

# Climate and Development

## Learning and Sharing Forum for Parliamentarians

18-22 March, 2012

Maldives

### Rationale

Climate-related hazards, such as droughts, floods, cyclones, sea-level rise, and extreme temperatures, affect the socio-economic development of a society. It is now widely understood that efforts to address their impacts must be undertaken within the context of a longer-term vision of development. Such vision needs to be grounded on sound understanding of the evolving knowledge from climate change science research.

This *Learning and Sharing Forum for Parliamentarians* provides the opportunity to stay abreast of current climate change research and its importance to socio-economic development processes. It integrates concepts and principles from disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change adaptation (CCA) and sustainable development in a Climate Risk Management (CRM) Framework for dealing with climate variability and change.

### Objective

The *Forum* shall assist parliamentarians in carrying out their distinct but interrelated responsibilities at international, national and local constituency levels. It specifically helps them:

- ◆ Understand and shape international policies relating to climate change and development
- ◆ Shape national legislative and policy-making processes to integrate climate change concerns into development
- ◆ Cater to the needs and demands of local constituencies by minimizing climate-related risks and maximizing on potential climate gains

### Structure

The 5-day *Learning and Sharing Forum for Parliamentarians* is divided into two parts: *i*) a 3-day series of Learning and Sharing Sessions, and *ii*) a 2-day Guided Design of CRM Projects that integrates climate change concerns into development processes. The latter is optional.

The Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa & Asia (RIMES), in collaboration with National Hydrological & Meteorological Services (NHMS), shall assist in resource mobilization, provide technical assistance,

and facilitate the implementation of program/project activities. Experiences and insights in program/project implementation will then be shared and peer-reviewed in the Learning and Sharing Session, for a cycle of *i*) sharing of experiences and updating of knowledge, *ii*) design of projects to address a need or demand, and *iii*) implementation. RIMES and NHMS involvement in this iterative process will lead to continued engagement with, and support to, parliamentarians and their constituencies.

### Part 1: Learning and Sharing Sessions

These sessions are designed to orient parliamentarians of the global and regional scene for CRM, and equip them with strategies to shape planning and policy-making processes at various levels, integrating climate-related concerns in development.

#### Day 1, Module 1: Climate and Development Links

- ◆ Historical climate-society interactions
- ◆ Status of climate change science research
- ◆ Evolution of International policies on CCA
- ◆ National policies on CCA
- ◆ Case studies on CRM policies and institutional mechanisms across Africa and Asia

#### Day 2, Module 2: Financial Mechanisms and Instruments for Facilitating CCA

- ◆ International financial mechanisms and instruments for CCA
- ◆ Financial mechanisms and instruments of select countries for CCA
- ◆ Saliency of financial mechanisms and instruments in meeting local communities' needs to adapt
- ◆ Visit to host country's CRM projects

#### Day 3, Panel Discussions: Shaping International and National Policies in, and Financial Mechanisms and Instruments for facilitating CRM

- ◆ CRM Planning, Policy and Regulatory Response
- ◆ Developing a business case for CRM initiatives
- ◆ Strategies to influence and get support for CRM

### Part 2: CRM Program/Project Design (Optional)

This intensive design workshop assists participants in understanding and addressing the climate-related risks their organisations and/or constituents face.

#### Day 4, Guided design of CRM programs/projects

- ◆ Identification and prioritizing critical climate risk issues
- ◆ Developing a CRM Program/Project
- ◆ Implementing and Assessing the CRM Program/Project

#### Day 5, Preparation of action plan and budget for program/project implementation

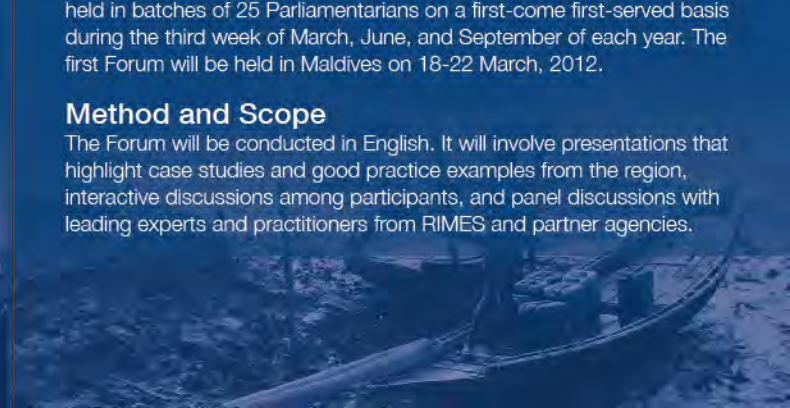
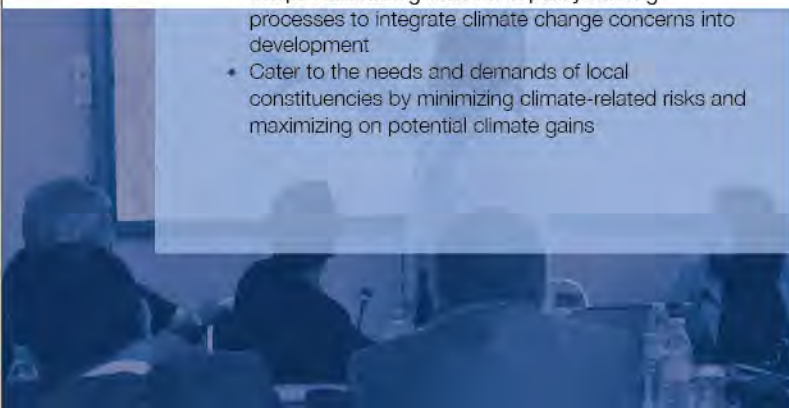
- ◆ CRM action planning and budgeting

### Target Participants

This *Learning and Sharing Forum for Parliamentarians* is designed for parliamentarians from countries in Africa and Asia. The Forum will be held in batches of 25 Parliamentarians on a first-come first-served basis during the third week of March, June, and September of each year. The first Forum will be held in Maldives on 18-22 March, 2012.

### Method and Scope

The Forum will be conducted in English. It will involve presentations that highlight case studies and good practice examples from the region, interactive discussions among participants, and panel discussions with leading experts and practitioners from RIMES and partner agencies.



## Forum Highlights

The Forum is:

- **Comprehensive** as it caters to the different aspects of the work of parliamentarians from international to national and local levels
- **Regional**, and highlights the trans-boundary concerns associated with climate change
- **Expert-driven** in that it is facilitated by institutions that relate scientific, institutional and societal aspects of climate change
- **Innovative** and the first of its kind in establishing continuous engagement and support to addressing climate-related issues of local communities

## Fee

The *Forum fee* is US\$ 2,500 per participant for the 3-day program, and US\$ 3,500 per participant for the 5-day program, excluding travel and accommodation. Participants registering for the 5-day program will be provided with a program/project design guideline, upon confirmation of their registration.

Proceeds from this *Forum* shall be used for the restoration of RIMES infrastructure, damaged from the Thailand floods 2011, to enable RIMES to continue the provision of services to least developed countries that depend on RIMES daily simulation data for their daily forecast and warning services.

## The Host

Maldives is RIMES' first Secretariat, and continues to represent RIMES in the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System. The geographical location of this small island developing state makes it particularly vulnerable to the potential impacts of climate change, especially to inundation from sea-level rise.

## The Organizer

The Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES) is an international and intergovernmental institution that is registered with the United Nations and owned and managed by its Member States through National Meteorological and Hydrological Services for the generation and application of early warning information of different time scales from hours to centuries. RIMES interfaces with global centers of excellence to bring the best of science to the doorsteps of at-risk communities in 31 Member States and Collaborating Countries in Africa and Asia. RIMES helps build capacity of Member States in the observation and monitoring of seismic, tsunami, oceanic, meteorological, hydrological, and climate phenomena, and in communication of associated risks for appropriate and timely responses to warnings.

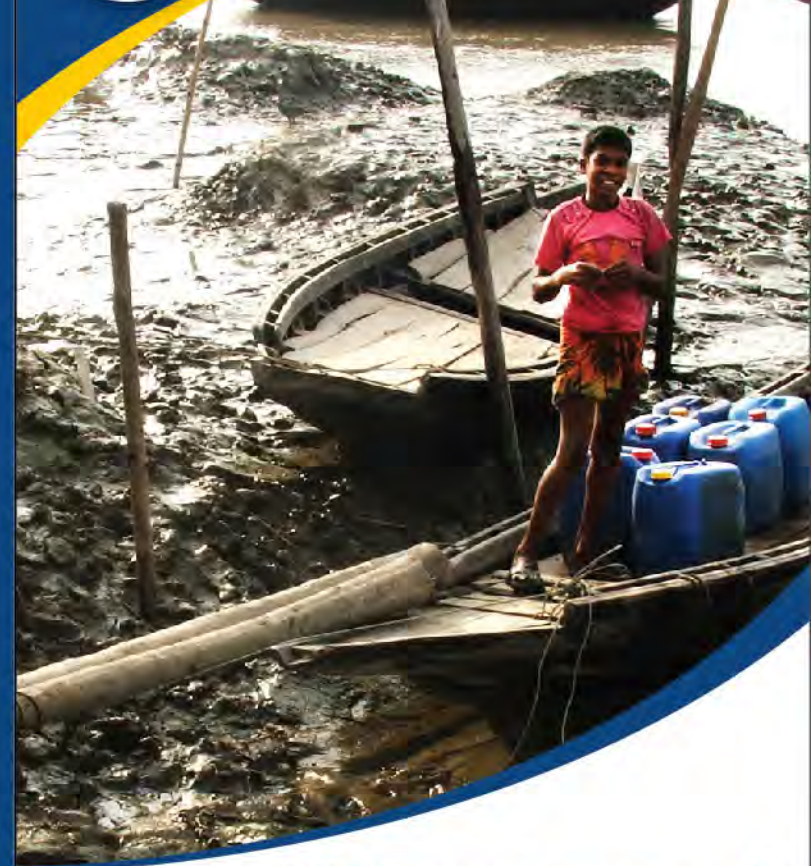


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RIMES provides capacity building services for end-to-end early warning. Its experts and scientists conduct regular and tailored trainings based on their extensive programme experience in the fields of early warning, disaster risk reduction, climate risk management, climate change adaptation and development.

For more information, visit RIMES online at <http://www.rimes.int>

Register your participation by contacting :



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