

Asia-Pacific Network of Early Career Professionals for Global Change Research (APN-ECAP) Platform for Visibility in Global Change and Sustainability

(AOA2023-01SY-Saurav)

APN-ECAP Interaction Workshop: Strengthening Pacific Collaboration for Global Change and Sustainability

18 September, 2024



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BACKGROUND

The Asia-Pacific Network of Early Career Professionals for Global Change Research (APN-ECAP) stands as an initiative dedicated to fostering the visibility and active engagement of early career professionals in global change and sustainability. Funded by the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research APN Secretariat Japan and implemented by the Center of Research for Environment Energy and Water (CREEW) Nepal, APN-ECAP aims to capacitate and empower early career professionals, bridging the gap between emerging experts and seasoned academics, scientists, and policymakers.

The Pacific Interaction Workshop represents a focused effort to bring Pacific voices to the forefront of this initiative. Recognizing the region's distinct cultural, social, and environmental contexts, the workshop aims to integrate Pacific perspectives into the broader APN-ECAP framework. This event is part of a larger strategy to ensure that regional diversity and equity are embedded in the governance, operations, and outputs of the network. The workshop also builds on a history of collaboration between APN and CREEW, as well as prior activities such as the Pacific Proposal Development Training Workshop in Suva, Fiji (26-29 August 2024) to deepen the engagement of Pacific early career professionals in sustainability research and practice.

By fostering a sense of ownership among Pacific participants, the APN-ECAP initiative aspires to strengthen collaboration across regions, bridge knowledge gaps, and create a more resilient and innovative Asia-Pacific community. The workshop serves as a platform to not only reflect on the initiative's progress but also to chart a course for future activities that address the specific needs and aspirations of Pacific stakeholders.



"At first glance, there are significant differences between heavily populated regions like South Asia and smaller oceanic nations in the Pacific. However, despite these differences, it's important to recognize that both regions face many similar global challenges."

-Dr. Douglas Hill, Vice-Chair of the APN Pacific Subregional Committee

INTRODUCTION

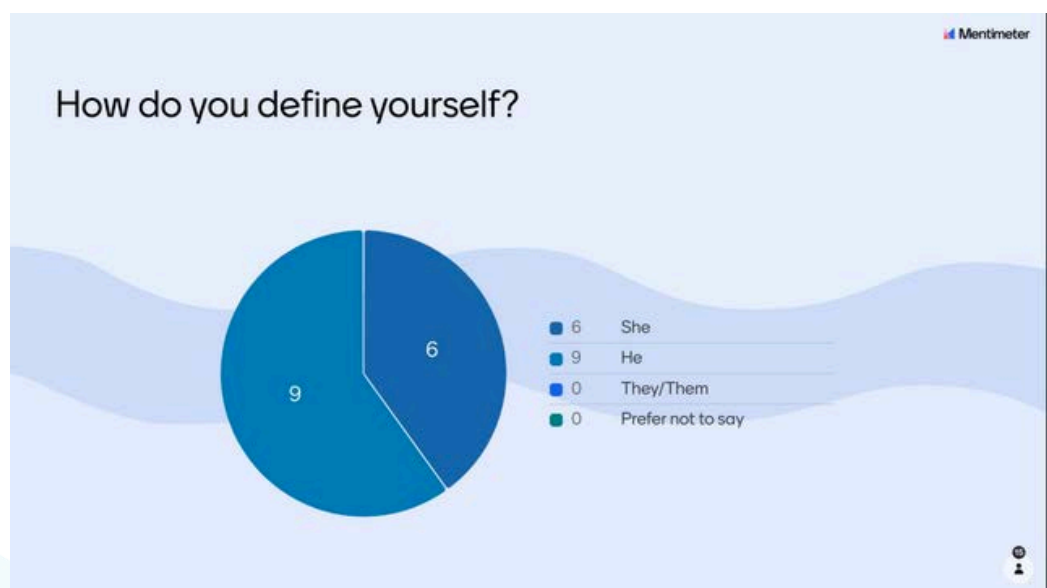
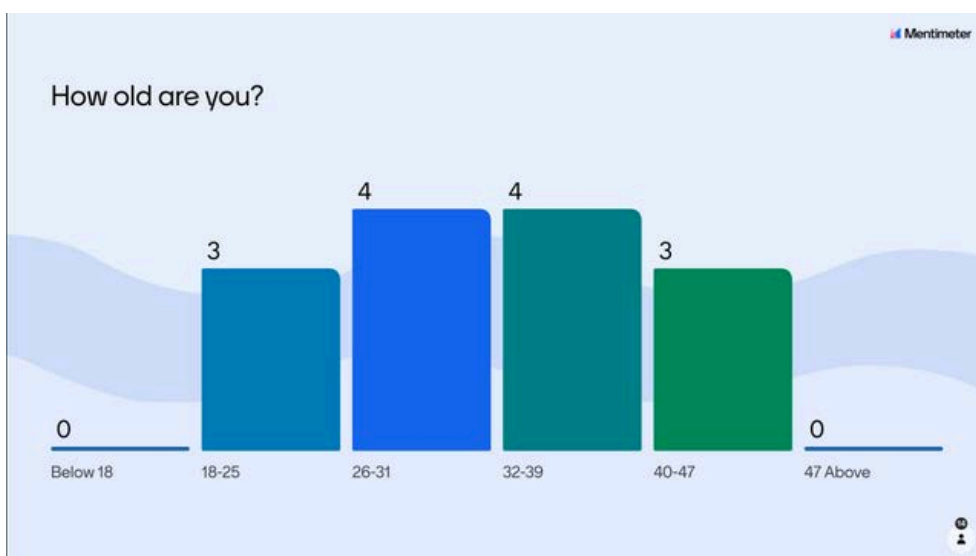
The Pacific Interaction Workshop is a key event under the APN-ECAP project, designed and targeted to empower early-career professionals by creating a platform for collaboration, fostering engagement in sustainability efforts, and bridging gaps between researchers and policymakers across the Pacific region. The Pacific region, with its unique challenges and opportunities, plays an essential role in shaping the network's vision. This workshop was organized to strengthen Pacific engagement and representation in the network, offering participants an opportunity to contribute insights and help shape governance structures to ensure inclusivity and sustainability in addressing global change issues.

Held virtually on September 18, 2024, the workshop, titled “Strengthening Pacific Collaboration for Global Change and Sustainability,” gathered a diverse cohort of early-career professionals, academics, and key stakeholders from the Pacific. This event was part of a series of APN-ECAP workshops designed to integrate regional perspectives into a unified framework for global change research. Key goals included fostering collaboration, building resilience, and advancing the shared objectives of sustainability within the Pacific region and its integration into the broader APN-ECAP platform.

The workshop featured notable contributions from leading experts, including Dr. Dhundi Raj Pathak, President of CREEW, who highlighted the institution's commitment to bridging research with policymaking. Dr. Douglas Hill, Vice-Chair of the APN Pacific Subregional Committee, emphasized the importance of collaboration in addressing shared challenges such as climate change, resource degradation, and poverty. The workshop underscored the value of networking, mentorship, and innovation in enabling early-career professionals to contribute meaningfully to global sustainability initiatives.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Participants introduced themselves, which facilitated networking and set the stage for collaborative discussions. This segment underscored the diverse backgrounds and expertise of the attendees, fostering a sense of community and shared purpose. The introductions highlighted the various fields and research interests represented, creating a dynamic environment for knowledge exchange. There were over 30 participants attending the event from the Pacific region.

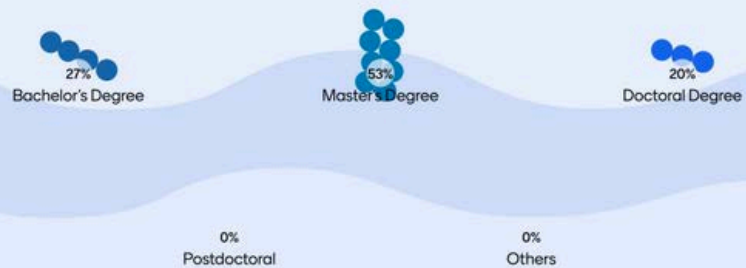


Country of Work Scope

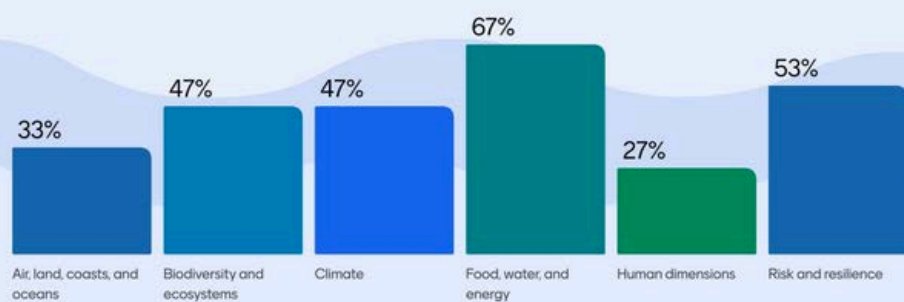
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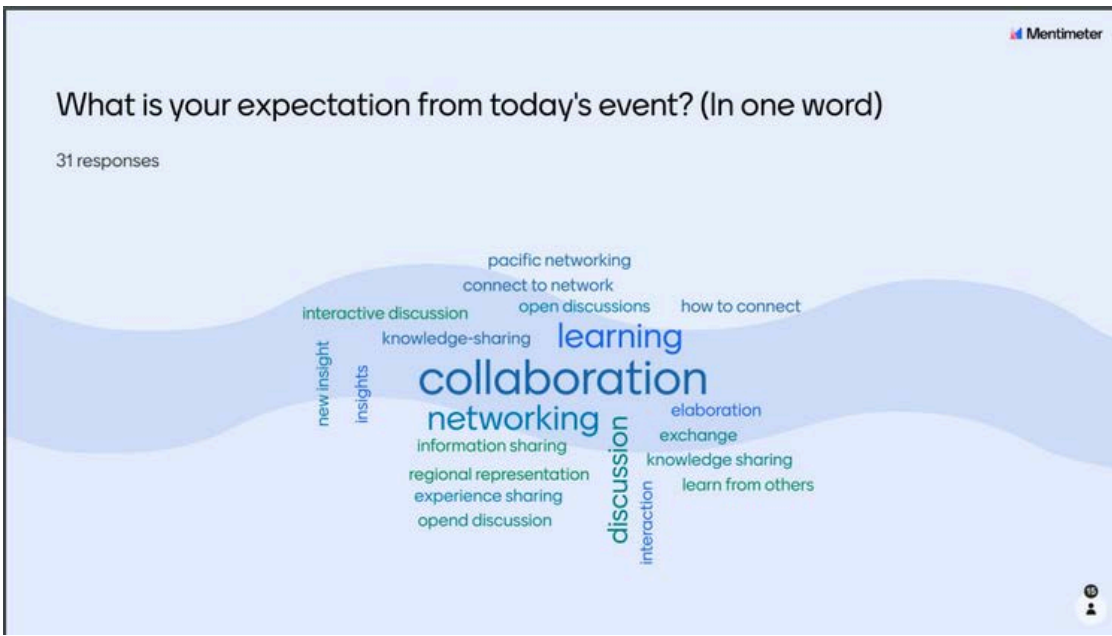
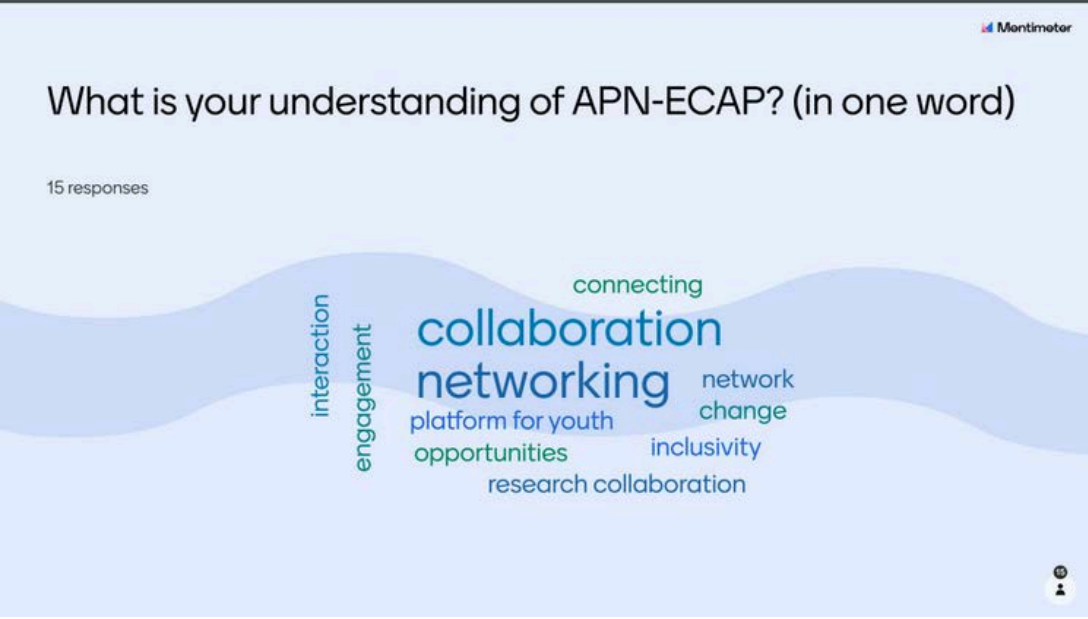


Highest Level of Education Attained



Your Area of Interest





ACTIVITES



The workshop began with introductory remarks by Ms. Susmita Mishra, setting the stage by reflecting on the progress of the APN-ECAP initiative and its relevance to the Pacific region. Dr. Dhundi Raj Pathak provided a detailed overview of CREEW's work, which includes addressing sustainability challenges through research, education, and capacity-building programs. His remarks contextualized the workshop within the broader goals of fostering collaboration and empowering early-career researchers.

Dr. Douglas Hill followed with an address that drew parallels between the Pacific and South Asia, emphasizing the shared challenges of climate change and economic vulnerability. He called for cross-regional collaboration, highlighting the APN-ECAP's potential to bridge gaps between diverse regions and foster innovative solutions.

Following these presentations, an interactive session brought together all participants in a collective discussion. This unified engagement allowed attendees to explore key themes such as expectations from the APN-ECAP network, strategies for enhancing governance structures, and ways to strengthen regional representation. Participants provided valuable feedback, emphasizing the importance of communication tools like newsletters and LinkedIn groups, the need for regional ambassadors to represent the network, and the inclusion of capacity-building programs tailored to the unique needs of Pacific researchers. The interactive session fostered a collaborative environment, enabling participants to share insights and collectively shape the network's future direction.

CONCLUSIONS

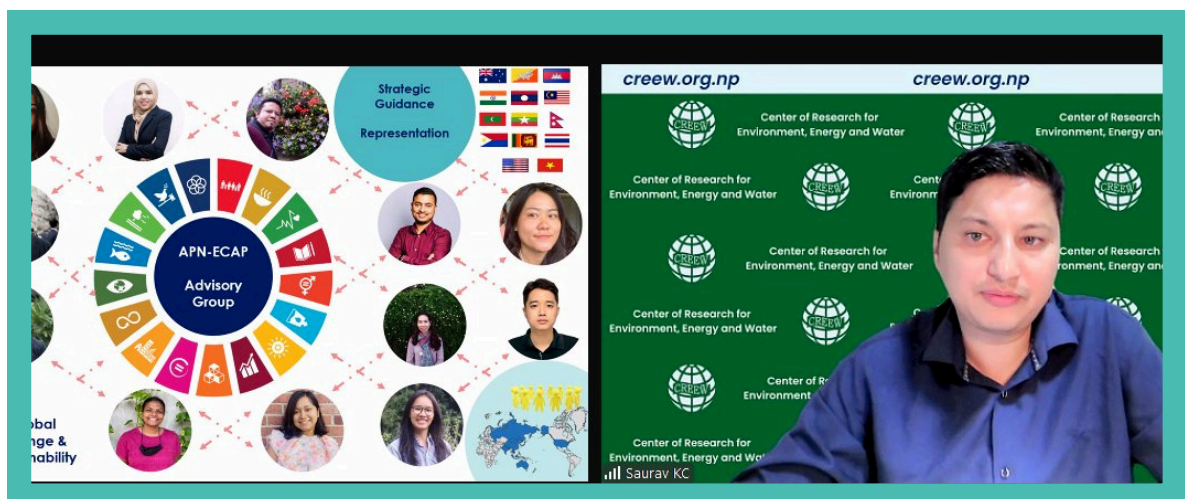
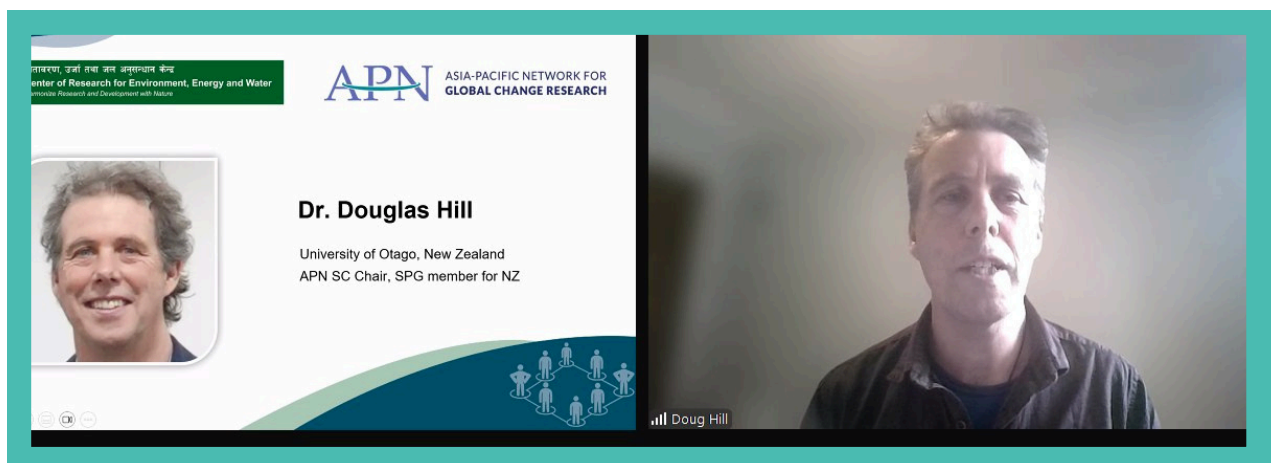
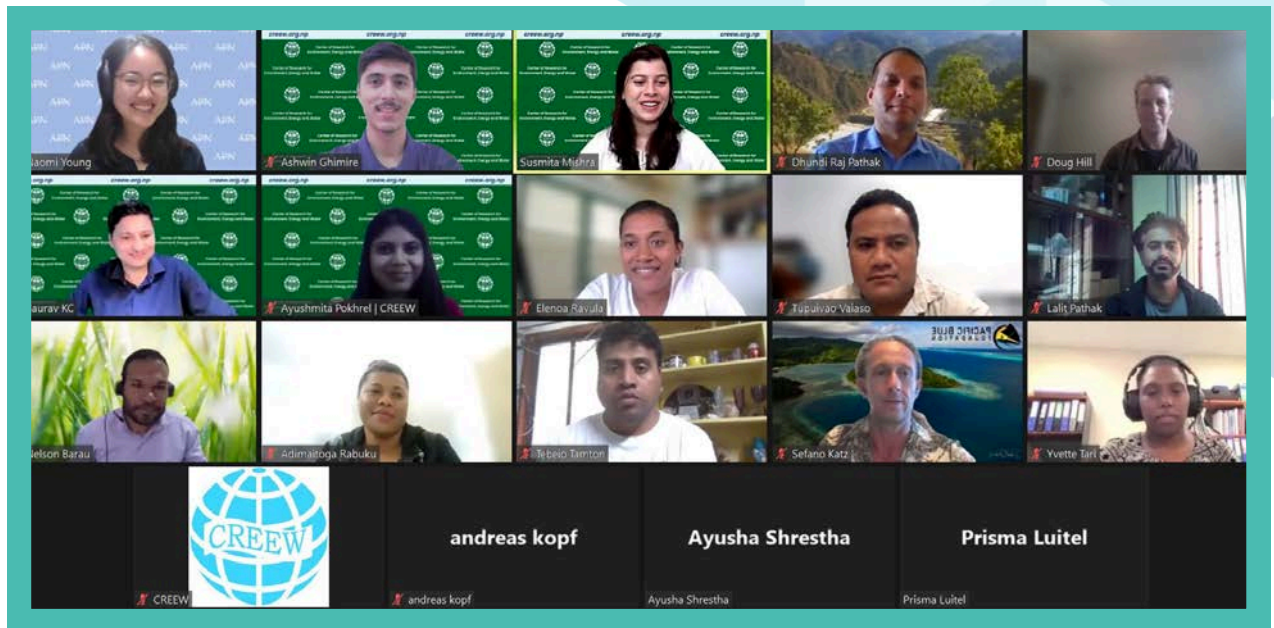
The Pacific Interaction Workshop marked a significant milestone in advancing the APN-ECAP initiative by fostering meaningful engagement and dialogue among Pacific stakeholders. Participants reaffirmed the importance of contextualized research approaches, robust governance frameworks, and inclusive communication strategies to address the unique challenges faced by the Pacific region. The workshop's outcomes, including actionable feedback on governance structures and network expansion strategies, will guide the future trajectory of the APN-ECAP initiative.

As the event concluded, Ms. Naomi Young expressed appreciation for the participants' contributions and outlined the next steps for the APN-ECAP initiative. Key plans include the institutionalization of the network in APN's 6th Strategic Phase, the development of a professional LinkedIn platform, and continued efforts to integrate diverse regional perspectives into the network's activities. The workshop successfully created a dynamic platform for collaboration, empowering participants to play an active role in advancing sustainability and global change research.

The Pacific Island Network for farmer organizations includes groups from 14 nations across the region, involving farmers, private sectors, NGOs, and institutions like schools. These entities, currently under discussion, require innovation and research. A potential way forward is linking the APN network not only with research institutions but also with practitioners, private sectors, and regional networks that focus on climate change.

-Pacific Interaction Workshop Participant

ANNEX



ANNEX

Center of Research for Environment, Energy and Water
Sustainable Research and Development with Nature

APN ASIA-PACIFIC NETWORK FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH

Pacific Network of Early Career Professionals (APN-ECAP)

Interaction Workshop: Strengthening Pacific Collaboration for Global Change and Sustainability

18 September 2024

15:00-16:45 Fiji Time (UTC+12)

Naomi Young

Lalit Pathak

Susmita Mishra

APN-ECAP: Activities Timeline

- May 2023: EA PDTW
- Sept 2023: Project Inception
- Nov 2023: Project Kick-off Meeting
- Nov 2023: Advisory Group Formation
- Dec 2023: First Regional Workshop
- Dec 2023: DRSD Conference 2023
- Dec 2023: COP28 Activities
- Jan 2024: ECAPs Corner
- May 2024: Interaction Workshop
- June 2024: APN-ECAP Initiative Introduction IGM, Indonesia
- Aug 2024: Pacific PDTW
- Sept 2024: Pacific Interaction Workshop

Asia-Pacific Network of Early Career Professionals for Global Change Research (APN-ECAP)

www.creew.org.np

Saurav KC

Overview

Research for Energy and EEW)

- Groundwater & Surface Water
- Environmental Health & WASH
- Green Energy
- River Basin & Ecosystem
- Integrated Water Management & Resilient Recovery
- Climate Change & Resilience

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

CAPACITY BUILDING

KNOWLEDGE GENERATION & SHARING

NETWORKING & COLLABORATION

CREEW RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM (CREEW-RGP)

Groundwater Symposium

CREEW YOUNG RESEARCHERS FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAM (CREEW-YRF)

Research Grantees & Fellows: 120+

Capacity Building/ Training Participants: 225+

Workshops and Symposium Participants: 1500+

Network of Early Career Professionals for Global Change Research (APN-ECAP)

www.creew.org.np

Dhundi Raj Pathak

CONTACT US



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