Regional Forum on Climate Change Finance and Sustainable Development  
1-3 September, 2015 – Jakarta, Indonesia

Concept for Launch of Regional Skills and Peer Learning Network for Climate Policy and Public Finance

Day 1, 10.30 to 11.30

Background

Ensuring better alignment between climate policy and public finance requires greater awareness and engagement between two professional communities within government and the broader education/training sector: those professionals that deal with public finance; and those that deal with climate change.

Ideally there should be a sufficient basic understanding of climate change policy and public finance across government, providing the necessary space for meaningful cross government dialogue. The figure below provides the desired distribution of knowledge whereby public finance experts retain at least a basic level of understanding of climate change, and vice versa.

Targeted and recurrent training is necessary in order to establish and maintain this space for dialogue, as well as mechanism and incentives for on-going south-south collaboration in the medium term (peer learning).
Objective of the Session

To bring to the attention of senior officials from Ministries of Finance, Planning, Environment, Social Welfare and Local Government, that a regional skills and peer learning network for climate policy and public finance is being established in order to support good governance for climate finance in the medium to long term, including ‘how’ this network is being established and what it hopes to accomplish.

Structure of the Session

The session will begin with a ministerial statement from Indonesia followed by a panel presentation.

The panel will start with an introduction to the regional network, including its two key elements: (i) a partnership of regional/national training institutions; and (ii) a peer to peer network of public finance officials.

The panel will include representatives from UNITAR, a regional training institution, a national training institution and a country government, providing their perspectives on how the network can add value and what their specific role would be.

Depending on time questions and comments may be taken from the room.

Speakers

Honourable Minister for Environment, Republic of Indonesia

Angus Mackay (UNITAR) will introduce the session and provide an introduction to the network.

Saleemul Huq (ICCCAD) will provide a perspective from a regional training institution.

In EM (EFI) from the Cambodia Economics and Finance Institute will provide a perspective from a national training institution working with government in the area of public policy and climate change.

Baikuntha Aryal (Nepal) from the Nepal Ministry of Finance will outline training needs from a national perspective and how the regional network can help with this.
Key messages

Professional training in the area of public policy and climate finance is a long term and recurrent issue. Attrition is a common challenge and systems need to be built that can ensure that new staff are routinely trained.

National training institutions are in the best position to take the lead. However they need support in terms of content, training know how and funding, as well as a means of sharing experience.

Regional training institutions have capacities to deliver high quality and well-tailored training on a recurrent basis and can scale up through the establishment of partnerships with national training institutions.

Once trained, officials need recourse to peer learning networks to support them through practical issues that may arise in their jobs.