart solutions; (v) provide useful and innovative capacity building programs, developing new and application-based monitoring and evaluation tools, introducing course modules on DRR, CC, etc. with minimum course fees; (vi) publish peer-reviewed open-source journal and/or working papers;

Basically, all the network members will be benefitted. The benefits might be indirect first and at some point, there would be possibilities for getting direct benefits. At the beginning we should plan for basic minimum expenditures and our activities would be involved in virtual events and knowledge-based products development and a website needed. There may be multi-country secretariats, but to start with the Secretariat of the Resource Network (*Dr Pramathanath Bose Memorial Resource Center, Gobardanga, Dist. North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, India*) will act as repository for all the required information and themes. Dr Aniruddha Dey, Chairperson, PRISM will be designated as the Founder Chairperson & Convenor of CARN-AP. Bongs Prayukti International Pvt. Ltd. (BPIPL) at *4th Floor, 323A, Motilal Gupta Rd, Kumar Park, Purba Barisha, Kolkata, West Bengal 700008, India*, has agreed to work as the Secretariat in Kolkata to facilitate the offline meetings of the Network partners and extend other logistics supports. Mr Swarnabha Bandyopadhyaya, Director of BPIPL will be designated as the Founder Jt Convenor of CARN-AP. Similarly, Nairita Services Pvt. Ltd. (NSPL) at *B-1, 1203, West Gate, Business Bay, Near Signature I, Makarba Crossing, Makaraba, Ahmedabad - 380051, Gujarat, India*, also agreed to work as the Secretariat in Gujrat. Mr Biplab Paul, Director of NSPL will be designated as Founder Jt Convenor of CARN-AP. Science Connect Ltd. (*DDL Madhobilata, Flat- A2, House-226/2, Road- 10/A, Madhubazar, West Dhanmondi, Dhanmondi, Dhaka 1205, Bangladesh*) has agreed to work as the Secretariat in Bangladesh chapter of CARN-AP and Ms Nandini Sanyal, Chairperson, SCL will be designated as the Founder Jt Convenor of CARN-AP.

It has been decided that the Network will never take a shape of another formal NGO/CSO/Corporate. A core committee, taking a few founding members has been formed to act as the Executive Council in the beginning till the formation of the proper Executive Council (EC). However, we need to develop a Memorandum of Association and accordingly accommodate at least one academic/research institution, at least one UN Agency, at least one INGO and at least one National NGO from each country, Local NGOs, Climate Action Oriented Social/ Knowledge Enterprises. Organisations will maintain one budget head in the name of CARN-AP and for any funded program, like training course, seminar etc. those network partners will share the responsibilities of channelising the fund through the budget line. Every year the network partners will share the annual activities with financial break ups to Network partners in the Annual General Meeting. However, we can wait for the network members to come up with innovative propositions and values of volunteerism would be given high importance at every stage.

Core committee consisting with the Founding Members to act as EC till the first AGM.

1. Dr Aniruddha Dey, Chairperson PRISM and key proponent; **Founder Chairperson & Convenor of CARN-AP**
2. Prof Sheikh Tawhidul Islam, Prof. & Director, Institute of Remote Sensing and GIS, Jahangir Nagar University, Bangladesh; **Deputy Chair Person of CARN-AP**
3. Dr Papiya Mazumdar, Lecturer, University of Leeds; **Founder of CARN-AP**
4. Ms Nandini Sanyal, Chairperson of The Science Connect Ltd.; **Founder Jt Convenor of CARN-AP**
5. Mr Biplab K Paul, Director NSPL; **Founder Jt Convenor of CARN-AP**
6. Mr Swarnava Bandyopadhyaya, Director BPIPL; **Founder Jt Convenor of CARN-AP**
7. Mr Manoj Dash, CEO of the Integrated Volunteers Network (IVN); **Founder of CARN-AP**
8. Ms Divya Gupta, Program Manager, Inter Agency Coordination of Sphere India; **Founder of CARN-AP**
9. Ms Shamnaz Ahmed, Consortium Coordinator of the International Rescue Committee; **Founder of CARN-AP**