SESSION DESCRIPTION

I3 Tackling complex urban challenges: the role for collaboration

Panel discussion

Date: Friday, June 28, 2019
Time: 11:00-12:30
Rooms: S01-02

Language: English
Contact: Heidi Braun
E-mail/web: hbraun@idrc.ca / www.idrc.ca
Organized by: IDRC

OBJECTIVE

This session will explore how different actors can be mobilized to tackle complex urban challenges. The panel will draw on experiences from action research carried out in India (Solapur), Nepal (Dhulikhel and Dhuran) and Ghana (Accra) where different multi-stakeholder collaborative approaches were co-developed and used to establish a better shared understanding of the water-related challenges and risks facing cities and to co-design and test innovative responses. The panel will share the results borne from a collaborative approach and reflect on what factors enable or hinder effective collaboration for significant action to build more climate-resilient cities.

OUTCOMES

Participants will gain a better understanding of:

- Solutions developed to address urban water management challenges exacerbated by climate change in growing cities in India, Nepal and Ghana
- Approaches to facilitate collaboration from diverse stakeholders within the cities and beyond to involve catchment-level and national-level actors critical to effecting positive change
- The role of scale and political economy boundaries in planning adaptation solutions that reduce water related climatic risks
- The enabling factors and barriers to effective and sustained collaboration

METHODOLOGY

- Facilitators' opening remarks and introduction to the session objectives, format and panelists **(5 minutes)**
- The three panellists will present the water-related challenges faced by the cities; briefly describe the innovative collaboration approaches trialled and outline solutions being tested **(3 x 10 minutes)**
- The remainder of the session will be organized around the guiding questions, with each panelist given time to respond to individual questions, and to respond to comments made by other panelists. **(25 minutes)**
- The city representative will react to the presentations based on their city context **(10 minutes)**
- The facilitator will manage questions and answers from the audience. **(20 minutes)**
- The facilitator will conclude with closing remarks. **(5 minutes)**

Guiding questions:

1. Our assumption is that collaboration is beneficial or even essential to tackle complex urban challenges? Does this assumption hold, given the additional time and effort associated?

2. What factors enabled collaboration? What were the barriers to collaboration and how were they overcome?

3. Given that project funding is limited and finite, and that complex urban challenges aren't resolved by quick-fixes, how can you design a collaborative process that outlives the project life-cycle?

4. If we project ahead to the 20th Global Forum on Urban Resilience & Adaptation a decade from now, what stories of resilience and adaptation do you think the cities might be able to tell?

CONTRIBUTORS

Facilitator — *Heidi Braun, Program Officer, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Ottawa, Canada*

Panelist — *Bedoshruti Sadhukhan, Senior Program Coordinator (Sustainability), ICLEI South Asia, New Delhi, India*

Will present the experience of developing an Integrated Catchment Management Plan in a mid-sized Indian city: Solapur District in Maharastra State. The approach sought to address the gaps and barriers that prevent city stakeholders from engaging with surrounding catchments to adopt integrated water resource management approaches.

Panelist — *Kamal Devkota, Program Director, Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS), Kathmandu, Nepal*

Will share the experience of initiating a multi-stakeholder water forum approach (called Pani Chautari) in two rapidly urbanizing hill towns in Nepal (Dhulikhel and Dhuran) to bring together science, policy and practice and co-develop innovative actions for water management. The approach sought to better protect and manage water resources in Nepal's hill towns under increasing stress due to rapid urbanization, growing populations and climate change.

Panelist — *Benjamin Delali Dovie, Research Scientist , Regional Institute for Population Studies, University of Ghana, Legon, Accra, Ghana*

Will speak to a Climate-Smart Integrated Flood Management framework developed to include multiple approaches and reconcile multiple interests across scale, space and political economy boundaries for building resilience to recurrent flooding in Ghana's

Greater Accra Metropolitan Area.

City Representative *To be confirmed*

Further recommended reading

Climate Adaptive Water Management Plans for Cities in South Asia
http://camps.sias-southasia.org/

Integrated Rural Urban Water Management for Climate based Adaptations in Indian cities (IAdapt):
http://urbanwatermanagementindia.org/

International Development Research Centre
https://www.idrc.ca/en/program/climate-change
