



Summit Organized by:



Climate Action

Roundtable conducted on Friday, 29th January 2021 at 02:00 p.m-04:00 p.m. IST

Host: CANSA **Host Country:** South Asia

No of Attendees: 106

No of Countries: 11

Moderators :

1. Karon Shaiva - Chief Impact Officer, MD, IDOBRO Impact Solutions
2. Santosh Patnaik- Programme Coordinator, Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA)

Experts:

1. Yosef Abramowitz - President and CEO, Energiya Global Capital
2. Santosh Patnaik - Programme Coordinator at Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA)
3. Vishal Pandya - co-founder of REConnect Energy
4. Jehangir Virani - Consultant MEP (Mechanical, Electrical, and Planning), Aga Khan Agency for Habitat
5. Ana Dharani - Program Manager Planning and Building, Aga Khan Agency for Habitat
Mr. Harjeet Singh - Global Lead on Climate Change at Action Aid International & Co-Chair of Alliance for Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (AADRR),
6. Manjeet Dhakal - Head of LDC Support Team at Climate Analytics
7. Golam Rabbani - Climate Bridge Fund Secretariat at Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee(BRAC)
Ranga Pallawalla - National Climate Finance Advisor at Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CFAH), The Commonwealth Secretariat
8. Sucharita Roy - Head Planning & Building, Aga Khan Agency for Habitat
9. Marina Olshanskaya - Climate Change Coordinator, Aga Khan Development Network, Sweden
10. Damodar Pujari - Program Manager, Aga Khan Agency for Habitat
11. Prasad Babu - Founder, and CEO of Geo Climate Risk Solutions (GCRS)
12. AJ Rao - Senior Consultant, Aga Khan Agency for Habitat

Summary:

The Roundtables at RISE World Summit are the core activity to encourage collaboration around the challenges the world faces. Subject matter experts enable breakthrough interactions to identify outcomes for post-event joint efforts and alliances, knowledge assets,



and more for collective impact. More information on RISE Summit can be found at <https://risesummit.in/>

With the onset of 2021, the implementation period for Sustainable Goals and Nationally Determined Commitments (NDCs) or Climate goals also begins. While some nations are on the track with their NDC target pathway, others have been lagging behind. Countries have to bring various stakeholders together and cooperate with other countries in order to meet the global climate and development goals. With the United States rejoining the Paris agreement, it will be interesting to see how it boosts actions by other developed countries.

In the wake of COVID 19, economic profiles of several countries have changed, which might impact 1) their emission profile and thus difficulty/ ease in implementation of targets and; 2) The possible shift in political priority from climate to health or other social sectors.

Introduction:

Ms. Karon Shaiva, the moderator, started the session by introducing the topic followed by the introduction of all the experts and participants. She stated that the main agenda of the round table was to understand the real meaning of climate action, to understand the challenges that are being faced by the developing countries and LDCs for implementation of measures related to their climate goals and SDGs. The roundtable was planned in three sections, first challenges were discussed, second, the capabilities followed by the possible collaborations and opportunities that can be developed for the concerned challenges.

Challenges:

The talk was initiated by Mr. Santosh Puri who mentioned multiple challenges such as migration, biodiversity loss, and agricultural losses. He mentioned that migration of people from one to other locations is one of the major reasons that we humans neglect what's happening around us. Mr. Kumar Moorthy Iyer then shared his views on the same. He said that people are giving importance to their standard of living and because of which resources are used excessively and the after-effects of this are ignored. Several examples were shared by him

to clear his point. Along with these challenges, various critical challenges were brought in by other attendees. Mr. Mads from the UK mentioned that awareness about climate change is somewhere not up to the mark. He said that it was important to think in all aspects, discuss the issues related to changes and then come to a decision. Without knowing better, we cannot move ahead and conclude. The inadequate recognition of eco-friendly solutions to address Global warming and sea-level rise which may affect coastal communities in several megacities is another challenge. Then challenges related to financial issues were addressed when one of the attendees introduced that - Budgeting is a challenge - a capacity gap in understanding climate change: we pay huge amounts of money



People are giving importance to their standard of living, because of which resources are used excessively and the after-effects are ignored.

Mr. Kumar Moorthy Iyer - Sustainable Strategy Mentor
Climate Action
at RISE World Summit 2021



to transfer or use petroleum and thus the country spends a huge amount on it, rather, we can focus on electric vehicles.

Capabilities:

There is a need for innovative research, various industries lead to emission and thus leads to climate change. Processes around us need to be modified, and there should be a whole-hearted participation in research. It was also highlighted that we need to take action more than just debating. We are not able to bring the knowledge to actual practice. Another option that is more realistic given the high rates that are expected from various agencies, can we concentrate on degrowth and revert to a more frugal existence. The mining of resources to produce these items would increase the negative impact on Climate. The crisis will only worsen before it gets better if we follow this paradigm switch and the easier option would be degrowth or more appropriately responsible growth.

Collaborations:

Ms. Gitanjali said human rights are essential and can be integrated into the climate change dialogue, provided we can create a mechanism for eliminating the basic issue of poverty. If we can consider a Basic Universal Income for all concerned, this will address the issue of poverty and subsistence, and this would automatically ensure that human rights are also addressed adequately. Ms. Sana from Agakhan – She talked about integrating climate risks during infrastructure planning, promoting climate-resilient crops and agricultural practices which minimize water usage, improve climate information services in sectors like agriculture, health, disaster management, etc. It was necessary to facilitate the sharing of best practices and knowledge between human rights and climate experts at the national level, to build collective capacity to deliver responses to climate change that are good for people and the planet. Harjeet Singh, Delhi, Action aid said that the local manufacturing should be confined for local consumption only and not for export. Besides, any profits that are generated should be plowed back into the local community to generate newer opportunities and not repatriated to other regions, as is the norm today. Unless we can adapt these two strategies in our local manufacturing, it would only worsen the climate crisis and is no worse than the current trend of bringing in goods and services from outside into the local communities. Several attendees came up with the gap between the working of Government bodies and the stakeholders. This discussion highlighted that there is a huge disconnect between government and major players (industries The private sector to cope with the change. To these challenges, Ms. Naman Gupta highlighted the efforts and policies of the Government. Ms. Naman Gupta – Consultant of Government of Maharashtra: Shared certain policies that the government is following to overcome the problem of climate change. She also highlighted the efforts that the Government takes action but are



Political commitment for climate change programs & real commitment for the same differs therefore adaptation and resilience is difficult.

Golam Rabbani,
Climate Bridge Fund Secretariat at Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee(BRAC)
Climate Action
at RISE World Summit 2021



not followed or appreciated by citizens or the stakeholders of the same. She also mentioned that she was glad to share that the Govt. of Maharashtra along with UNICEF has already begun work on developing the environment and climate curriculum for standard 1 to 8.

Suggested way Forward:

- 1) Technical Support for water harvesting.
- 2) New houses with innovations to avoid the use of extra resources.
- 3) Tree plantation - CSR is a good medium to get enough funds; CSR can be one of the major means to generate awareness and to also generate sufficient funds to bring in the model of change.
- 4) Schools can come up with various sessions, seminars related to climate change. Bringing awareness about this among children, a vast amount of change takes place.
- 5) Being responsible! We are now all dependent on technology, but the truth is that we do not need technology all the time, It's about social consensus, we as people become aware of what is happening, change our way of using things. All change will start with personal responsibility. The pace of change is more important than any other.
- 6) Local implementations have to take place, sustainable solutions have to be accepted by all, all should accept these solutions. Many of the attendees shared their research papers, their research analysis reports for more references.

Closing note:

Ms. Karon then summed all the major points, challenges shared by attendees, and the opportunities and solutions. We are making a lot of assumptions about the solutions. If these solutions have been replicated and scaled up, we should have been seeing rainwater harvesting, biogas plants, and other solutions spreading widely. We do not walk the talk, unfortunately. On the finishing note, Ms. Karon spoke about how industries can work on their part, how private sectors can change some of their techniques, use a variety of ideas of not leading to any causes to climate change but work for decoding the problem of climate change. Also, to bring awareness stakeholders from academia play a major role. They spread the word between young generations and thus the desired outcome of maintaining a healthy environment can be achieved. Ms Karon thanked all the participants for being a part of the Round Table and hoped that action would be taken on the way forward.

Note:

For a more detailed understanding of the session outcomes, kindly access a complete recording at <https://youtube.com/channel/UC2UI5Nf1yN0E5hifaSVQpEw>

A LinkedIn group has been created by RISE World Summit Team to foster collaboration between participants. <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12494977>

More information on RISE Summit can be found at <https://risesummit.in>