

Initial findings of APN-funded project showcased at the Resilient Cities 2015: 6th Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation

Celebrating its 20 years of success and relevance in the region, [APN](#) is proud to showcase the initial findings of one of its funded projects at the Resilient Cities 2015: 6th Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation in Bonn, Germany on 8-10 June 2015. Resilient Cities, the Annual Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation, is the global platform for urban resilience and climate change adaptation, hosted every year in Bonn. Team Members from APN-funded project being implemented by [OML Center](#) shared the initial results of the project in a panel session entitled "Beyond Adaptation: The Reality of Loss and Damage for Cities".

The joint panel presentation given by OML Center Program Manager Perlyn Pulhin and Research Assistant Ana Veronica Gabriel is entitled "Assessing the linkages between climate change adaptation (CCA), disaster risk reduction and (DRR), and loss and damage in the Philippines." While the two-year ongoing project is of regional scope with Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam as collaborating countries, the presentation focused in the Philippines to be able to cite specific national challenges in relation to the Forum's theme. The session was facilitated by Raf Tuts, Chief of Urban Environmental Planning Branch in [UN-HABITAT](#).

Short Abstract of the Presentation

The Philippines has been experiencing and will continue to experience devastating climate-related disasters given the current and projected impacts of climate change. Loss and damage (L&D) is inevitable. The study aims to create a framework that links loss and damage with CCA and DRR strategies. It will introduce a holistic approach with emphasis on the importance of loss and damage knowledge for effective policy-making and action. The study hopes to improve the current state of the loss and damage system in the Philippines through a set of research, development, and policy recommendations. (PDF copy of the presentation will be made available at the [conference website](#).)

More About Resilient Cities 2015

This Forum offered a number of sessions and events on a wide variety of topics under the nine congress themes: 1) Resilient urban food systems; 2) Financing resilience planning and development; 3) Adaptation planning and integrated approaches; 4) Capacity building, governance and collaboration; 5) Resilient buildings, design and infrastructure; 6) Ecosystem-based adaptation; 7) Resilient Public health systems; 8) Data for local resilience; and 9) Communicating resilience. There



Top: APN-funded project team members, Ms Pulhin (OML Center Program Manager and former APN Programme Officer) and Ms Gabriel (OML Center Researcher Assistant) help promote not only the project but the activities of the APN in the region during the panel session at Resilient Cities 2015

Bottom: Opening session at Resilient Cities 2015

were over 400 participants coming from a wide array of backgrounds. About 150 were given the opportunity to take an active part in exchanging strategies and sharing experiences as speakers.

Participants of the Resilient Cities 2015 were able to: 1) Interact with authoritative experts and the audience to build bridges across the public and private sectors and fields of expertise; 2) Learn about groundbreaking topics; 3) Gain practical knowledge with the Resilient Cities practical case studies, such as the Reality Check Workshops; and 4) Start new contacts and develop new partnerships at the congress venue, an ideal location that fosters networking opportunities. Since diversity of thoughts and approaches is at the very core of the Resilient Cities congresses, various issues emerged at the 2015 Forum that link with important post-2015 processes such as the: Sendai Framework for DRR, Financing for Development; Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)s and an Urban (SDG); 21st Conference of the Parties; and Habitat III in 2016. The Forum was set to coincide with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Negotiation Meetings so that participants of the UNFCCC events can attend and contribute in the discussion of the Resilient Cities 2015.



The report of the APN-funded workshop that was held in the Philippines was displayed in the exhibition area of Resilient Cities 2015 to further raise awareness about the project and the relevance and success of APN in the past 20 years

Take-away Message

As Heather McGray, Director, Vulnerability and Adaptation Initiative, World Resources Institute noted at the Closing Session of the Forum: “All different Paris outcome scenarios are still on the table, good and bad. We hope that the actual outcome will mean that cities can finally allocate more of our energy to real on-the-ground action, but this is far from certain. All city representatives should therefore now go back home and persuade your national governments to act.” There are still a lot of challenges that came out of the Forum’s discussions including finance and knowledge gaps. As a follow-through to Director McGray’s message of moving towards real actions on the ground, we should do whatever it takes to generate transformative change by enhancing our respective roles whether as knowledge providers, communicators, urban planners, policy-makers, financier, implementer and the list goes on.

According to the Mayor of Bonn, Jurgen Nimptsch, “Cities and climate change, cities and resilience...it’s about saving lives.” Let us ensure that our local actions for sustainability can lead to resilience and responsive strategies to address the interlinked challenges globally and locally. After all, these actions will eventually benefit humanity and we are part of it.