



Background

Environmental sustainability is a prerequisite for economic growth and poverty reduction in Asia and the Pacific. While economic development has increased living standards for many, it comes at a significant environmental cost which threatens to erode the economic and social gains made over the last few decades. Environmental degradation threatens ecosystems, food and water security, livelihoods, particularly for the poor, and continued economic growth and contributes to climate change impacts in Asia and the Pacific. Moreover, many environmental problems are worsened by illegal activities, exacerbated by poor environmental enforcement and weak governance. Consequently, effective compliance and enforcement of environmental laws is essential to inclusive and environmental sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

Additionally, new global environmental challenges and developments have emerged with the adoption of Sustainable Development Goals and a global climate agreement in 2015 which requires further capacity building in environmental laws. Without the capacity for environmental law in Asia and the Pacific, ADB's developing member countries cannot become full global partners in the quest for inclusive and sustainable development.

Environmental Law Champions Technical Assistance

The aim of the technical assistance is to strengthen the capacity of environmental law professors and lecturers in Asia and the Pacific because of their critical role in educating the environmental law profession and creating the next pipeline of teachers, judges, public interest lawyers, civil servants and other environmental law practitioners. If the legal education system has no, or insufficient capacity to educate teachers and lawyers for these positions, then the implementation and enforcement of environmental laws will inevitably be compromised through a lack of qualified educators and lawyers to assist in these areas.

“We are facing a crisis. We have to part of the solution. If you want to change mindsets you have to start with the law students, the science students because they will become lawyers, politicians someday. They will become officials of government, they will become teachers. This is why this technical assistance is critical. Teaching environmental law in a way that people will be inspired to learn is a tremendous effort.”

– Gerthie Mayo-Anda, Professor, University of Palawan, Philippines and IUCN Academy of Environmental Law TTT trainer



Second Manila TTT - June 2015

Implementation Arrangements

ADB is the executing Agency through the Office of the General Counsel under its Law and Policy Reform Program (www.adb.org/publications/law-and-policy-reform-program). To implement the technical assistance, ADB has partnered with the International Union for Conservation of Nature Academy of Environmental Law (“IUCNAEL”), a global network of over 200 law schools from more than 59 countries that share a commitment to the teaching and research in environmental law (www.iucnael.org/en). ADB and IUCNAEL have developed strong train-the-trainers (“TTT”) programs and have expanded them in-country with successful partnerships with numerous academic institutions across Asia.

The technical assistance strengthens the capacity of environmental law professors and lecturers through:

- **Innovative TTT programs** focusing on teaching of environmental laws using various teaching methodologies and incorporating “champions” sessions to keep the participants inspired;



Wetlands field trip, Beijing, PRC TTT - October 2016

- **Building in-country and regional networks;**

“I find myself inspired by the commitment, enthusiasm and capacity of the participants. What has emerged from this technical assistance is that participants have come together as a group for the very first time. They hadn't had contact or shared information before. We're building a bottom-up resource of environmental law teachers, integrating new people with more experienced trainers in their own countries. This project has a lifetime, a longevity a sustainability beyond the actual training.”

– Professor Rob Fowler, IUCN Academy of Environmental Law, TTT Team Leader

- **Development of regional knowledge resources** for continued communication, sharing of best practices, learning, networking, collaborating, group problem solving and supporting and inspiring each other to continue the teaching and promotion of environmental law in Asia and the Pacific.

DEVELOPING ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CHAMPIONS

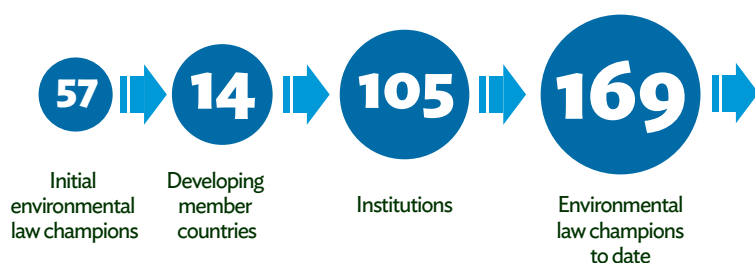
Knowledge Resources

-  Comprehensive report on the State of Environmental Law Teaching in Asia;
-  Video documentary highlighting the important role of Asian environmental law champions to be used as a tool to inspire students to pursue environmental law, encourage law professors to pursue teaching this important subject and convince law schools and governments to make it a core part of their curriculum (to be widely disseminated to institutions in the region and globally); and
-  Regional knowledge platform (website) including:
 -  regional database and interactive map of environmental law champions and institutions to quickly connect and tap expertise in the region;
 -  online forums and group-problem solving; and
 -  TTT training materials and teaching resources.

Results to Date

As of end of November 2016, the technical assistance has supported:

- **2 regional TTT Programs** at ADB headquarters in March and June 2015 where **57 law professors and university lectures from 14 ADB developing member countries were trained** who are now leading their own in-country TTT programs, advocating for the inclusion of environmental law courses in their institutions and promoting the teaching of environmental law in their own countries
- **4 in-country programs in Malaysia, Vietnam, Philippines and PRC have been delivered** in May, August and October 2016, in partnerships with National University of Malaysia, Hanoi Law University, University of Cebu College of Law and Peking University Law School, as host institutions, training over **169 participants** from over **105 institutions**; these in-country TTT programs have been led by the same participants from the March and June 2015 regional TTT programs
- **1st regional roundtable of environmental law champions was convened** in June 2016 bringing participants from **14 ADB developing member countries** to reinforce the learnings and commitments generated under the technical assistance, further inspire and develop future environmental law champions and foster regional collaboration and knowledge sharing
- **In-country networks of environmental law teachers and institutions established** in Malaysia, Vietnam, Philippines and PRC and continue to grow
- Positive feedback from participants and environmental law teaching community received
(www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5RDUZPCwW8&t=2s)



Growing the Program: Additional Funding Needed and New Partnerships Welcome

The demand from ADB developing member countries has been tremendous calling for further support of the technical assistance. Additional funds are required to support in-country or sub-regional TTT programs and for the expansion of in-country and regional networks and knowledge resources:

- **12 new proposals** for TTT programs have been received:
 1. Southwest Forestry University Law School, Kunming, PRC
 2. Faculty of Environmental Sciences, National University of Laos, Vientiane, Laos
 3. Faculty of Law and Public Affairs, Pannasastra University, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
 4. Department of Law, University of Yangon, Myanmar
 5. Faculty of Law, Chiang Mai University, Thailand
 6. Faculty of Law, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
 7. Law College, University of Peshawar, Pakistan
 8. School of Law, GD Goenka University, Gurgaon, Delhi, India
 9. Faculty of Law, University of Kashmir, India
 10. Faculty of Law, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal
 11. Department of Law, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
 12. Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala, Sri Lanka
- Annual regional roundtable of Asian environmental law champions, including support for the second regional roundtable to be held mid-2017
- Expansion of knowledge resources to capture and disseminate knowledge, materials and resources from additional TTT programs and regional roundtables, including the creation of country sub-pages on the regional environmental law teaching website under production, including funding translation costs for countries such as PRC and Vietnam

For more information, please contact:

Christina Pak, Senior Counsel
cpak@adb.org

Law and Policy Reform Program, Office of the General Counsel,
Asian Development Bank