



# 8<sup>TH</sup> ASIA-PACIFIC



# CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION FORUM

*Resilience for all: Enabling transformative implementation*

*30 August - 1 September 2023*

*Songdo Convensia Convention Center, Incheon City, Republic of Korea*

## *About the Forum*

Host:



Ministry of Environment

Co-organisers:



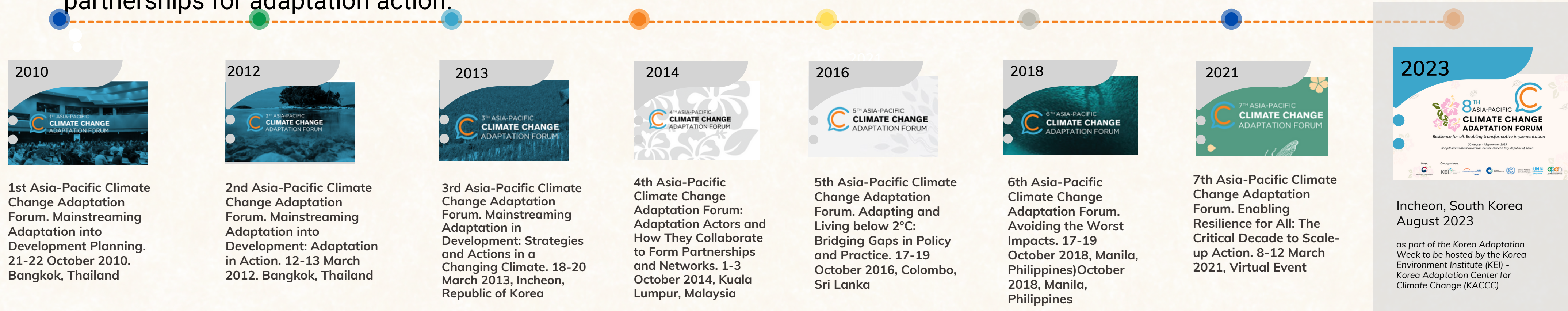
United Nations  
Climate Change



# About the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation (APAN) Forum

The Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum (APAN Forum) is the flagship event of the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) Secretariat. It is the primary regional platform for adaptation practitioners to meet, share their learning and experiences, and work together towards the pertinent outcomes and practical solutions needed to address the challenges of climate change.

With varying themes of focus, the APAN Forum has been hosted and sponsored by different governments and organisations since 2010. It is a space for scientists, financing institutions, youth, civil society, international organisations, the private sector and government representatives from various line ministries to meet, discuss and work together for greater partnerships for adaptation action.



*Asia-Pacific's largest gathering for adaptation practitioners to share information, knowledge and best practices in adaptation and resilience building*



# 8<sup>TH</sup> ASIA-PACIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION FORUM

With the theme ***“Resilience for All: Enabling transformative implementation,”*** the **8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation (APAN) Forum** will be held in person from **30 August to 1 September 2023** in **Songdo Convensia Center, Incheon City, Republic of Korea**. The Forum is hosted by the Ministry of Environment Korea, co-organised by the Korea Environment Institute, Korea Adaptation Center for Climate Change, Incheon Metropolitan City, United Nations Climate Change and the United Nations Environment Programme with the APAN Secretariat.

Considered the Asia-Pacific’s largest and longest-standing gathering of adaptation practitioners to share information, knowledge and best practices in adaptation and resilience-building, the APAN Forum is the biennial flagship event of the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) Secretariat, hosted within the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. The APAN Forum serves as a primary regional platform for adaptation practitioners to meet, exchange knowledge and experiences, and collaborate towards the pertinent outcomes and practical solutions that are needed to address the challenges of climate change.

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# Forum objectives



Enhance understanding of climate change adaptation issues, approaches, and policies for effective planning



Provide a comprehensive report on actions taken and progress made to address knowledge, policy, and funding gaps since the last APAN Forum



Serve as a platform for accelerating action and implementing adaptation knowledge and programmes, offering actionable guidelines for communities, practitioners, and policymakers



Formulate recommendations to expand adaptation efforts in the Asia-Pacific region, guiding contributions to COPs and other global/regional initiatives



Promote climate change adaptation and resilience through knowledge sharing, collaboration, and amplification of messages from local to global levels

## Target Participants



Multilateral and regional organisations



Government agencies (e.g. environment, planning and finance ministries)



Academia



Engineering and other professional associations



Donor and financing institutions



Relevant private sector and business



Non-governmental organisations



Media



Youth and community-based practitioners

*This year, it will be hosted as an in person event under the Korea Global Adaptation Week 2023.*

# Thematic areas of focus

Resilience is the unifying theme of the APAN Forum, and thus, the Forum will be built around the following four thematic “streams”: **resilience of food systems; resilience of ecosystem and ecosystem services; resilience of communities; and resilience of cities, infrastructure and settlements.** Sessions under each stream seek to establish a shared understanding of the outlook on a specific dimension of resilience.

## Resilience of food systems

This stream will explore the key aspects of climate adaptive and resilient food systems, encompassing factors that contribute to food security, mitigate climate change impacts, promote biodiversity and ecosystem health, practice sustainable resource management, protect livelihoods and enhance community resilience.

## Resilience of ecosystem and ecosystem services

The rationale behind emphasising the resilience of ecosystems and ecosystem services lies in their fundamental role in supporting life on earth and providing vital benefits to humanity. Natural ecosystems possess the capacity to enhance human resilience through their functions and services, yet they themselves face threats from climate change and variability, with focus on forest and coastal ecosystems.

## Resilience of communities

This stream will focus broadly on how specific actions and strategies can deliver resilience benefits, emphasising the linkages between governance (institutions), policy, technology, and finance and how the resilience of human and social systems can be enhanced and built on demonstrated resilience in other areas.

## Resilience of cities, infrastructure and settlements

Integrated, inclusive planning and investment in everyday decision-making about urban infrastructure, including social, ecological and grey/physical infrastructures, can significantly increase the adaptive capacity of urban and rural settlements.

Furthermore, discussions for each stream will be structured on five enabling conditions through which resilience may be built, maintained, and strengthened, identified as ***policy and governance, planning and programming, science and assessment, technologies and practices, and finance and investment.***

# Enablers

Each of these streams of resilience will be analysed against enablers – the means by which each of these systems may be enabled, including:

## Policy and Governance

This enabler emphasises the need for policies and regulations that promote adaptation to climate change. Current policies and regulatory frameworks might not be sufficient, and political instability or lack of political will can also hinder the implementation of necessary measures.

## Planning and Programming

The absence of long-term strategic planning and programming for climate adaptation can pose a significant barrier to the implementation of adaptation actions. This can be due to an inadequate understanding of the risks or a lack of capacity to develop and implement strategic plans.

## Science and Assessment

Lack of capacity to apply science and availability of scientific knowledge at appropriate spatial level may also hinder adaptation planning and programming.

## Technologies and Practices

A lack of technical knowledge and access to suitable technologies can hinder adaptation efforts. Traditional practices might also resist change, even when such change is beneficial or necessary.

## Finance and Investment

Lack of investment and limited access to finance can impede the implementation of adaptation projects, particularly in developing countries. Climate adaptation finance mechanisms are evolving rapidly in response to the growing need for adaptation funding.

# Events at the forum



APAN convenes high-level presentations and discussions along with timely and pressing climate change adaptation and resilience information from regional and global organisations. It aims to update adaptation practitioners' work in the planning and implementation of their adaptation plans and activities.

At the 8th APAN Forum, four plenary sessions will be held, serving as avenues to discuss topics related to adaptation in the region. Plenary sessions will bring high-level representatives from notable climate change adaptation leaders to discuss the complex inter-relationship among resilience streams and enablers.

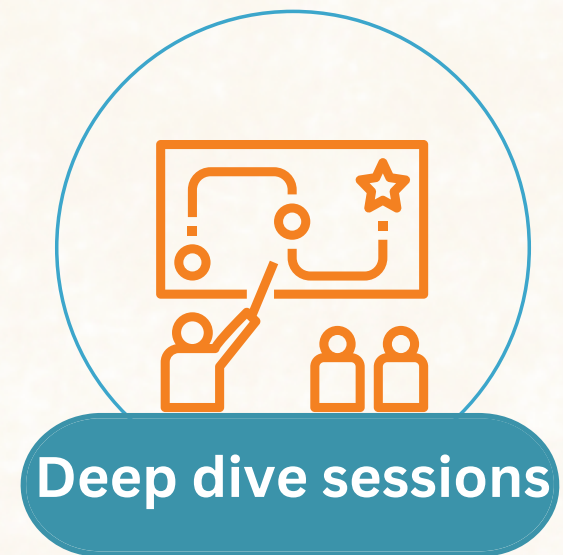


The latest information, tools, scientific evidence, publications and practices aiming to build the capacity of adaptation practitioners are highlighted in the parallel sessions and side events. These sessions showcase the accomplishments and breakthroughs among organisations working to advance climate adaptation practices and resilience building in the region.

The Stream Sessions will host discussions on the four Resilience Streams - resilience of food systems; resilience of ecosystem and ecosystem services; resilience of communities; and resilience of cities, infrastructure and settlements.



# Events at the Forum



From 28 to 29 August, deep-dive workshops or pre-forum events will be held preceding the main event. These workshops will allow participants to delve into specific topics and practices related to the main theme and programme of the APAN Forum.

Topics may include adaptation finance proposals, climate-resilient infrastructure design, adaptation planning for communities, and more.



The Market Place showcases dynamic and diverse range of organisations, products, services, information and knowledge on Climate Change Adaptation. It intends to be a suitable area to meet up with other Forum participants, network, review publications and audio-video displays.

Under the Korea Global Adaptation Week 2023, managed by the Korea Environment Institute the Marketplace or Exhibition will serve as a meeting place to showcase adaptation information and technologies. It also serves as a networking space for participating adaptation actors to connect and share.





# Forum programme of activities (*tentative*)

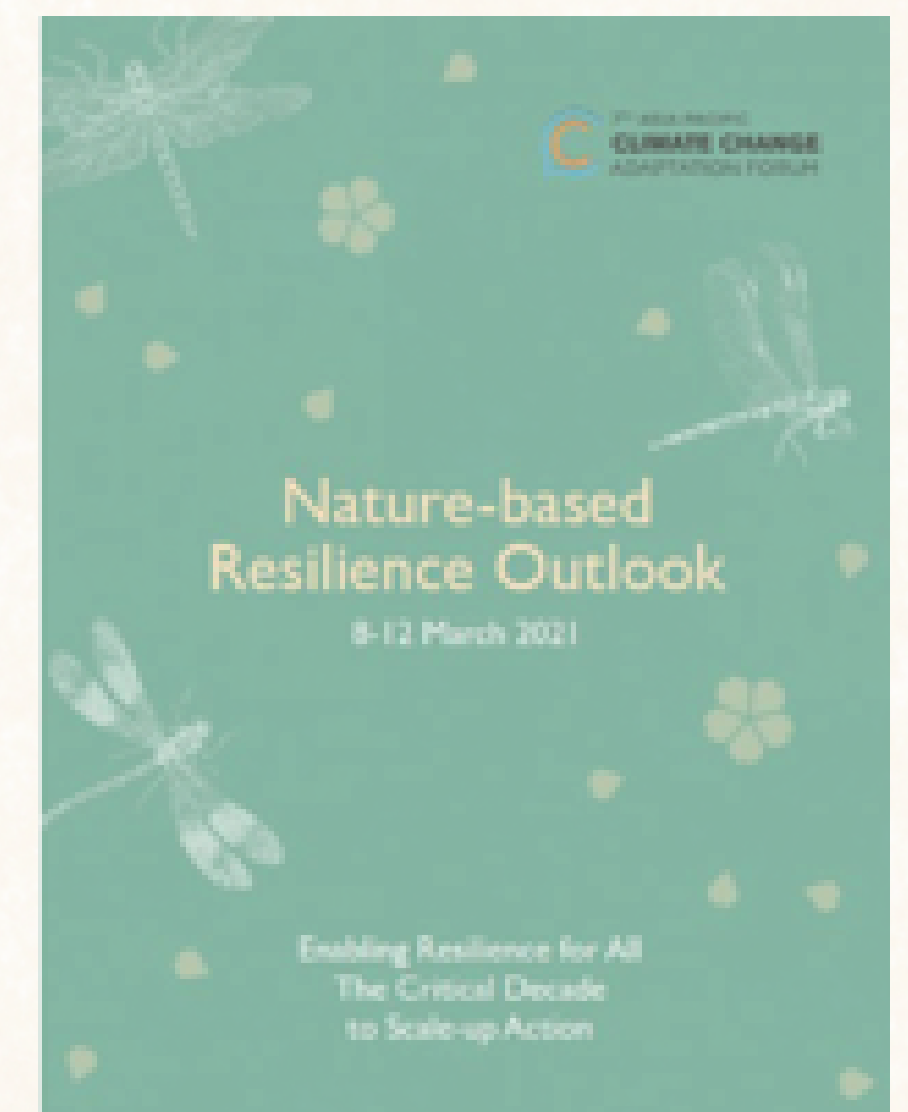
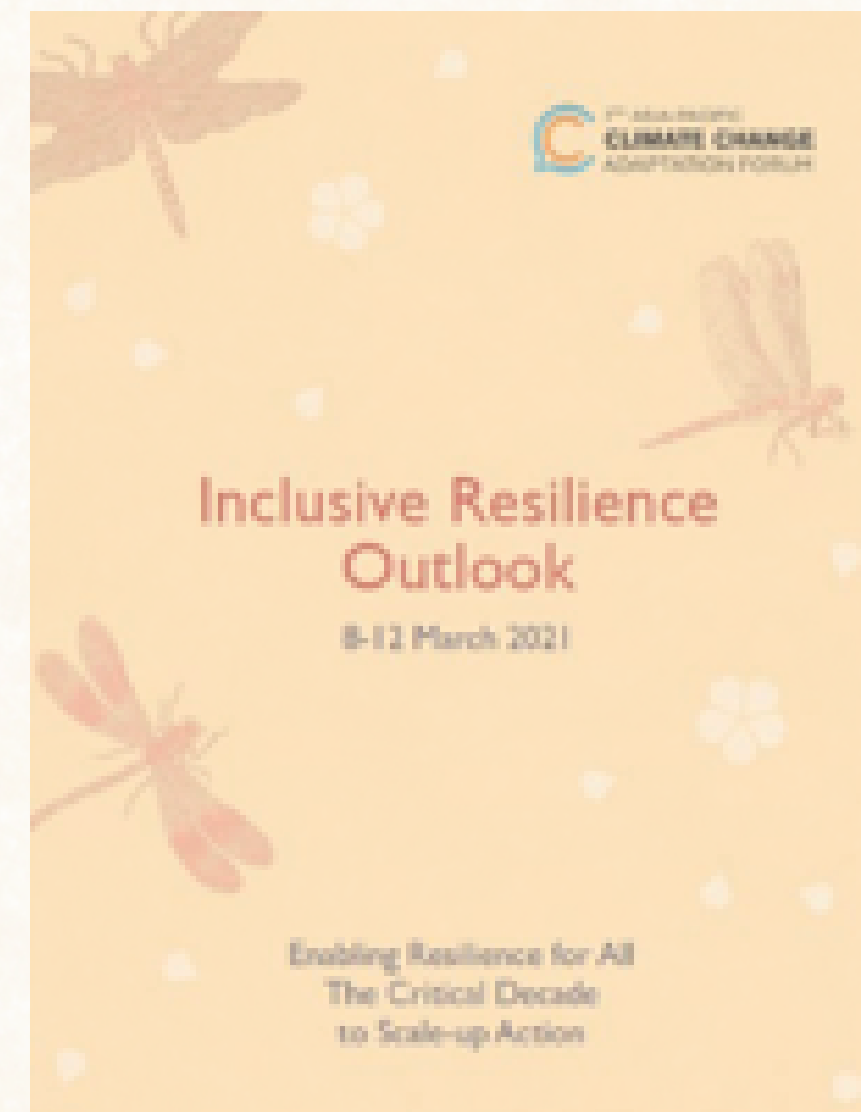
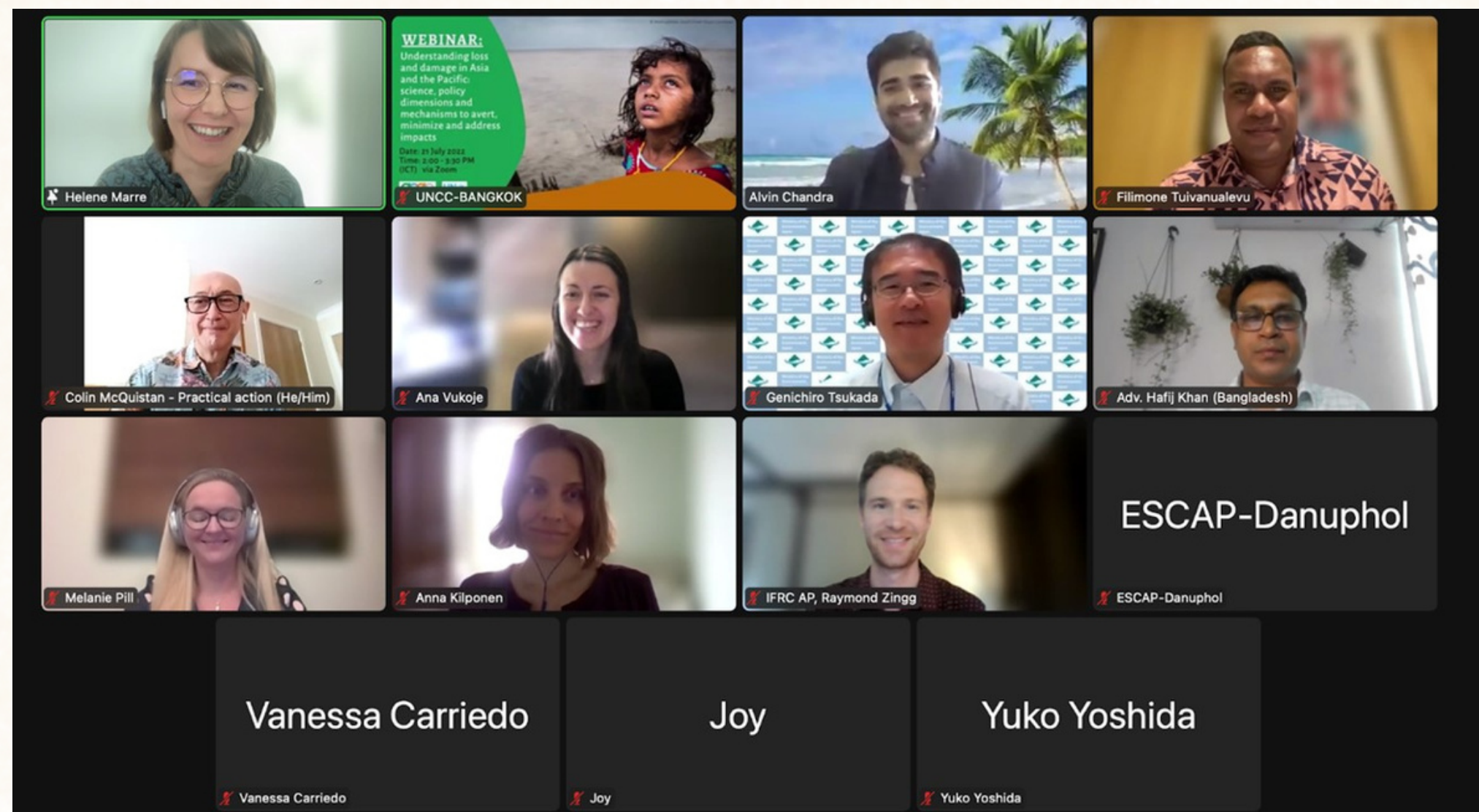


28 Aug Pre-Forum Sessions	29 Aug Pre-Forum Sessions	30 Aug Forum Day 1	31 Aug Forum Day 2	1 Sep Forum Day 3
Opening Ceremony of KGAW 2023	TBD	Opening Ceremony & Keynote	Plenary: Interconnectedness of Enablers	Plenary: Loss and Damage
TBD	TBD	Plenary: Resilience Streams	Parallel sessions	Parallel sessions
TBD	TBD	Parallel sessions	Parallel sessions	Parallel sessions
TBD	TBD	COP28 Presidency and KGAW 2023 High-level Event	Plenary: <i>TBD</i>	Closing Ceremony

# Other event

## Virtual Dialogue Series or Pre-forum webinars

Leading to the main Stream Sessions at the 8th APAN Forum, a Virtual Dialogue Series or Pre-forum webinars will be held for stakeholders across the Asia-Pacific region to share their perspectives on how resilience should be built. These insights will feed into the **Resilience Outlook**.



**Resilience Outlook.** This document fosters a mutual understanding of recommendations for accelerating transformation towards climate resilience.

# Important dates and information sources

- **Registration Period:**  
22 May - 7 July 2023
- **Call for Session Proposals:**  
22 May - 30 June (extended)
- **Virtual Dialogues Series:**  
June -July 2023
- **Deep dive workshops/Pre-forum events:**  
28 - 29 August 2023

## Session Proposal Forms

Access the Stream session and Deep-dive workshop /Pre-forum event proposal forms below.

- [8th APAN Forum - Deep-dive workshop /Pre-forum events proposal form](#)
- [8th APAN Forum - Stream session proposal form](#)

[\*\*REGISTER HERE\*\*](#)

For more information about the 8th APAN Forum, please send an email to [apan.secretariat@un.org](mailto:apan.secretariat@un.org)

Watch out for more 8th APAN Forum announcements through our social media platforms:



[@APANadapt](#)

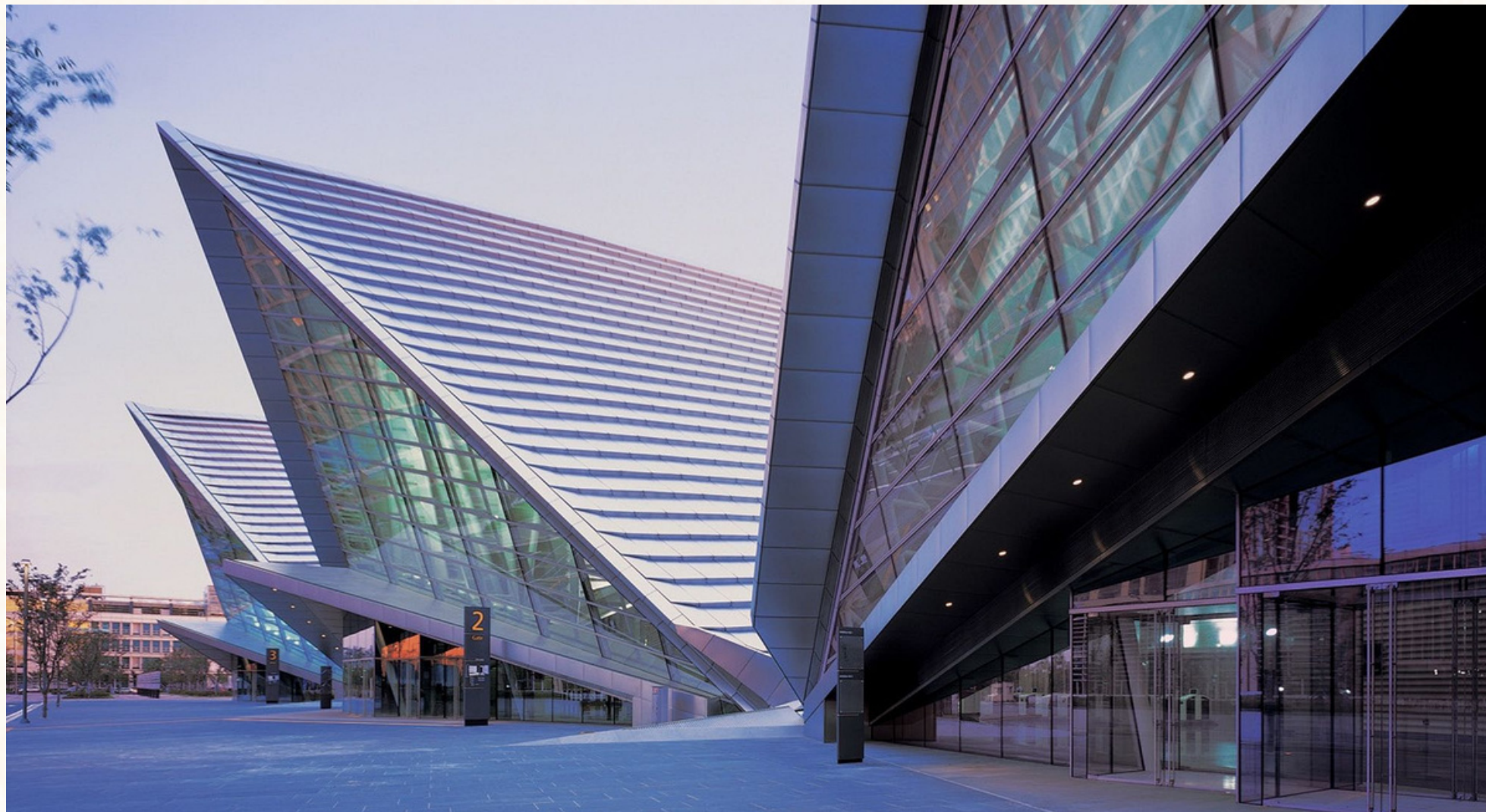


[@asiapacificadaptationnetwork](#)



<https://www.asiapacificadapt.net/>

# Venue



## **Songdo Convensia Convention Center, Incheon City Republic of Korea**

A fitting landmark for Korea's international business hub, the Songdo Convensia Convention Center houses one of the largest column-free spans in Asia and is amongst the most technologically innovative structures of its kind.

The Center is located at the southern end of Central Park. It is conceptualised as a landscape of folded roof planes, which extends the natural setting of the park into the city. The Center houses 645,000 square feet of exhibition space, 86,000 square feet of ballroom space, and 50,000 square feet of meeting and conference rooms.

# About the forum host and co-organisers



The Ministry of Environment of South Korea provides environmental protection services. The Organization protects the national territory from environmental pollution in order to improve the quality of life of the public. The Ministry's tasks include the oversight of environmental laws and regulations, introduction of environmental institutions, environmental conservation, and others tasks.



In 2009, the Republic of Korea launched the Korea Adaptation Center for Climate Change, a think tank that provides systematic support for the country's adaptation policy and conducts comprehensive research activities on adaptation. The Center has been working to draw up science-based adaptation measures by developing vulnerability assessment tools and conducting R&D for an extensive analysis of the impact of climate change.



United Nations  
Climate Change

The UNFCCC secretariat (UN Climate Change) is the United Nations entity tasked with supporting the global response to the threat of climate change. UNFCCC stands for United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Convention has near universal membership (198 Parties) and is the parent treaty of the 2015 Paris Agreement.



The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is responsible for coordinating responses to environmental issues within the United Nations system. Its mandate is to provide leadership, deliver science and develop solutions on a wide range of issues, including climate change, the management of marine and terrestrial ecosystems and green economic development. The organisation also develops international environmental agreements; publishes and promotes environmental science and helps national governments achieve environmental targets.

# About the forum hosts and organisers



The KEI was established to contribute to preventing and solving environmental problems through environmental policy research and a professional and fair review of environmental impact assessments.



As an international city, Incheon has held numerous large-scale international conferences, such as the Incheon Global Fair & Festival in 2009. The 17th Asian Games Incheon 2014 was also held in Incheon on 19 September 2014. Incheon has established itself as a major transportation hub in northeast Asia with the Incheon International Airport and Incheon Port.



Founded in 2010, the Global Adaptation Network (GAN) provides a worldwide platform to distribute and exchange climate change adaptation knowledge in a variety of ways. It emphasises the value of direct personal exchange and partnerships, often within particular regions of vulnerability. The secretariat of GAN is hosted by the UN Environment Programme in Nairobi. This anchoring within the UN system bestows GAN with a global reach, drawing on esteemed partnerships in the interests of building resilience.



The Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) serves as a knowledge platform to equip adaptation practitioners in the region with the information, knowledge, and tools to design, implement and monitor climate change adaptation measures, foster access to technologies and finance, and build capacity for Integrating climate change adaptation into national development policies, strategies and plans.

# 8th APAN Forum Ad-Hoc advisory committee



Secretariat:



# About the Korea Global Adaptation Week 2023



Korea Global Adaptation Week 2023 (KGAW 2023) is one of the significant adaptation events of the year, which aims to showcase and promote actions and practices to adapt to the impacts of climate change. KGAW 2023 is held on 28 August to 1 September 2023.

KGAW 2023 will be a special event, with coordinated efforts by the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat, United Nations Environment Programme(UNEP), the Korea Adaptation Center for Climate Change of Korea Environment Institute (KEI KACCC), and Incheon Metropolitan City. More than 700 representatives from governments, civil society, the private sector, academia, the United Nations and other international organizations, and multilateral financial institutions from around the world, are expected to attend KGAW 2023.

The week will feature the Asia NAP Expo 2023, which is organized by the UNFCCC Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG); the UN4NAPs regional forum and the Resilience Frontiers brainstorming meeting, both of which are interagency efforts coordinated by the UNFCCC secretariat; and the 8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum (APAN Forum) organized by UNEP. It will also feature special events on “Transformative Climate Action Anchored on Indigenous Values” hosted by the Incoming COP28 Presidency and the UNFCCC Secretariat; and the high-level event hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea.