



ARNEC

Asia-Pacific Regional Network
for Early Childhood

#ARNEClearning

ARNEC holds webinars to connect the ECD community in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond on early childhood development

Elevating ECD in COP

2 February 2023, 10:00-11:00 AM Singapore time, 3:00-4:00PM Fiji time


ECD vital in COP; investment in young children critical to building resilience of communities at risk

ARNEC, Pacific partners host webinar focusing on young children amidst climate change

ARNEC in collaboration with partners like UNICEF Pacific, Pacific Islands Forum, and Save the Children, held a webinar elevating the importance of early childhood development (ECD) in the Conference of Parties (COP), a body that decides and enforces national and global commitments to reduce global warming and risks resulting from climate change.

The webinar highlighted the pioneering leadership of the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI) government and the support of the Pacific Regional Council for ECD (PRC4ECD), UNICEF and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) in interweaving ECD and climate change policy.

The webinar explored the potential for ECD-centred climate policies and programs to create new opportunities



Lessons from the *Implementation of COP*

Four Key Results from COP27
and How it Relates to ECD

Adrián Cerezo PhD, MEdSc
February 2, 2023

for international financing of the human development, climate resilience, and sustainable development of vulnerable nations, with special focus on the Pacific Islands region.

Dr. Adrian Cerezo, Visiting Scholar and CHILD Fellow, Yale University, and PRC4ECD Climate Change Adviser, presented lessons from COP implementation, covering mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, and financing.

Social Inclusion Adviser Melinia Nawadra of PIFS meanwhile explained the interconnections between ECD and climate change

through the 2050 strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

Molly Helkena, project manager at Kora Fund, shared how the Government of the Republic of Marshall Islands has committed to provide an enabling environment for young children to achieve optimal development through the National Strategic Plan, 2020-2030.

Finally, Dr. Sri Hari Govind, Climate-Health Fellow at the Global Consortium of Climate and Health Education, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, stressed the role of the youth in supporting ECD and climate change.

In case you missed it

For the full recording, click this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/rZwdJ6Eeu60P9AyN8HJV_g_j6zV14WsVxB2BVInE1YjpF6mnyzn7u7zTKz5wRgfu7PCR-oGS7LK89qiy.PE-Kym0pdGDxvuco

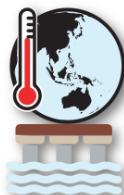
Key insights on COP implementation from Adrian Cerezo



Adrián Cerezo, Ph.D., M.E.Sc. Cerezo is a Visiting Researcher and CHILD project Fellow at the Yale Child Study Center, and a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Maine. His transdisciplinary work explores the fundamental role of Early Childhood Development (ECD) in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Dr. Cerezo has a PhD and MEd from Yale University with a focus on social ecology, child development, complex systems, and global policy, as well as more than 25 years of field experience in environmental and community-based education. He currently serves as Senior Advisor on Early Childhood Development and Climate Change to the Asia Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC), UNICEF Pacific, and the Early Childhood Development Action Network (ECDAN). In November 2022, he joined the delegation of the Republic of the Marshall Islands at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 27).



Mitigation



Adaptation



Loss & Damage

1

The mitigation track in the COP refers to what we can do to reduce greenhouse gases in the atmosphere to avoid increasing climate change. The adaptation track, meanwhile, focuses on what we have to do to avoid the impacts of climate change. Finally, the loss and damage track compels us to address the impacts of climate change. All these are areas of commitment by governments all over the world. These tracks are important entry points to advocate climate actions and to exact accountability from the COP and participating governments.



4. Financing



2

Financing systems need to be put in place to support mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage. A potential breakthrough is rethinking financing to go beyond the usual funding for emergencies or 'problem-fixing' to investing in actions long before climate emergencies occur.



3

Investing in young children and their parents have a triple dividend promoting human development, climate resilience, and adaptive capacity, and serving as a catalyst or a booster to sustainable development.

Experts share insights on ECD, climate change



CLIFF MEYERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ARNEC

ARNEC is pleased to offer its platform to host the webinar on ECD and climate change in collaboration with partners in the Pacific Islands region to understand why ECD is fundamentally connected to climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation (and how it is a key to addressing Loss & Damage) and to mobilise support to elevate ECD in COP discussions.



MELINIA NAWADRA, SOCIAL INCLUSION ADVISER, PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT

Presenting the Leaders' Vision and Ambition Levels through strategy pathways, political commitments, and thematic areas, Melinia shared the importance of inclusion in resilience-building. Emphasising that "...all Pacific peoples (should) lead free, healthy and productive lives, Melinia stressed the need to consider the well-being of young children in pursuing climate resilience.



MOLLY HELKENA, PROJECT MANAGER, KORA FUND

The Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands is committed to creating an enabling environment for all our youngest children to achieve optimal development. This means the development of all children with varying abilities in partnership with families building a safe respectful, and nurturing environment that maximises children's health and well-being in accordance with our cultural values. This commitment has been articulated in the National Strategic Plan 2020-2030.



DR SRI HARI GOVIND, CLIMATE-HEALTH FELLOW AT THE GLOBAL CONSORTIUM OF CLIMATE AND HEALTH EDUCATION, MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Engaging the leadership of the youth in promoting ECD as an integral part of resilience-building is important in defining the future and addressing the impacts of climate change, especially in vulnerable countries in the Pacific Islands.



SHELDON SHAEFFER, CHAIR, ARNEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Young children are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation, but they are also the most valuable in the fight against it. Supporting young children is a smart investment, and should be placed at the forefront of climate resilience action. It is important for the ECD sector to promote continuing interdisciplinary collaboration among ECD and climate stakeholders to ensure that ECD is at the centre of climate discourse.

We would like to thank Alisi Rabukawaqa-Nacewa for moderating the webinar. Alisi has spent the past decade working in environment conservation, climate activism and indigenous peoples' traditional rights and knowledge advocacy.



Participants rate webinar, provide feedback



Participants speak

Taken from the webinar evaluation

Please share 1-2 insights from the webinar:

- I learnt about the UNICEF Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Change and the 2019 Ha Noi Call to Action
- Relevance of ECD with COP and other environment initiatives; ECD as a broader aspect to invest and work
- The importance of putting early childhood agenda in the region to get better results
- The importance of government champions to support the ECD
- Emphasis on ensuring early childhood development included specifically in conversations and policies locally and nationally
- Including poverty in child protection
- Young children or learners are the most vulnerable in times of disaster and that's why we must take serious action against climate change
- Early childhood in the intersection of climate change is a period of exceptional vulnerability, yet presents an exceptional opportunity



Details of the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy were presented at the webinar. Click the webinar recording link in page 1 for more information.

Results of the webinar evaluation are provided below (selected qualitative responses are provided on the left).

