

Key Takeaways	
Welcome remarks	<p>#1: Taking affirmative climate action does not deter countries from developing, instead, it allows development to be sustainable and inclusive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change requires economy-wide changes that will spur local growth, help pump prime in the country. • Leaders need to remain focused on mobilizing at least \$100 billion annually. • It is not enough to say 1.5. What we need to do is operationalize climate justice by fighting for greater resources. • Adaptation and mitigation measures are converging more and more. They both reinforce climate action.
Session 1	<p>#2: Establishment of country-led processes, systems, and approaches towards accessing climate funds such as the Green Climate Fund should be a prudent start.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCF demands very strong justification of grant requests. It has very stringent accreditation criteria. • Establishing a Secretariat is very crucial in implementing the GCF Readiness Programme. • Each country will have to make its own decision on how to issue No-Objection Letters. • Bangladesh has already submitted two projects to GCF through MIE. • No clear NOL guidelines yet for PH. Challenge is to institutionalize procedures. Same with application for NIEs. Political environment is a factor in terms of providing leadership on the deployment of readiness and preparatory support funding in the country. • For Thailand, the Office of the Natural Resources and Environment Policy and Planning is taking the role of the GCF Secretariat. <p>#3: Learning from the rich experiences of other countries in managing climate finance opportunities is beneficial and can cut time spent in planning and research.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When asked if the role of NDAs includes strengthening potential NIEs, Philippines agreed, Thailand says the NDA just has an oversight role; while Bangladesh states that the NDA only coordinates but believes that it should. • Separate climate change fund? Philippines has PSF (PHP1billion annually); Bangladesh has the Climate Change Trust Fund (USD1billion); and Thailand said that they have other domestic and international sources.
Session 2	<p>#4: Accessing GCF cannot be siloed from other existing policies and systems, rather it should be mainstreamed to multiply gains and benefits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to harmonize national laws, regulations on investment, budget management and procurement; GCF and MIE procedures; etc.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to establish a Climate Finance Unit / National Level GCF Secretariat within the NDA. • NDA should be responsible in making sure that funding from the GCF will be maximized • Dr. Mai of Vietnam stressed the need to emphasize the added value of GCF funding. He also said that one of the issues is the harmonization of GCF and MIE procedures. • Establishment of a Climate Finance Task Force, composed of representatives of line agencies and technical experts of key sectors, is crucial in developing effective projects and programs. • For Nepal, developing priority projects should be based on national risk and vulnerability and existing climate change-related policies and programs to achieve sustainable development. • Indonesia highlighted the importance of gap assessment. Critical point is in the exploration. How much public fund is available and how much more needs to be raised should be identified. • Dr. Bernd asked what is the role of the NDAs in ensuring efficiency of funding towards donor coordination and ensuring capacity to accommodate larger streams of funding. For Vietnam, the role of NDA is to make sure that GCF is used in the most efficient way. NDAs should ensure government budget allocation for GCF projects. NDAs should also ensure that there are no redundancies. • Are cross-country proposals possible? One of the emerging ideas. However, if inter-agency coordination are already difficult, what more with cross-country proposals?
Session 3	<p>#5: As proven through the country experiences in accessing GCF, there is no perfect way of doing it. Collecting the best practices and collaborating to find solutions in common problems are some potential ways forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking early steps to create a financial architecture needed to access the GCF is crucial. • Climate issues should be mainstreamed in development planning process. • Challenge for the Vietnam Development Bank to include ESS and gender policies. • India would need a huge amount of money to achieve low carbon economy by 2030. NABARD strategizes on private sector participation to meet climate finance requirements. Bankers and investors are already invited to participate at early stages of project development.