ASIAN EVALUATION WEEK 2025

NAVIGATING CRISES: BUILDING ON SUCCESSES
1–4 September
Xi'an, People's Republic of China

10TH YEAR

Parallel Session 3. Smart Moves for a Greener Future: Insights from Evaluating Climate-Resilient Infrastructure
1 September 2025, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

SESSION TAKE AWAY
The session focused on advancing climate-resilient infrastructure and sustainable development, with contributions from institutions like the New Development Bank (NDB), Green Climate Fund (GCF), and the Government of India. Key highlights included the importance of investing in research, innovation, and integrating environmental and social governance (ESG) into infrastructure projects. The Guangdong Yudean Yangjiang Shapa Offshore wind project, funded by NDB, was showcased for its significant environmental impact. Discussions also addressed challenges such as policy alignment, cost management, and community engagement. Special attention was given to the unique vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), emphasizing the need for flexible adaptation strategies, small-scale interventions, and capacity building. The discussion stressed the importance of using country systems, improving data, and developing advanced climate adaptation metrics. The session concluded with a call for inclusive, integrated evaluation approaches to effectively address climate resilience and long-term development.
SUBTHEME
Topical Area: Climate change lens
Moderator: Xiaozhe Zhang, New Development Bank
Ashwani K. Muthoo, New Development Bank
Introduced the Independent Evaluation Office, which evaluates bank policies, strategies, operations, processes, and instruments to strengthen accountability and governance. The office has completed approximately 15 evaluations of various projects, programs, and policies in different NDB member countries, including a portfolio evaluation of NDB operations in China and a specific evaluation of an NDB project in Guangdong Province. Highlighted the increasing need for climate-resilient infrastructure in response to global climate impacts and upcoming discussions in Brazil. Evaluations suggest that increased investment in research, development, and innovation is crucial for developing sustainable and economically viable infrastructure. The speaker also underscored the need for stronger coordination, co-financing, and collaboration among MDBs, IFIs, and governments to deliver greater value to member countries.
Roman Novozhilov, New Development Bank
Shared best practices on integrating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations into NDB projects. Emphasized the importance of fostering an innovative mindset within the NDB. He explained that all investment proposals are assessed for both environmental and social impacts. ESG integration is achieved through the selection of

sustainable projects, risk mitigation strategies, capacity building, and embedding ESG principles into capital market operations.

Andreas Reumann, Green Climate Fund

Emphasized the importance of building systems that integrate climate change considerations, particularly in adaptation and mitigation efforts. GCF currently manages a portfolio of 314 projects across 132+ countries, with $18 billion in financing and $66 billion in total committed funding. Despite this scale, challenges persist due to the complexity of climate adaptation and limited sectoral knowledge, especially in areas like built environments. The GCF adopts a results-based approach and prioritizes multi-stakeholder engagement, including local communities and the private sector, to ensure inclusive and effective climate action.

Nidhi Chhibber, NITI Aayog, Government of India

Outlined the office's role in evaluating government schemes using a structured log frame approach, assessing relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability. The Data Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) has expanded its evaluation criteria to include coherence and equity, with a focus on environmental sustainability and climate resilience. To enhance analysis, the office leverages advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence and machine learning to uncover hidden patterns of vulnerability in program data.

Gaoqiang Li, Guangdong Energy Group Co., Ltd.

The Guangdong Shapa offshore wind power project began in 2015 and secured NDB financing in 2018. Despite evolving policy standards, high tariffs, and complex marine construction, the project was successfully connected to the grid in 2021. It now generates 2.46 billion kWh of green energy annually, supplying power to over 1.2 million households. The project has significantly advanced the offshore wind industry in Yangjiang, Guangdong Province, and delivers both environmental and social benefits.

Q&A SUMMARY

Q: Challenges for small island developing states (SIDS) in climate adaptation and project implementation such as high transaction costs and limited capacity, difficulty attracting large-scale investments, and interest in lessons learned from the readiness program.
A: GCF recognizes the unique challenges of SIDS. Small-scale adaptation is crucial but under-supported. High transaction costs and limited human resources (e.g., only two staff in micronesia) hinder project execution. Readiness programs aim to build capacity, but more support is needed.

Q: Role of supreme audit institutions (SAIs) in environmental and climate adaptation evaluation. SAIs conduct performance audits that could inform public debate. Their reports are tabled in parliament and accessible to the public.
A: **NDB** uses country systems and data from national agencies, including auditors. There's a shift toward inclusive systems and local compliance. SAIs are valuable for rigorous evaluation and transparency.

Q: Measuring climate resilience beyond human-centric indicators. Current metrics focus on income, food security, water access. Interest in ecological and biodiversity indicators. Inquiry into nature-based solutions and advanced metrics.
A: Human-centric approaches dominate current frameworks. Nature-based solutions are a step forward but still serve human resilience. Academic discussions on "rights of nature" are ongoing but not yet applied. A composite approach integrating both human and environmental resilience is needed.

Q: Differentiating climate resilience vs. Climate change resilience. Interest in integrating resilience into both physical and institutional infrastructure.

A: Both concepts are interconnected and should be addressed together, e.g., water supply schemes designed with climate vulnerabilities in mind. Institutional infrastructure (e.g., irrigation systems) must also adapt to climate variability.
SESSION COORDINATOR
Maria Erina Erro