ASIA-PACIFIC NETWORK FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH

FINAL REPORT

Building capacity through co-production in Indonesia and Malaysia to address the climate change communication gap between scientific and lay audiences through journalists



CBA2023-02MY-Azhari

2026

MONASH University

MONASH CLIMATE COMMUNICATION HUB (MCCH)

Project Reference Number: CBA2023-02MY-Azhari

Project Duration: 01 October 2023 to 30 September 2026

Funding Awarded: USD 63,250

Grant DOI: https://doi.org/10.30852/p.25886

Date of Publication: 30 October 2026

Project Leader and Contact Details: Dr Azliyana Azhari, Monash University Malaysia

Collaborators and Contact Details:

- Raksha Pandya-Wood, Western Sydney University*
- Emma Baulch, Monash University Malaysia
- Ika Karlina Idris, Monash University Indonesia
- Alex M. Lechner, Northeastern University China*
- Elizabeth Lester, Monash University Australia

Recommended Citation:

Azhari, A., Pandya-Wood, R., Baulch, E., Idris, I.K., Lechner, A.M., and Lester, L. (2026). Building capacity through co-production in Indonesia and Malaysia to address the climate change communication gap between scientific and lay audiences through journalists. Project Final Report. Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research.

* Raksha Pandya-Wood and Alex M. Lechner were affiliated with Monash University Malaysia and Monash University Indonesia respectively during the funding application stage and the project's duration and only transitioned to their current institution towards the conclusion of the project. Their current institutions were not involved in any aspect of the project's administration, execution, or funding.

BY-NC Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)

© 2026 The authors. Published by the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) under the Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial 4.0 International (CC-BY-NC 4.0) licence.

All opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of APN. While the information and advice in this publication are believed to be true and accurate at the date of publication, neither the editors nor APN accepts any legal responsibility for any errors or omissions that may be made. APN and its member countries make no warranty, expressed or implied, with respect to the material contained herein.

The use of geographic names, boundaries and related data on maps, and in lists and tables within this publication are not warranted to be error-free, nor do they imply any endorsement by APN.

1. Summary

Building capacity through co-production in Indonesia and Malaysia to address the climate change communication gap between scientific and lay audiences through journalists project funded by the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN-GCR), aimed to address the gap between climate science and public understanding by strengthening the capacity of journalists to communicate climate change accurately, accessibly and effectively in Malaysia and Indonesia. Recognising journalists as important intermediaries between scientific communities and the public, the project sought to improve the translation of complex scientific knowledge into locally relevant stories that inform public understanding and engagement with climate change.

Despite growing recognition of climate change and its impacts, journalists face significant challenges in reporting climate-related issues. These include difficulties accessing reliable and locally relevant scientific evidence, interpreting technical information, communicating uncertainty and risk, and producing compelling stories within newsroom constraints. Linguistic and cultural diversity, alongside differences in media practices and audience needs, further complicates climate communication in both countries.

To address these challenges, the project adopted a co-production approach, bringing together journalists, climate researchers and communication practitioners to identify needs and collaboratively develop practical resources. Through 4 different phases: network forming, identifying capacity gaps and needs, codesigning and delivering the resource bank. Three workshop series held in Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta and Melbourne facilitated knowledge exchange, explored barriers to effective climate reporting, and identified opportunities to strengthen collaboration between scientific experts and media professionals. This participatory approach ensured that the project's outputs were informed by journalists' experiences and practical requirements rather than relying solely on conventional, top-down science communication approaches.

A key outcome was the development and launch of the Climate Communication Resource Bank, a digital platform designed to support journalists throughout the climate reporting process, from generating story ideas and identifying credible sources to interpreting evidence and developing engaging narratives. The Resource Bank brings together practical tools, guidance, case studies and other resources relevant to climate science and journalism. Its content addresses areas such as understanding climate science, finding and evaluating evidence, framing stories, interviewing scientific experts, and reporting responsibly on uncertainty and misinformation.

The Resource Bank prioritises accessibility and regional relevance, with resources intended to support journalists working in Malaysia and Indonesia. It is designed as a living platform that can evolve in response to emerging reporting challenges and the changing needs of media practitioners. Future development opportunities include expanding local-language resources, particularly climate terminology and explanations that reflect the linguistic and cultural contexts of both countries.

The project culminated in a final dissemination workshop, Bridging Climate Communication: Lessons and Pathways from Malaysia and Indonesia. The event brought together researchers, journalists and other stakeholders to share project findings, reflect on lessons from the field, discuss the Resource Bank, and identify pathways for sustaining collaboration and capacity building beyond the funding period.

Overall, the project demonstrates the value of co-production in bridging the gap between scientific knowledge and public communication. By connecting researchers with journalists and translating research into practical resources, it contributes to strengthening climate journalism, supporting more informed public understanding of climate risks and solutions, and encouraging evidence-informed public and policy discussions. The project also establishes a foundation for continued regional collaboration and the development of climate communication resources across Southeast Asia.

2. Objectives

The project aimed to bridge the gap between climate science and public understanding in Malaysia and Indonesia by strengthening climate communication capacity through collaboration between journalists, researchers and other relevant stakeholders. The specific objectives were to:

1. Establish cross-sectoral networks in Malaysia and Indonesia involving journalists, climate NGOs, climate-aware business leaders, climate scientists and climate think tanks to identify their respective challenges, needs and opportunities in communicating climate-related issues and agendas.
2. Codesign a capacity-building programme informed by the needs and experiences of network participants, with a focus on addressing climate communication challenges, strengthening collaboration between journalists and climate experts, and translating scientific knowledge into accessible, accurate and locally relevant content.
3. Deliver capacity-building activities and develop practical communication resources through participatory workshops and knowledge exchange, enabling journalists to communicate climate science, impacts and solutions more effectively to public audiences.
4. Evaluate project outcomes and disseminate research findings and resources through academic publications, dissemination workshops, the Climate Communication Resource Bank, public engagement activities, news channels and collaboration supporting the continued use and wider reach of project outputs.

3. Outputs, Outcomes and Impacts

Outputs	Outcomes	Impacts
- Cross-sectoral networks established connecting journalists, climate scientists, climate NGOs, climate-aware business leaders and climate think tanks in Malaysia and Indonesia. - Three co-production workshop series conducted in Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta and Melbourne to identify communication challenges, exchange knowledge and develop practical responses. FGD workshop in Malaysia = 27 participants FGD workshop in Indonesia = 38 participants FGD workshop in Australia = 8 participants - Climate Communication Resource Bank developed and launched as a digital platform providing practical tools, guidance and resources to support climate reporting. Climate Communication Resource Bank launch event: 25 participants	- Improved understanding of climate communication challenges among researchers, journalists and other stakeholders, particularly regarding the translation of scientific evidence for public audiences. - Enhanced capacity for climate reporting, including the ability to identify credible sources, interpret scientific information and communicate climate risks, uncertainty and solutions more accessibly. - Stronger relationships between journalists and climate experts, supporting knowledge exchange and access to reliable scientific information. - Greater awareness of practical climate communication resources, including the availability and potential applications of	- Strengthened climate journalism in Malaysia and Indonesia, contributing to more accurate, accessible and locally relevant reporting on climate change. - Improved public understanding of climate change, through better communication of scientific evidence, climate impacts, risks and possible solutions. - Greater potential for evidence-informed public discourse and policy discussions on climate change, adaptation and mitigation. - Sustained regional capacity for climate communication, supported by the Resource Bank and networks established through the project. - A contribution to the broader climate communication research and practice agenda in Southeast Asia, demonstrating the value of co-production and cross-sectoral collaboration.

- Capacity-building and knowledge-exchange activities delivered to strengthen collaboration between journalists and climate experts. - Final dissemination workshop conducted titled Bridging Climate Communication: Lessons and Pathways from Malaysia and Indonesia, to share project findings, lessons and future opportunities. Workshop participants: 38 in person, 12 online - Research and dissemination materials produced including project documentation, resources for practitioners and academic publication outputs arising from the research. - Regional collaboration strengthened through engagement between Malaysian and Indonesian stakeholders and the wider MCCH network.	the Climate Communication Resource Bank. - Increased recognition of co-production as an approach to climate communication, ensuring that resources respond to the practical needs of journalists and reflect local contexts. - Improved opportunities for cross-country knowledge exchange between stakeholders in Malaysia and Indonesia.	

4. Key facts/figures

- 73 participants were recruited to identify the needs and challenges
- 17 journalists were engaged
- 6 events were held through the 4 different phases
- 3 key themes identified from the thematic analysis



5. Publications

Azhari, A., Pandya-Wood, R., Lester, L., Rosalina, D., Lechner, A.M., Idris, I. (2026). Localizing climate narratives: Co-producing public communication in Malaysia and Indonesia. In A. Johns-Putra & K.-W. Chu (Eds.), Narratives of the future. In J. Stephenson (Ed.), Oxford intersections: Climate adaptation. Oxford University Press. https://doi.org/10.1093/9780198986201.003.0015

6. Media reports, videos and other digital content

Climate Communication Resource Bank
https://www.monash.edu/mcccrh/research/supporting-climate-communication-through-journalists-in-malaysia-and-indonesia

7. Pull quotes

"The impacts of climate change are experienced across cultures, languages and locations. The Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research demonstrates the power and necessity of building networks across communities, journalists and researchers to better understand the ways climate change is experienced on the ground, and in turn, the ways on the ground experiences shape our knowledge about climate change." –

Professor Duncan McDuie-Ra, Head of School, School of Arts and Social Science, Monash University Malaysia

"To tell impactful climate stories, journalists need not only a basic understanding of climate science but also strong connections with scientists, policymakers, academics and people on the ground, especially among vulnerable communities affected by climate change.

Building these connections is important because scientists and academics often publish valuable research and findings in scientific journals, but the information can be too technical for the general public to understand.

As journalists, we play an important role in bridging this gap by translating complex scientific findings into simple, relatable and engaging stories that readers and audiences can easily understand."

Ms Soon Li Wei, Journalist, BERNAMA

"Language, language, language, because they (public) speak in their own language. But when we went when it comes to do the stories about climate change, and all that, where we deal with the scientists, mostly journals are all in English. This is why it is important to have local context and local language."

Journalist from FGD in Malaysia

"We need media that can rewrite or repackage serious content from us so that it can be understood and consumed by anyone, including people who are not very scientific. To us as researchers, all these things are important, but journalists will look for something that has news value. Researchers and journalists have different perceptions of what is important."

Scientist from FGD in Indonesia

8. Acknowledgements

The authors gratefully acknowledge the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) for funding this project. We extend our sincere appreciation to all participating journalists, scientists, representatives of non-governmental organisations, policymakers and business leaders in Malaysia and Indonesia for sharing their insights, experiences and expertise. We also thank our collaborators and workshop participants in Malaysia, Indonesia and Australia for their contributions to the co-production process and the development of the Climate Communication Resource Bank. We also would like to thank Monash University's campuses in Malaysia, Indonesia and Australia, and for their support and contributions to the project. Their engagement and commitment were instrumental in advancing this collaborative effort to strengthen climate change communication across the region.

9. Appendices

Provide a list of all appendices and attach them as separate files to the report.

Appendix 1: Focus Group Discussion Workshop in Malaysia

Appendix 2: Focus Group Discussion Workshop in Indonesia

Appendix 3: Enhancing Climate Change Communication: Insights from the Melbourne Workshop

Appendix 4: Project Sharing Session

Appendix 5: Climate Direct Resource Bank launch

Appendix 6: Final Dissemination: Bridging Climate Communication: Lessons and Pathways from Malaysia and Indonesia

Bridging Climate Communication – Lessons and Pathways from Malaysia and Indonesia

By Azliyana Azhari, Monash University Malaysia

Event Title: Final Dissemination Workshop
Date: 12th February 2026
Time: 9.00am - 1.00pm
Venue: Monash University Malaysia and hybrid on zoom

The Monash Climate Communication Hub (MCCH) organised the Final Dissemination Workshop: Bridging Climate Communication: Lessons and Pathways from Malaysia and Indonesia as part of the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN-GCR) funded project: Building capacity through co-production in Indonesia and Malaysia to address the climate change communication gap between scientific and lay audiences through journalists

The workshop brought together researchers, journalists, climate experts and other stakeholders to reflect on the project's findings and experiences, share lessons from the field, and discuss pathways for sustaining and expanding the project's outcomes beyond the funding period. The workshop aimed to disseminate the key findings, outputs and lessons from the project, reflect on the challenges and opportunities involved in communicating climate change through journalism in Malaysia and Indonesia, identify potential pathways for continued collaboration, resource development and capacity building beyond the project and map opportunities for sustaining the project's impact through partnerships between researchers, journalists, media organisations and other stakeholders.

The project overview presented the rationale, approach and key outcomes of the research. At the centre of the project was the recognition that the communication gap between climate science and public audiences cannot be addressed simply by providing more scientific information. Journalists operate within practical newsroom constraints, including limited time, the need to identify compelling story angles, difficulties accessing and interpreting technical evidence, and the challenge of communicating uncertainty, risk and attribution without either oversimplifying the science or making stories inaccessible to audiences.

The project therefore adopted a co-production approach, engaging journalists and climate experts in the development of communication resources. Three workshop series held in Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta and Melbourne provided opportunities to identify existing practices, challenges and resource needs, and to jointly develop potential solutions. This approach ensured that the project's outputs were informed by the experiences and needs of practitioners rather than being developed solely from the perspective of researchers or climate experts.


BRIDGING CLIMATE
COMMUNICATION:
LESSONS AND PATHWAYS FROM


APN WORKSHOP SERIES 5
BRIDGING CLIMATE
COMMUNICATION:
LESSONS AND PATHWAYS FROM
1



Climate Communication Resource Bank launch
By Azliyana Azhari, Monash University Malaysia

Event Title: APN Workshop Series IV: Climate Direct Resource Bank Launch
Date: 22nd April 2025
Time: 12.30 - 2.00pm
Venue: online

The Climate Communication Resource Bank was launched through an online event organised by the Monash Climate Communication Hub (MCCH). The Resource Bank was developed as a key outcome of the APN-GCR funded project, “Building capacity through co-production in Indonesia and Malaysia to address the climate change communication gap between scientific and lay audiences through journalists.”

The project recognises journalists as important intermediaries between climate science and the public. In Malaysia and Indonesia, journalists play a particularly important role in communicating climate-related risks and solutions to diverse audiences. However, journalists face a range of challenges, including technical and scientific terminology, linguistic diversity, access to reliable data, trust, political sensitivities, and the need to make climate change relevant to local audiences.

The online launch aimed to introduce the Climate Communication Resource Bank to journalists, researchers, communication practitioners and other stakeholders; explain the purpose, development and key features of the Resource Bank; demonstrate how the platform can support journalists in reporting climate change and energy transition issues: and promote continued engagement and collaboration between journalists, researchers, media organisations and civil society.

The Climate Direct Resource Bank was developed to provide journalists with practical tools and information to support climate change reporting. The Resource Bank is a practical, multilingual platform bringing together case studies, tools and evidence to support accurate and locally relevant climate and energy transition journalism. It was developed in response to findings from focus groups, workshops and interviews with journalists in Malaysia and Indonesia. Particular emphasis was placed on the need for culturally relevant and accessible climate communication. This is especially important in Malaysia and Indonesia, where communities are increasingly experiencing climate-related impacts, including floods and other extreme weather events. By making scientific information more accessible to media practitioners, the Resource Bank seeks to strengthen the connection between scientific knowledge and public understanding.

The launch emphasised that effective climate journalism requires more than the dissemination of scientific facts. Journalists need access to reliable evidence, practical reporting tools, appropriate sources, relevant data and locally meaningful examples to translate complex climate issues into stories that audiences can understand and relate to. The Resource Bank therefore seeks to bridge the gap between climate science and public understanding by supporting journalists as knowledge intermediaries. Its development through co-production also ensures that the resources respond to the practical needs and challenges identified by media practitioners themselves. A key feature of the Resource Bank

is that it is intended to be a living platform, with continued collaboration with media organisations, researchers and civil society across the Asia-Pacific to maintain its relevance and usefulness.

The launch of the Climate Communication Resource Bank represents a key outcome of the APN-GCR project and demonstrates the project's commitment to translating research into a practical resource for media practitioners. By responding directly to the needs identified by journalists in Malaysia and Indonesia, the Resource Bank seeks to strengthen the connection between climate science, journalism and public understanding.

The platform also provides a foundation for continued regional collaboration and resource development, with the potential to expand its collection of materials and remain responsive to the evolving needs of climate journalists across Malaysia, Indonesia and the wider Asia-Pacific region.

Resource Bank: [Climate Communication Resource Bank – Monash Climate Communication Hub]

By Azliyana Azhari, Monash University Malaysia

Event Title: Project Sharing Session
Date: 20th January 2025
Time: 9am - 10.3am
Venue: online

project sharing session was organised to facilitate knowledge exchange between two APN–Global Change Research (APN-GCR) funded projects based in Malaysia in Monash University Malaysia and University of Malaya. This sharing session focuses on interconnected challenges of peatland carbon emissions, transboundary haze, climate change communication, and stakeholder engagement in Southeast Asia.

The session brought together researchers from the projects CBA2023-02MY-Azhari:Building Capacity through Co-production in Indonesia and Malaysia to Address the Climate Change Communication Gap between Scientific and Lay Audiences through Journalists and CRRP2022-03MY-Muhamad Varkkey:Policy and Governance Approaches to Cooperative Mitigation of Peatland Carbon Emissions and Transboundary Haze in Southeast Asia
The session aims to
i) share research approaches, findings, and experiences from the two APN-GCR projects,
ii) identify common research interests and opportunities for collaboration,
iii) exchange experiences in engaging policymakers, journalists, communities, and other stakeholders,
iv) explore how research evidence can be translated into accessible knowledge and policy-relevant resources, and
v) strengthen connections between research on environmental governance and climate change communication in the Southeast Asian context.

The first project presented its work on building capacity for climate change communication through co-production with journalists in Indonesia and Malaysia. The project shared its experiences in identifying communication gaps between scientific and lay audiences, engaging media practitioners, and developing resources that can support more effective communication of climate change science. The discussion also highlighted the importance of understanding the needs, practices, and challenges of journalists when translating scientific knowledge for wider public audiences.

The second project shared its work on policy and governance approaches for cooperative mitigation of peatland carbon emissions and transboundary haze. The discussion highlighted the importance of cross-border cooperation, institutional arrangements, governance mechanisms, and policy coordination in addressing environmental challenges that extend beyond national boundaries.

The sharing session identified several areas of common interest between the two projects. Both projects emphasise the importance of collaboration across sectors and countries, particularly in addressing environmental and climate-related issues in Southeast Asia. There was also a shared recognition that producing scientific evidence alone is insufficient;

research needs to be connected with appropriate governance processes, stakeholder engagement, and effective communication pathways.

The project sharing session provided an opportunity for researchers from two complementary APN-GCR projects to exchange experiences and identify synergies between environmental governance, climate science, and climate change communication. The discussion demonstrated the potential value of connecting research on peatland and transboundary haze governance with approaches for communicating scientific knowledge to wider audiences. The session also established a basis for continued knowledge exchange and potential future collaboration between the project teams.

Report: Enhancing Climate Change Communication: Insights from the Melbourne Workshop
By Azliyana Azhari, Monash University Malaysia

Event Title: APN Workshop Series III: Identifying Capacity Development Needs and Co-Production
Date: 15th October 2024 (Tuesday)
Time: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Venue: S801 Monash Climate Change Communication Research Hub (MCCCRH), Monash University, Caulfield, Australia

The focus of the workshop was to discuss the findings from the previous two sessions and build upon them to develop a resource bank designed to enhance the capacity of journalists in reporting climate change stories. This event was a continuation of the previous workshops held in Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta, aimed at identifying capacity development needs and co-production opportunities in climate change communication between journalists and climate experts in Malaysia and Indonesia. The participants include project partners from all 3 countries and researchers and climate communication experts from Australia, engaged in a series of discussions to identify effective communication strategies, challenges, and resource needs for improving climate reporting.

One of the central discussions during the workshop revolved around effective communication strategies for climate change. Participants shared their experiences in raising awareness, with a focus on using human-interest stories to engage audiences. In Malaysia, framing climate issues through personal narratives was seen as an effective way to connect with the public, while in Indonesia, the use of visual storytelling—such as aesthetically appealing videos—helped increase engagement on social media platforms. However, several challenges were identified, including the difficulty of translating scientific jargon into accessible language and overcoming language barriers, as there is often a lack of localized terms for complex climate concepts. Additionally, journalists reported difficulties in gaining reliable data access, which limited their ability to present well-researched stories.

Another key topic discussed was adaptive capacity development, which focuses on the ability of systems, institutions, and communities to adjust to climate impacts. Participants highlighted examples of adaptation, such as the implementation of climate-resilient agriculture, early warning systems, and local support networks. The conversation emphasized the importance of flexibility, knowledge sharing, and collaboration in building adaptive capacity. Discussions also explored the tools and resources needed to improve climate communication, including infographics, glossaries of climate terms in local languages, and the use of social media platforms like Instagram and TikTok to reach younger audiences, especially in Indonesia. The discussions also addressed the challenges in communicating climate change, with the translation of scientific jargon into accessible language being a prominent issue hindering effective communication. Additionally, there was a clear lack of access to reliable, localized data, which affected the accuracy and depth of climate reporting in both Malaysia and Indonesia.

The workshop also highlighted the challenges in collaboration between journalists and climate experts. Journalists expressed the need for better networking platforms to quickly access expert opinions for their stories, suggesting the creation of a formal database of

climate experts to enhance media coverage of climate issues. Participants of the workshop also discussed the need for tools and resources to support climate change communication and how the resource bank will be developed and hosted by MCCCRH. This resource bank would serve as a centralized hub where journalists could access reliable data, visual tools, and training materials. The resource bank would also facilitate networking between journalists and climate experts, helping to overcome the challenges of sourcing credible information on tight deadlines. This tool is expected to play a crucial role in bridging the gap between scientific knowledge and public understanding, ultimately improving the quality and reach of climate reporting in both Malaysia and Indonesia.

In conclusion, the workshop provided valuable insights into the current challenges and opportunities in climate change communication, with a clear path forward through the development of the resource bank. The discussions highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts and tailored tools to support journalists in delivering accurate, relatable, and impactful climate stories.



Researchers and participants engaged in discussions sharing insights on improving climate change communication and developing resources for journalists



Report: Focus Group Discussion Workshop in Indonesia
By Dessy Rosalina, Monash University Indonesia

Event Title: APN Workshop Series II: Identifying Capacity Development Needs and Co-Production
Date: 25th June 2024 (Tuesday)
Time: 09:00 am - 12:00 pm (1st Session) and 01:00 pm - 04.00 pm (2nd Session)
Venue: Room 612 Cibanten, Monash University Indonesia, Banten, Indonesia

Executive Summary

The FGD involved five distinct participant groups: journalists, academics and researchers, NGOs and think tanks, business leaders, and government agencies. These groups shared insights on the communication gap between climate change experts and journalists, and their needs for enhancing capacity in this area.

A set of recurring themes emerged across the discussions, which are integral to climate change communication practices in Indonesia. These include: Training, Visualization, Personalization, Targeting, Trusting, Localization, Partnering, Utilizing Platforms, Motivating Action, Deflating, Censoring, Translating, Effective Translation, Sensationalising and Behavior Change.

Initial Key Findings:

1. **Complexity and Challenges:**
   Participants acknowledged the complexity of climate change issues and the associated challenges in effectively conveying these topics to diverse audiences.

2. **Collaboration as a Core Strategy:**
   Participants expressed a strong desire for cross-sector collaboration among stakeholders to achieve impactful and sustainable climate communication goals. Multi-stakeholder collaborations were seen as critical for developing comprehensive narratives, especially on complex issues like deforestation, pollution, and policy development.

3. **Need for Capacity Building:**
   There is a clear need for capacity-building initiatives to enhance stakeholders' understanding of the climate crisis and improve communication strategies.

- **Journalists**: Emphasized the importance of long-term collaboration with researchers and academics to deepen their understanding of climate change issues.
- **Academics and Researchers**: Highlighted difficulties in reaching journalists and called for broader, more inclusive stakeholder collaborations. Their current communication efforts often target students.
- **NGOs and Think Tanks**: Stressed the need for practical strategies to expand audience reach and emphasized training and strategy renewal to mobilize audiences effectively.

- **Business Leaders**: Focused on translating the importance of climate change into business opportunities and highlighted the necessity of localizing policies to align with business interests.
- **Government Agencies**: Found it easier to convey climate data to key stakeholders, including the media, but recognized the need to simplify this data to prevent misinterpretations.

Purpose and Objectives of the FGD

The FGD aimed to gather insights from journalists and climate change experts (NGOs, CSOs, think tanks, and researchers) on:

- Enhancing the quality of climate change reporting in Indonesia.
- Developing effective communication strategies for diverse audiences.
- Bridging the gap between scientific facts and public understanding.
- Creating impactful narratives that inspire action on climate change.

Participant Selection and FGD Procedures

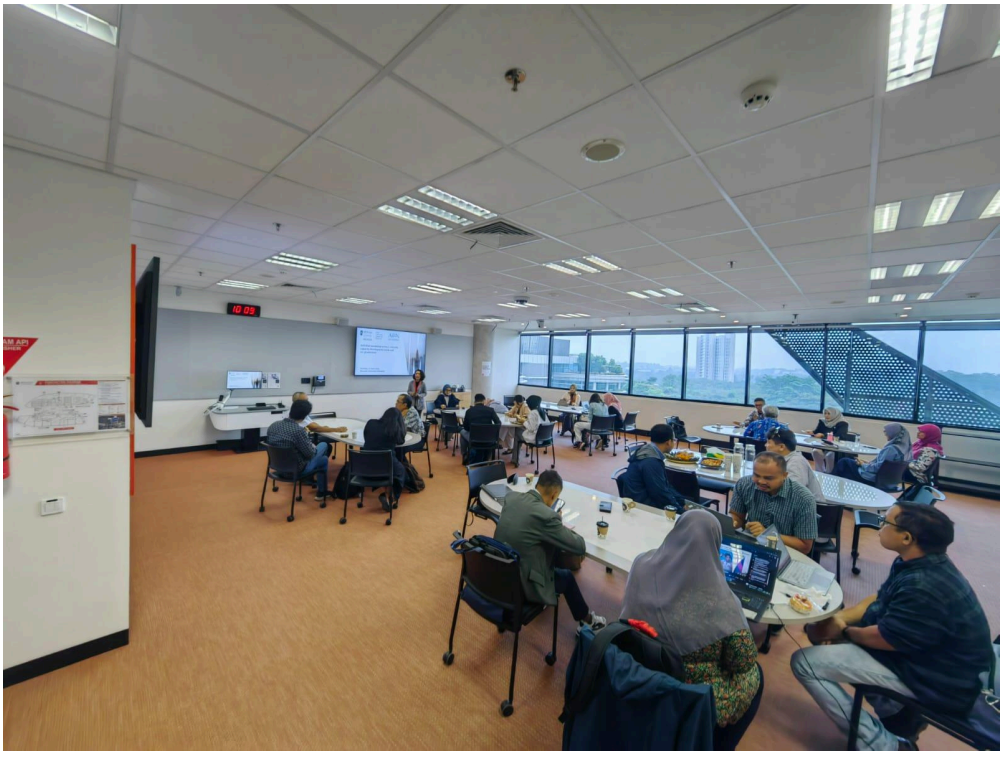
Participants were selected based on their expertise and experience in journalism or climate change-related fields. Those in mid-to-senior-level positions were invited to ensure the discussions reflected deep insights and substantial experience in Indonesia's climate change landscape.

FGD Procedure:

- Participants were divided into four groups, each comprising individuals from two different backgrounds (e.g., journalists and NGOs in Group 1).
- Two sessions (morning and afternoon) were conducted to maximize attendance.
- Each group included 8–10 participants, led by a moderator who ensured discussions stayed on topic and all participants contributed.

The FGDs lasted approximately three hours, with data collected via audio recordings, following informed consent from participants. Overall, the Jakarta workshop provided valuable insights into the specific challenges faced in Indonesia, while also identifying practical solutions to improve climate communication and co-production between key stakeholders.





Photos: Participants engaged in a collaborative discussion

Report: Focus Group Discussion Workshop in Malaysia
By Azliyana Azhari, Monash University Malaysia

Event Title: APN Workshop Series I: Identifying Capacity Development Needs and Co-Production
Date: 30th May 2024 (Thursday)
Time: 8:30 am - 1:00 pm
Venue: 7103 Library Training Room, Monash University Malaysia, Bandar Sunway, Malaysia

The workshop focused on building capacity through co-production in Malaysia to bridge the climate change communication gap between scientific and lay audiences, particularly through the engagement of journalists. It was designed to foster collaboration between participants and identify communication strategies that effectively raise awareness about climate change. The methodology adopted was based on the Bremer and Meisch (2017) Co-Production Tool, which helps analyse complex interactions between academic traditions and stakeholders. This tool encourages practitioners to be mindful of the different voices and perspectives involved in climate communication.
The workshop began with an interactive activity where participants shared personal experiences related to climate change communication. They were invited to write these experiences—whether challenges, successes, or ideas—on paper and then fold them into paper aeroplanes. This symbolic act of flying the aeroplanes was a creative way to share individual stories and open the floor for further discussion.


Ice breaking activities by the participants

Participants were then grouped based on their capacity as Journalists and Experts: Academics, Business leaders, Think tanks and NGOs/CSOs to engage in a series of discussions. They addressed questions related to the effectiveness of their communication strategies, the challenges they face, and the tools they use in their respective roles. Journalists discussed how they raise the importance of climate change through media

channels, while climate experts reflected on the tools their organisations use to communicate the urgency of climate action.]



Participants engaged in a collaborative discussion

In summary, the workshop provided valuable insights into the current state of climate change communication in Malaysia. Participants recognised the need for greater collaboration between journalists and climate experts, the importance of accessible communication tools, and the challenges posed by public scepticism and information gaps. The discussions will help shape future capacity development initiatives aimed at improving climate change communication in both Malaysia and Indonesia. The workshop ended on a positive note, with participants sharing ideas for future collaboration over lunch.



Participants and moderators of the workshop.