



AP-PLAT

Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform

Strategy for AP-PLAT Capacity Development Program 2023-2025

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1. Strategy for AP-PLAT Capacity Development Program

To achieve the vision and mission described in the AP-PLAT Framework for Action 2023-2025, the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform (AP-PLAT) Capacity Development Program aims to improve adaptive capacity across the Asia-Pacific region based on the following strategies:

Strategies

- 1) The Capacity Development¹ Program, primarily targeting government officials, will be launched as a network activity by institutions in the Asia-Pacific region which agree with the overall concept of AP-PLAT as well as voluntarily participating in its activities.
- 2) Activities under the Capacity Development Program are to be designed based on discussions among partner institutions.
- 3) The focus will be to generate added value through collaboration and partnership among partner institutions for better adaptation in the Asia-Pacific region by enhancing the capacity development of key actors.

Actions

The following four priority activities will be conducted to achieve the mission of AP-PLAT Capacity Development:

- 1) Networking among capacity development institutions
- 2) Exploring new opportunities for collaboration to facilitate capacity development
- 3) Launching thematic capacity development courses.
- 4) Promoting bottom-up climate change adaptation actions

2. Priority Activities under the AP-PLAT Capacity Development Program

1) Networking among capacity development institutions

- Organizing a Regular Meeting of the AP-PLAT Capacity Development Program
- Updating the website to share information on Capacity Development (as a part of the content of AP-PLAT)
- Conducting outreach through social media, SNS, webinars and mailing lists
- Organizing and sharing information with regards to experts responsible for capacity development on adaptation
- Conducting outreach through APAN, COP, Asia Climate Week, and other climate-related international events

¹ In AP-PLAT, “capacity development” for climate change adaptation in international cooperation is defined as follows:

“**Capacity**” that local government officers in developing countries should acquire for climate change adaptation in international cooperation is the “capacity” to solve their uncertain, long-lasting and multiple challenges of climate change adaptation, by understanding the necessary scientific knowledge, identifying urgent issues, and mainstreaming adaptation measures and accessing finance.

“**Capacity development**” for climate change adaptation in international cooperation can be defined therefore as a process in which the international community supports not only individuals but also organizations and systems by sharing of knowledge and expertise on climate change so that local government officers can strengthen their own “capacity”.

Source: “CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT” FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, https://ap-plat.nies.go.jp/adaptation_literacy/publications.html

2) Exploring new opportunities for collaboration to facilitate capacity development

Through discussions among AP-PLAT capacity development partner organizations, new opportunities should be explored for collaboration (e.g., obtaining external funding) by:

- Supporting capacity development projects implemented by AP-PLAT capacity development partner organizations
- Developing training modules as a common asset among AP-PLAT partner organizations based on their existing modules
- Implementing Training of Trainers (ToT) courses for improving institutional capacity as training institutions
- Developing tools and/or training programs utilizing the scientific knowledge provided by AP-PLAT for capacity development
- Launching the thematic capacity development courses (see 3) below)

3) Launching thematic capacity development courses

Capacity development activities should be conducted jointly, focusing on national/regional priority issues based on the experience/training of AP-PLAT capacity development partner organizations. The themes will be selected in accordance with the AP-PLAT Framework for Action 2023-2025's "Immediate Priority Issues and Initiatives for AP-PLAT". The courses will be held online (e-learning materials) and in person. Possible themes include:

Better decision-making and early action based on climate information

- Adaptation planning using climate prediction tools
- Introduction of early warning systems

Practicing locally-led adaptation

- Utilization of local/indigenous knowledge in adaptation projects
- Gender and climate change
- Adaptation and resilience enhancement through waste disposal and resource management
- Financial inclusion of local communities, city-level training

Responding to compound and cascading risks

- Integration of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (DRR-CCA).
- Compound and cascading disaster risk (CCDR)

Monitoring and evaluation

- Development of M&E framework for national and local governments using tools

Mainstreaming synergies between climate change and biodiversity

- Nature-based solutions (Nbs)

Promotion of public-private partnerships

- Adaptation finance
- Support for Bankable Project formulation

4) Promoting bottom-up climate change adaptation actions

Support for adaptation actions (Lessons from A-PLAT Japan also will be shared and transferred). Possible themes include:

- Implementation of local government adaptation projects
- Organization of workshops for preparation of local government adaptation plans

3. Membership of AP-PLAT Capacity Development Program

3.1 Operational Structure of AP-PLAT Capacity Development Program

As indicated in the AP-PLAT Framework for Action 2023-2025, AP-PLAT activities are planned to be promoted as a loose network of AP-PLAT supporting organizations. The AP-PLAT supporting organizations are not obligated to do so but are expected to utilize the AP-PLAT as a platform according to their needs and interests.

However, for capacity development, there are already a number of research institutes in the Asia-Pacific region that are working on capacity development for climate change adaptation, and by promoting mutual information sharing and collaborative activities, they may be able to make a significant contribution to improving adaptation capacity in the region. For this reason, the AP-PLAT Capacity Development Program envisages the participation of “AP-PLAT capacity development partner organizations” from among the AP-PLAT supporting organizations, particularly those that are proactive in capacity development-related activities, in the implementation of the initiative activities.

3.2 Definition and Scope of AP-PLAT Capacity Development Partner Organizations

AP-PLAT capacity development partner organizations are expected to carry out the following activities:

- Participation in annual meetings and initiative meetings, as well as contribute to discussion on networking through regular meetings for AP-PLAT capacity development
- Provision of inputs to the strategic document
- Participation in new collaborating opportunities (depending on interest)

AP-PLAT capacity development partner organizations are authorized to participate in the meetings of each initiative, as well as the annual meeting, and will gain the following benefits:

- Utilization of tools and scientific knowledge in AP-PLAT
- Sharing and disseminating accomplishments of each partner organization on the AP-PLAT website
- Awareness of the results and progress of activities carried out by other partner organizations
- Participation in new collaboration opportunities
- Participation in relevant reports on each AP-PLAT initiative and outreach activities at international conferences

If an institute wishes to become an AP-PLAT capacity development partner organization, the institute shall indicate its intention in the application form when the institute submits it to the AP-PLAT operational body.

3.3 AP-PLAT Capacity Development Coordination Office

The AP-PLAT capacity development program coordination office has been established to further strengthen information-sharing and effective collaboration among AP-PLAT partner organizations and to facilitate collaborative efforts, given the fact that many of them are already implementing various capacity development initiatives. The AP-PLAT capacity development program coordination office, which will be headed by IGES, will liaise with stakeholders, facilitate knowledge exchange and dialogue among partner organizations, organize regular meetings, and conduct outreach activities in order to implement this strategy.

4. Content and Purpose of Regular Meetings for AP-PLAT Capacity Development Program

The contents and purpose of the Regular Meetings for AP-PLAT Capacity Development Program are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Contents and purpose of Regular Meetings

Types (Frequency)	Participants	Purpose and contents of the meetings
Regular Meeting (Once a year)	AP-PLAT capacity development partner organizations, supporting organizations, AP-PLAT capacity development coordination office, Ministry of the Environment, Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exchanging opinions on the direction of all actions and the annual project planning of AP-PLAT Capacity Development Program (including opinions on the formulation and revision of the “ Strategy for AP-PLAT Capacity Development Program ”)• Discussing specific opportunities for collaboration under AP-PLAT Capacity Development Program• Sharing activities and results by AP-PLAT capacity development partner organizations and supporting organizations• Promoting exchange and collaboration among AP-PLAT capacity development partner organizations and supporting organizations.

In addition, if needed, the AP-PLAT capacity development coordination office will arrange to discussions with partner organizations via email, online meetings, or other means.

5. Updating and Revising the Strategy for AP-PLAT Capacity Development Program

The “Strategy for AP-PLAT Capacity Development Program” shall be valid from April 2023 to March 2026 and shall be updated every three years. Updates will be made following discussion among participating members at regular meetings, taking into account the status of activities based on this document.

