Eighty-First Session of the Commission

Side Event Concept Note

Locally Led Adaptation in Lao PDR: Strengthening Urban Resilience Through Scalable, Inclusive Solutions

Date and Time:

April 22, 2025 | 17:15 – 18:30 (GMT +7)
Hybrid Mode (In-person at ESCAP Conference Room MR-A, Bangkok & Virtual via MS Teams)

Organizers:

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Lao PDR
UN-Habitat Lao PDR

Moderator:

Dr. Avi Sarkar, Regional Advisor for Southeast Asia and Head of UN-Habitat in Lao PDR

Teams link:

https://teams.microsoft.com/UN-Habitat

Event Overview:

This session highlights Lao PDR's pioneering work in locally led climate adaptation, focusing on scalable, inclusive, and cost-effective solutions for building urban resilience. With substantial support from the Adaptation Fund and UN-Habitat, Lao PDR has implemented innovative, gender-responsive urban resilience strategies in Attapeu and Savannakhet, areas vulnerable to climate change. Through this event, participants will gain insights into real-world adaptation practices, highlighting decentralized planning, risk-informed service delivery, and climate mainstreaming. The session aims to catalyze peer learning, regional replication, and enhance support for locally led approaches across nations in the Asia-Pacific region.

Objectives:

- Showcase Lao PDR's innovative locally led adaptation initiatives in urban areas, highlighting gender-responsive and climate-resilient solutions.
- Promote scalable models that empower communities, integrate scientific data, and enhance climate resilience across vulnerable settlements.
- Explore how these approaches contribute to inclusive urban development, aligning with the 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP) and SDGs.
- Engage regional stakeholders in dialogue on how decentralized governance and community engagement drive urban resilience.

Expected Outcomes:

- Peer exchange of best practices, lessons learned, and actionable insights for scalable adaptation.
- Strengthened regional collaboration for advancing locally led adaptation in climate-vulnerable regions.
- Increased awareness of how local planning and governance systems are central to achieving the 2030 Agenda and climate-resilient urban futures.

Agenda:

Start time	End time	Agenda	Speaker/Session Chair
17:15	17:20	Introduction: Situation Context and Overview	Moderator
17:20	17:35	Aligning Adaptation with the 9th NSEDP	Ms. Sisomboun Ounavong, Director General, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Planning and Investment
17:35	17:50	Building Resilience from the Ground Up: Department of Climate Change	Mr. Vanhthone Phonnasane, Deputy Director of Climate Change Division, Department of Climate Change, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

Start time	End time	Agenda	Speaker/Session Chair
17:50	18:00	Transforming human settlements in Lao PDR through adaptation planning	Ms. Veena Ramachandran, UN-Habitat Lao PDR
18:00	18:10	Harnessing Knowledge for Change: Policy Influence and Awareness in Action	Ms. Yi Nam Xu, UN-Habitat Lao PDR
18:10	18:20	Voices for Change: Q&A session	All Participants
18:20	18:30	Closing Remarks and Reflections	Ms. Kazuko Ishigaki UN-Habitat Regional Director, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific