

KOREA GLOBAL ADAPTATION WEEK 2023

*A New Era for Adaptation:
Scaling Up and Transformation in Adaptation*

Summary Report



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I . Highlights

1

The Korea Global Adaptation Week 2023 served as a pivotal opportunity, facilitating the exchange of invaluable information, knowledge, and experiences on adaptation, essential for informed decision-making in the urgent prelude to COP 28.

2

The KGAW 2023 delved into its main theme, "A New Era for Adaptation: Scaling Up and Transformation," with voices throughout the week emphasizing the need to escalate adaptation efforts both quantitatively and qualitatively.

3

The KGAW 2023 provided a comprehensive exploration of diverse topics related to climate change adaptation, presenting the latest academic discoveries, insights from policy and practice experiences, and successful examples of adaptation projects, along with various other pertinent discussions.

4

The KGAW 2023 showcased a diverse program, including 24 international and national adaptation-related events, along with 86 insightful sessions.

5

The KGAW 2023 united 1,223 participants from 70 countries, ranging from policy-makers and scholars to practitioners, specialists, youth, and citizens.

6

A standout event, the 'Korea Local Declaration on Climate Adaptation,' secured pledges from Korean local governments for climate change adaptation, with full participation from 17 regional governments (100%) and 217 local governments (96%).

7

The KGAW 2023 garnered extensive media coverage with a total of 298 related articles.

II . Key Messages

1

Regional NAP Expo for Asia and the Pacific The timely implementation of the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) is essential to transformation in adaptation that is sought by all stakeholders, and new approaches focused on a systems approach enable easier regional cooperation, communication among key stakeholders, and targeted support such as from the Green Climate Fund, the main source of support for the most vulnerable developing countries.

2

The 8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum Transformative adaptation involves prioritizing inclusivity in climate action, transitioning from planning to implementation, shifting from incremental adjustment to transformation, embracing systems and nexus thinking, and restructuring adaptation financing.

3

Korea Local Declaration on Climate Adaptation: Scale up Local Adaptation, Act now! A nationwide commitment to practical climate adaptation, with 96% participation from local government leaders, emphasizes translating climate policies into tangible actions at the local level, addressing global climate change and extreme weather phenomena urgently, and tailoring adaptation measures for different regions.

4

Global Adaptation Dialogue The role of adaptation in addressing the climate change is significant, focusing on the GGA framework, accelerating NAPs, addressing barriers to implementation, and providing recommendations for COP28. This underscores a call for commitments driving change and investment in scaling up adaptation, emphasizing a focus on 'transformative' adaptation with strong political will, and serving as a reminder that climate change is a present reality.

5

Regional UN4NAPs Forum for Asia and the Pacific The UN4NAPs initiative facilitates technical assistance from the wide UN system to help countries address specific challenges in advancing NAP formulation and implementation, within the broader context of limited capacities of LDCs (Least Developed Countries) and SIDS (Small Island Developing States).

6

Resilience Frontiers Working Session Resilience Frontiers is a unique UN-catalysed initiative that presents eight cross-cutting pathways of change that harness tools like frontier technologies, indigenous knowledge, and good environmental stewardship, leading to a thriving future for humanity.

7

Adaptation Committee Workshop: Boosting Region-wide Coherence on Adaptation To enhance adaptation action at a global level, a common understanding of ongoing region-wide and transboundary adaptation efforts is key. This will help to identify solutions, areas for collaboration, pathways towards stronger synergies, and opportunities to address gaps and needs aligning with the global adaptation agenda. The UNFCCC Adaptation Committee is well-placed to facilitate this discourse by providing a common space for seamless exchange and collaboration.

8

Indigenous Values for Transformational Adaptation Restoring and stewarding the integrity of nature stands as the solution to climate change, offering benefits to all forms of life now and in the future. Indigenous Peoples hold practices and value systems that encapsulate this understanding. If adopted broadly, these could significantly transform the global response to climate change.

III. Overview

1. Introduction

The Korea Global Adaptation Week 2023 (KGAW 2023) was held in Songdo Convensia, Incheon, Korea from August 28 (Mon) to September 1 (Fri) with the theme, "A New Era for Adaptation: Scaling Up and Transformation in Adaptation," hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea, and orchestrated in partnership with the UNFCCC Secretariat, UNEP, APAN, KEI KACCC, and Incheon Metropolitan City. More than 1,200 representatives from governments, civil society, the private sector, academia, the United Nations, and other international organizations, as well as multilateral financial institutions from around the world, participated in KGAW 2023.

The following is the list of events under KGAW 2023.

Forums and Workshops

- Regional NAP Expo for Asia and the Pacific
- The 8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum
- Korea Local Declaration on Climate Adaptation: Scale up Local Adaptation, Act now!
- Global Adaptation Dialogue
- Regional UN4NAPs Forum for Asia and the Pacific
- Resilience Frontiers Working Session
- Adaptation Committee Workshop: Boosting Region-wide Coherence on Adaptation
- Indigenous Values for Transformational Adaptation
- Pre-forum of the 8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum
- Opening Ceremony
- Closing Ceremony
- The 3rd International Forum on Low Carbon Cities
- Consultation for the Establishment of a Carbon Neutrality Basic Plan for Regional Governments
- Consultation for Carbon Neutrality Collaboration Framework for Regional Governments
- International Forum on Science-based Climate Change Tackling Strategies
- Korean Youth Carbon Neutrality Dialogue
- Survival Strategy: Korean Youth Dialogue on Climate Adaptation
- Private Sector Forum for Response to Climate Change: Efforts for Climate Change Response of Korean Companies
- Adaptation Forum for Infrastructure: Efforts for Climate Change Adaptation of Korea's Infrastructure
- The 1st Climate Change Adaptation Academy: The 3rd Class

Exhibitions

- KGAW 2023 Adaptation Initiative Showcase
- Gallery on Indigenous Values and Mindsets
- Climate Change Adaptation Illustration Contest Exhibition 2023

Tour

- KGAW 2023 Green Incheon Tour (Evening tour for 4 days)

2. Programme

Time/Date	28 Aug (Mon)	29 Aug (Tue)	30 Aug (Wed)	31 Aug (Thu)	1 Sep (Fri)
09:00-09:30		Regional NAP Expo for Asia and the Pacific	(Pre-event) 8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum		8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum
09:30-10:00		Resilience Frontiers Working Session	Regional NAP Expo for Asia and the Pacific	8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum	8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum
10:00-10:30	Opening Ceremony				
10:30-11:00	Breaktime				
11:00-11:30	Regional NAP Expo for Asia and the Pacific	Resilience Frontiers Working Session	(Pre-event) 8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum	Regional NAP Expo for Asia and the Pacific	8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum
11:30-12:00	Resilience Frontiers Working Session	Regional NAP Expo for Asia and the Pacific	Resilience Frontiers Working Session	8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum	8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum
12:00-12:30					
12:30-14:00	Luncheon				
14:00-14:30	Regional NAP Expo for Asia and the Pacific	Resilience Frontiers Working Session	Regional NAP Expo for Asia and the Pacific	Resilience Frontiers Working Session	8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum
14:30-15:00				Indigenous Values for Transformational Adaptation	8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum
15:00-15:30				Korea Local Declaration on Climate Adaptation: Scale Up Local Adaptation, Act Now!	8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum
15:30-16:00	Breaktime	Adaptation Committee Workshop	(Pre-event) 8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum	Breaktime	8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum
16:00-16:30	Regional NAP Expo for Asia and the Pacific	Resilience Frontiers Working Session	Regional NAP Expo for Asia and the Pacific	Resilience Frontiers Working Session	8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum
16:30-17:00				Global Adaptation Dialogue	8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum
17:00-17:30					
17:30-21:00	KGAW 2023 Green Incheon Tour				
All day	KGAW 2023 Adaptation Initiative Showcase				
	Gallery on Indigenous Values and Mindsets				
	Climate Change Adaptation Illustration Contest Exhibition 2023				

Forums and Workshops

- Regional NAP Expo for Asia and the Pacific
- The 8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum
- Korea Local Declaration on Climate Adaptation: Scale up Local Adaptation, Act now!
- Global Adaptation Dialogue
- Regional UN4NAPs Forum for Asia and the Pacific
- Resilience Frontiers Working Session
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- Indigenous Values for Transformational Adaptation
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IV. Events

1. Highlighted Events

1) Regional NAP Expo for Asia and the Pacific



The “Regional NAP Expo for Asia and the Pacific” is a platform provided by the LDC Expert Group (LEG) aimed to advance the formulation and implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) by serving as a forum of exchange for countries and organizations in the region. Through its numerous sessions, participants exchanged insights around opportunities for regional cooperation and peer-to-peer knowledge sharing in implementation; around the importance of multistakeholder engagements to shape adaptation interventions that adequately address the needs of the stakeholders; around the importance of strong enabling environments for countries to access funding for implementing adaptation actions; and on the benefits of cross-sectoral and systems approaches to adaptation planning and implementation. Throughout the interactions, it became clear that top-down and bottom-up approaches must be aligned, and that local and national expertise must be valued and integrated.

2) The 8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum

With the theme, ‘Resilience for All: Enabling transformative implementation,’ the Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) organized the 8th APAN Forum from 28 August to 1 September 2023. 350 individuals from 60 countries participated in 1 opening, 4 plenaries, and 20 technical sessions (7 pre-forums, 28~29 Aug). Led and facilitated by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UN FAO), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the forum focused on 4 thematic resilience streams: 1) food systems; 2) ecosystems and ecosystem services; 3) communities; and 4) cities, infrastructure, and settlements. Adaptation actors reported on region-specific challenges and shared good practices, lessons, and insights on transformative adaptation. Forum outcomes can guide COP 28 and Global Stocktake discussions, influence contextualizing the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) within the Glasgow-Sharm-El-Sheikh Work Programme, operationalization of Loss and Damage, and designing various actors’ adaptation plans.



3) Korea Local Declaration on Climate Adaptation: Scale up Local Adaptation, Act now!

The Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea and KEI KACCC organized the “Korea Local Declaration on Climate Adaptation: Scale up Local Adaptation, Act now!” The event brought together local government leaders who pledged to prioritize climate adaptation efforts, safeguard citizens, stimulate local economies, and enhance community engagement. Impressively, 96% of local government leaders (100% in 17 regional and 96% in 217 local) nationwide participated, showcasing a strong commitment to practical climate adaptation. The event underscored the imperative for local governments to translate climate policies into tangible actions, the urgency of addressing global climate crises, including extreme weather phenomena, and the importance of tailored adaptation measures for different regions.



4) Global Adaptation Dialogue

At the heart of the KGAW 2023 was the Global Adaptation Dialogue, held under the theme ‘A New Era for Adaptation: Scaling Up and Transformation in Adaptation.’ Hosted by the Korean Ministry of Environment, the event brought together Majid Al Suwaidi, Director General and Special Representative of COP28; Mafalda Duarte, Executive Director of the GCF; Harry Vreuls, Chair of the UNFCCC SBSTA; Nabeel Munir, Chair of the UNFCCC SBI and Ambassador of Pakistan to Korea; Catherine Raper, Australian Ambassador to Korea; and Laksmi Dhewanthi, Director General of Climate Change of Indonesia. The speakers and panelists underscored the urgency of accelerating the formulation and implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) framework, stressing the importance of setting ambitious, realistic, and transformational targets. Discussions also illuminated key barriers, such as local vulnerability and the imperative for procedural justice,



recognizing the potential shortfall in current adaptation efforts. The active engagement of young participants during the Q&A session was noteworthy, considering that the youth will inherit this planet and their future will be affected by today’s actions, as highlighted by Lim SangJun, Vice Minister of Environment in his opening remarks. Overall, the Global Adaptation Dialogue successfully laid the groundwork for more productive discussions at COP28, conveying the following key messages: 1) hope for commitments driving change, 2) the necessity for all adaptation actions to focus on ‘transformation’ with strong political will, and 3) a poignant reminder that climate change is a stark reality.

5) Regional UN4NAPs Forum for Asia and the Pacific

During the 4 sessions of the “Regional UN4NAPs Forum for Asia and the Pacific”, country representatives shared their key needs for technical assistance. Needs for technical assistance expressed by the countries during the forum include support in multistakeholder engagement; capacity strengthening in various areas; data collection and assessments; climate change observations and modeling and building enabling environments such as legislative frameworks. Organizations present shared insights on possible support, with a focus on sea level rise and storms, climate resilient and sustainable agriculture and fisheries, as well as (flash) floods – themes that emerged from the communication between the countries and the UN4NAPs initiative, and the priorities defined in the countries’ National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

6) Resilience Frontiers Working Session

The “Resilience Frontiers Working Session” marked an important moment for the initiative. Having been launched in Songdo in 2019, on this occasion we returned, bringing together representatives from the different Resilience Frontiers’ thought leadership groups. This 3-days session helped to accelerate the process of identifying top first-mover transformative actions that will begin to unlock momentum towards the achievement of the 8 pathway visions.



7) Adaptation Committee Workshop: Boosting Region-wide Coherence on Adaptation

In the collaborative exchange facilitated by the UNFCCC Adaptation Committee regional organizations, development banks, and other key stakeholders stressed the need to address emerging and cascading risks through a climate adaptation lens and to build on and expand existing regional collaboration among organizations. Fostering training and education at all levels, including learning from communities and the most vulnerable, as well as building on, replicating, and scaling up success cases are essential. Engaging the private sector and integrating technology assessments is important, as is the identification of effective financial instruments and simplified access through a systematic approach. Participants noted the need to create agile regional strategies for quick adaptation, seamless collaboration, and interaction at all levels across borders and sectors.



8) Indigenous Values for Transformational Adaptation



This dialogue under the R3 Partnership - Recognize to Recalibrate and Reshape for Transformational Climate Action – set the stage for the upcoming official launch of this partnership later this year. The R3 event at KGAW 2023 focused on the application of Indigenous values and knowledge systems in adaptation policies and actions at various levels.

2. Highlighted Exhibitions

1) KGAW 2023 Adaptation Initiative Showcase

During the five days of KGAW 2023, the “Adaptation Initiative Showcase” brought together 23 public and private institutions, showcasing 25 exhibition booths. The exhibition highlighted cutting-edge technology related to climate change adaptation, encompassing water management technologies, disaster prevention techniques for extreme heat, heavy rainfall, and sea-level rise, along with climate prediction facilities and systems. This platform provided participants with a valuable opportunity to familiarize themselves with technological solutions addressing climate change.



2) Gallery on Indigenous Values and Mindsets

Complementing the discussion from ‘Indigenous Values for Transformational Adaptation’, the “Gallery on Indigenous Values and Mindsets”, showcased real-world examples, such as Iraq’s buoyant Ma’dan islands and India’s living root bridges, that work with and respect the rules and rhymes of nature. Additionally, this dialogue also highlighted universal principles, like Malaysia’s ‘Sogit’ and the Maori’s ‘Kaitiakitanga,’ emphasizing the need for a balanced, symbiotic relationship with nature. These, if applied widely, have the potential to drive transformative climate action.



3) Climate Change Adaptation Illustration Contest Exhibition 2023

The "Climate Change Adaptation Illustration Contest Exhibition 2023" took place for five days during KGAW 2023, organized by the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea, and KEI KACCC. With the theme 'Climate Crisis! Survival Strategies for Humanity,' the exhibition featured 57 award-winning works selected from 548 submissions. It provided a valuable opportunity for the general public and participants to enhance their understanding of adaptation to climate change and raise awareness about the urgency of climate action.



V. Further Information

For more information, please check the following links.

Website:

Regional NAP Expo for Asia and the Pacific

<https://napexpo.org/asia2023/>

8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum

<https://www.unep.org/events/conference/8th-asia-pacific-climate-change-adaptation-apan-forum>

<https://www.asiapacificadapt.net/news/asia-pacific-offers-insights-on-transformative-adaptation-to-achieve-resilience-for-all/>

Regional UN4NAPs Forum for Asia and the Pacific

https://unfccc.int/UN4NAPs_regional_forum_AP

Resilience Frontiers Working Session

<https://resiliencefrontiers.org/songdo-2/>

Adaptation Committee Workshop: Boosting Region-wide Coherence on Adaptation

<https://unfccc.int/event/AC-region-wide-coherence-asiapacific>

Recordings:

Opening Ceremony / Day 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJdtQtVznYU&t=3755s>

Plenary Sessions of Regional NAP Expo for Asia and the Pacific / Day 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xRC5abBm24&t=930s>

Plenary Sessions of Regional NAP Expo for Asia and the Pacific / Day 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JCavYu9TmgA>

Plenary Sessions of Regional NAP Expo for Asia and the Pacific / Day 3

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ZJskTFMPAg

Opening and Plenary Sessions of 8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum / Day 3

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i_ZGlt7ovKU&t=20376s

Plenary Sessions of 8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum / Day 4

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qklaCJFWx1M&t=5566s>

Closing Ceremony / Plenary Sessions of 8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum / Day 5

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LMM173s63bM&t=5591s>

If you need any further information or have specific questions, feel free to reach out to us at jykang@kei.re.kr.