

# Global Environmental Change and Human Health: Extreme Events and Urbanization in the APN Region (UNU-GECHH-APN-EEU)



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# Global Environmental Change and Human Health: Extreme Events and Urbanization in the APN Region (UNU-GECHH-APN-EEU)

**Project Reference Number:** CBA2012-09NMY-Hashim

**Progress Report for Continued Funding from the APN**

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# Progress Report for Year 2012/13 of APN Project CBA2012-09NMY-Hashim

## Part One: Overview of project work and outcomes

### 1. Introduction and background:

The proposed activity is intended to enhance the scientific capacity of young scientists from the Asia-Pacific region, especially those from the developing countries, and to improve their decision-making and public-awareness capability within the context of sustainable development. A Symposium and Workshop on Global Environmental Change and Human Health was held in Kuala Lumpur from the 14th to 18th January 2013. The main organizers were the International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH) and the Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) of the United Nations University, as well as the Global Environmental Change and Human (GECHH) Project. It involved a 2-day symposium, followed by a day of field visits, and culminating in a 2-day workshop. The theme of the Symposium and Workshop was extreme events and urbanization. Under APN's sponsorship, 24 young scientists from Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Philippines, China and Australia participated in the 2 events. Eight international speakers gave presentations at the 2 events. The young scientists presented their country reports. They also worked on and presented 3 research proposals which were evaluated and commented by the international experts.

### Keywords (Five Maximum Keywords)

Global, environmental change, human health, extreme event, urbanization.

### 2. Participating countries:

The collaborators are the International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH) and the Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) of the United Nations University, as well as the Global Environmental Change and Human (GECHH) Project.

The participating countries are Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Philippines, Canada, China and Australia

### 3. Objectives:

The Project Objectives are,

- 1) to foster intra/interregional cooperation networks of research/practitioners with expertise on the impact of extreme events and urbanization on human health;
  - 2) to boost global health and environmental research aimed at the development of adaptation and mitigation strategies;
  - 3) to develop new capacities on the health/environment nexus;
  - 4) to enable science/policy interface; and
  - 5) to raise awareness within the non-science communities.
- a. Relevance to the APN's Science and Policy Agendas

### 4. Funding secured from the APN 2012/13 Core Budget:

<USD 42,495.00>

## **5. Outcomes and products against original proposal objectives:**

A Symposium and Workshop on Global Environmental Change and Human Health was held in Kuala Lumpur from the 14th to 18th January 2013. The main organizers were the International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH) and the Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) of the United Nations University, as well as the Global Environmental Change and Human (GECHH) Project. It involved a 2-day symposium, followed by a day of field visits, and culminating in a 2-day workshop. The theme of the Symposium and Workshop was extreme events and urbanization. Under APN's sponsorship, 24 young scientists from Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Philippines, China and Australia participated in the events.

The Symposium was attended by about 50 participants. It was highlighted by presentations from 8 international speakers on topics related to forecasting and preparedness, emergency response, and mitigation and adaptation, in relation to extreme events and urbanization. A breakout session was organized around the 3 topics and each of the 3 breakout groups made a presentation on their deliberations.

A field visit was organized to the City Hall of Kuala Lumpur where participants were briefed on urban planning of the city including a demonstration of the city's traffic control system. Next, they visited the National Hydraulic Research Institute of Malaysia (NAHRIM) where participants were briefed on the role and function of NAHRIM in climate change research and prediction, followed by a visit to their Hydraulic Research Laboratory.

A 2-day Workshop was organized for the 24 young scientists. Five international speakers presented on various topics related to climate change, extreme events and urbanization. Participants from each country presented their country report. They were then divided into 3 groups to work on research proposals based on the themes of extreme events due to climate change, environmental impacts of urbanization and environmental change and human health. Each group then presented their research proposal which was evaluated and commented by the international experts.

## **6. Self evaluation of work performed to date:**

The target of organizing and hosting of the Symposium and Workshop on Global Environmental Change and Human Health was very successful and well received by the young scientists and participant attending both events. A significant proportion of the APN's allocated funding for 2012/13 goes to the payment of airfares and per diems for some of the invited speakers and young scientists.

## **7. Appendices**

- A. Programme for the Symposium on Global Environmental Change and Human Health held in Kuala Lumpur, 14 and 15 January 2013.
  - B. Programme for the Workshop on Global Environmental Change and Human Health held in Kuala Lumpur, 17 and 18 2013.
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## Part Two: Request for project continuation

### 8. Funding requested from the APN 2013/14 Core Budget:

<USD 14,470.00>

### 9. Definitive project targets for indicated timeframe in which you request funds

A science-policy dialogue will be organized within the framework of UNESCAP, through its Disaster Risk Reduction Section, and it will focus on the role of research towards enhancing adaptive capacity for the health care systems as well as for infrastructures (e.g. water supply), especially for developing countries. The dialogue will be defined on the outcomes of the Symposium and Workshop on Global Environmental Change and Human Health, on current activities within UNESCAP (e.g. projects and activities funded through the UNESCAP Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness) as well as within the framework of WHO activities in the region (e.g., WHO Southeast Asia Regional Office/SEARO; WHO Western Pacific Regional Office/WPRO).

Project Activities	Year 2 (2013/2014) (from 1 May 2013 – 30 April 2014)												
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	
Development and dissemination of informative material and web-based PSAs													
Science-Policy Dialogue													
Final report and project recommendations/dissemination													
APN project & financial reporting													

### 10. Detailed budget for the indicated timeframe

Budget for the Science Policy Dialogue in Bangkok :

	Round-trip Airfare	Per diem		No. of Participants	Total US\$
		Accommodation (2 days)	Allowance (2 days)		
<b>TRAVEL</b>					<b>14,470</b>
Kuala Lumpur- Bangkok	500	180	80	2	1,520
Delhi - Bangkok	1,290	180	80	2	3,100
Sydney - Bangkok	1,500	180	80	2	3,520
Beijing - Bangkok	1,505	180	80	2	3,530
Local participants			80	35	2,800
<b>Total Year 2 (C)</b>					<b>14,470</b>