



## Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of The Climate Adaptation Platform Newsletter. Our new logo, designed by Mini Rabbit Design and Stationery, pulls together the key issues we are facing in an abstract format – a figure in olive shades themselves from oncoming waves and storm, illustrated by the dark blues and greens. The spherical shape represents the need to address these issues from a global perspective.

This newsletter provides information on the upcoming workshops we are promoting – we encourage as many of you as possible to attend, and hope to see you there.

## Build Resilience 2016

In September the University of Auckland hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Build Resilience. The conference brought together researchers, educators and industry practitioners from across the globe to explore resilience as a useful framework for analysis for how society can cope with the threat of natural and human induced hazards.

One of the highlights of the conference was the ‘Climate Adaptation and Resilience Building in the Pacific Workshop’ that was chaired by Dr Henning. In this workshop Dr Henning introduced the Climate Adaptation Platform to the audience, which included nine MFAT sponsored delegates from across the Pacific Islands. As part of the workshop, each delegate was given the opportunity to speak about the most important issues their nations face in relation to climate adaptation and resilience building and to comment on how they think New Zealand could help them tackle these issues. In general, most of the nations expressed the same common concerns, all of which highlight areas where our Platform can support.

- “Build back” needs to be more holistic - build back communities, not just buildings
- Lack of available resources
- Codes need to be updated to cater to climate change
- Need for a single integration plan, not separate plans
- Disaster shelters inadequate. How safety here is insured?
- Need to try to identify risk earlier and not wait for something to happen
- Must prevent, not react. Cannot afford to patch up after events.

- Need to learn from our past. Traditional methods of construction can sometime be better than modern methods
- Lack of education to respond and equip adequately
- Universities and other education providers need to recognise all of the above and educate accordingly

Post conference feedback from the delegates on this workshop was very good and we are maintaining communication will all to identify areas of support going forward.

<http://buildresilience2016.nz>

## ADB Workshop and Meetings

In September, Theuns and Pretesh attended the Asian Development Bank’s (ADB) Sustainable Transport Forum in Manila. Attending the forum helped facilitate a number of meetings with key ADB personnel, including senior members of the Climate Change, Transport and Education departments, and also the Alternative Executive Director, Mario di Maio who oversees activities in the Pacific. The Climate Adaptation Platform what introduced at each meeting and it was very well received by the ADB. Along with making key connections these meetings allowed Theuns and Pretesh to get a better understanding of how ADB operates and how to best position the Platforms offering with them going forward.



**Climate Adaptation Workshop in Manila**

In addition to the main forum, Theuns also led a two hour Climate Adaptation Workshop at the Oakwood Premier Hotel on the evening of the 12<sup>th</sup> of September. This private workshop was attended by more than 20 ADB staff members and various country delegates. As with the Build Resilience 2016

Workshop the main focus was discussing the most important climate adaptation issues that need addressing. To help achieve this, the workshop participants took part in a group questionnaire exercise to get to the bottom of the core issues. Some of the issues and questions that the workshop participants identified were:

- A need for better design of low cost housing
- More resilient design of small harbours and ports, especially in the Pacific
- Training people to take practical measures from climate science
- How do we position the need for climate adaptation so we can attract greater levels of private investment?
- There is a need to develop tools to provide a more rapid assessment of needs
- Need more publicized case studies, data and information based on factual evidence
- We need a better understanding on how effective solutions actually are? This needs to be measurable and quantifiable
- What is actually best practice on climate proofing?
- What are the pure adaptation projects and how do we pitch those to countries?
- We need a tighter definition of what Climate Adaptation is.

## APAP Workshop

While in Manila, the team connected with Asia Pacific Aid Programs Inc. (APAP). APAP is a Philippines-based international non-profit, offering effective, efficient and transparent aid programs to address Asia Pacific's top development challenges which includes Climate Adaptation.

APAP is planning on holding a Pacific Climate Threat Response Workshop at the University of Auckland on **13 to 15 February 2017**. This workshop, the first we know of its kind, aims to convene senior representatives of Pacific Governments with their international development partners and leading experts in international law, finance, design and engineering to discuss these issues so we can move directly on concrete actions. We hope that options will be examined and the most workable ones identified and selected, targets set and responsibilities clarified, and steps laid out to reach those goals. This timeframe must reflect the urgency of the situation, as the seas are rising, and many Pacific Island States stand no more than a meter or two above the waves.

As members of the Climate Adaptation Platform you will all be invited to attend the workshop, so please save the date. More information and details for this workshop will be available in the coming month. We will keep you all posted.

[\(http://asiapacificaid.org/\)](http://asiapacificaid.org/)

## Climate Adaptation Platform Workshop

The first full Climate Adaptation Platform Workshop will take place on **12<sup>th</sup> December 2016** (1pm to 4pm) at the University of Auckland. Industry partners and donors have expressed their excitement at the idea of the Climate Adaptation Platform. In particular, feedback from the Asian Development bank was that this platform concept could address particular challenges for climate adaptation. Connecting research with industry partners is an exciting new concept, and this workshop will be an ideal way to establish the frameworks of this platform, and forge key links between stakeholders.

The goals of this workshop will be to:

- Introduce all team members to each other
- Update in detail the developments of the Platform since its inception
- Determine the best way that all parties can work together and get maximum benefit from the Platform
- Discuss strategies to take smart ideas into commercial realities
- To establish a steering committee for the Platform
- To agree on rules of engagement and intellectual property arrangements

If you would like to attend or would like more information on the Workshop please contact Pretesh Patel ([p.patel@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:p.patel@auckland.ac.nz))

## Innovation on Climate Adaptation in NZ and Pacific

This workshop is a World Bank seminar, held in conjunction with the TRB conference in Washington D.C at the World Bank offices. It will take place on **12/13 January 2017**. We would like to extend an invitation to industry partners to put forward any innovation development ideas that you would like to present.

This workshop would be an ideal opportunity to showcase NZ capabilities and to network with the World Bank.

If you would like to attend, or would like more information on the workshop, please contact Dr Theuns Henning on [t.henning@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:t.henning@auckland.ac.nz)

## Contacts

### Dr Theuns Henning

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

DDI: +64 9 923 8181

Email: [t.henning@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:t.henning@auckland.ac.nz)

### Dr Pretesh Patel

Auckland UniServices Ltd

DDI: +64 9 923 2137

Email: [p.patel@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:p.patel@auckland.ac.nz)