

Research Report

Preliminary Need Assessment Survey of Parliamentary Staff In charge of Environment and Climate Change in the Parliaments of Cambodia and Thailand

February 2024

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SUMMARY

The PCAsia-Environment and Climate Change programme (ECC) works to contribute to the strengthening of Southeast Asian Parliaments through capacity building of their staff, based on the demands or requests of each Parliament within a framework of south-south and north-south cooperation. In the preparation for the design of its program activities for 2024-2027, ECC is conducting a short needs assessment survey with relevant parliamentary staff working in the fields of environment and climate change of the Parliament of Cambodia and Thailand and staff from research departments. The aim of this survey is to match the needs of the Parliaments of Cambodia and Thailand and PCAsia's ECC Program activities, to help in the design of its training, research and other support services for 2024-2027.

47 respondents were selected to fill in the questionnaire from the two parliaments, of whom 21 respondents (44.68 percent) were from the Cambodian parliament and 26 respondents (55.32 percent) from the Thai parliament. The majority of the respondents were in the age range between 25 and 45 years, with the highest proportion (48.93 percent) being between 36-45 years. The proportion of respondents taking part in this survey by sex was almost equal at 22 respondents (46.81 percent) for female and 25 respondents (53.19 percent) for male. In terms of English level, 24 respondents (51.06 percent) had a medium level of English and 8 respondents (17.02 percent) had very good and a good level of English. There remained, however, one third of respondents who still had English difficulties. The majority of respondents received a good level of education, in which 23 respondents (48.93 percent) held a master's degree and 22 respondents (46.81 percent) had a bachelor's degree. All respondents reported the scope of the workplan and/or mandate of their departments or committees/commissions was relevant to environment and climate change issues and expressed their challenges in performing their roles.

Respondents were asked to assess the topics of previous capacity building and training, and it was found that 33 respondents (70.21 percent) had not received any training on environment and climate change in the last two years. When asked if they needed capacity building on environment and climate change, 31 respondents (65.96 percent) claimed they needed it and the top three topics that they selected for training were i) climate change budgeting scrutiny for parliament; ii) climate change, gender and human rights; and iii) green growth/cities. When asked what forms of capacity building, they needed the most, out of 31 respondents, 17 respondents (54.84 percent) said they needed a training of one to three days. In terms of the schedule that suited for capacity building, out of 31 respondents, 38.71 percent chose the October-December time period. In terms of research products, 26 respondents (55.32 percent) requested PCAsia to prepare research briefing note (84.62 percent), a regional paper (73.07 percent), and fact sheet (50 percent) as well as relevant library/data (73.07 percent).

1. INTRODUCTION

The PCAsia-Environment and Climate Change programme (ECC) works to contribute to the strengthening of Southeast Asian Parliaments through capacity building of their staff, based on the demands or requests of each Parliament within a framework of south-south and north-south cooperation. The programme takes inspiration from the statement from the IPU during the Parliamentary Meeting at COP 22 in November 2015 that emphasized the importance of investing in building the capacity of parliaments as a key prerequisite for sound legislation and action to address concerns over the environment and climate change.

Following the AIPA's strategic objectives from 2023 to 2030 to urge the adoption of parliamentary measures protecting the rights and welfare of the vulnerable and marginalized groups, and to promote social inclusion and a sustainable and healthy environment, so that no one is left behind in pursuing economic development goals in the context of achieving SDG16 and Paris Agreement (2015), PCAsia recognizes the importance of designing its program activities for 2024-27 to match the need for encouraging Southeast Asian member parliaments to take an active role in increasing visibility and awareness of environment and climate change issues in the region.

Therefore, in the preparation for the design of its program activities for 2024-2027, ECC is conducting a short needs assessment survey with relevant parliamentary staff working in the fields of environment and climate change of the Parliament of Cambodia and Thailand and staff from research departments. The aim of this survey is to match the needs of the Parliaments of Cambodia and Thailand and PCAsia's ECC Program activities, to help in the design of its training, research and other support services for 2024-2027. The specific objectives of this survey are:

- To assess the degree of concern of the parliaments, their members and staff on the environment and climate change issues
- To assess topics of previous training on the environment and climate change received by the parliamentary staff
- To find out the needs of the parliamentary staff for knowledge development on environment and climate change for 2023-27

2. METHODOLOGY

This preliminary need assessment survey was conducted with parliamentary staff in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Thailand, specifically from committees responsible for environment and climate change and research departments. However, only parliamentary staff from Cambodia and Thailand responded to the questionnaire. A questionnaire consisting of five sections was developed and sent to the targeted staff, covering topics of previous capacity building and training, needs and priorities for next capacity building, PCAsia's research products, and suggestions for better addressing environmental and climate change issues in 2024-27 (see Appendix). The questionnaire was reviewed by PCAsia's Quality Control and Technical Support Supervisor and Capacity Development Director, and pre-tested before sending to each parliament. A Khmer version was also developed for Cambodian parliamentary staff. Participants had two months to complete the questionnaire, and the data was coded, cleaned, and analyzed using MS Excel.

3. FINDINGS

3.1 General Information on the Respondents

Figure 1 shows the proportion of respondents by parliaments of the two countries. Cambodian respondents constitute 21 respondents (44.68 percent) whereas the Thai respondents consisted of 26 respondents (55.32 percent). It also showed that, out of 47 respondents, 40.42 percent were from the Senate of Cambodia, 4.26 percent from the National Assembly of Cambodia, 27.66 percent from the Senate of Thailand and 27.66 percent from the House of Representatives of Thailand.

Figure 2. showed the majority of the respondents were in the age range between 25 and 45 years, with the highest proportion (23 of 47 respondents equivalent to 48.93 percent) being between 36-45 years.

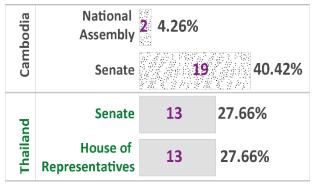


Figure 1. Proportion of respondents by country and parliaments they are from

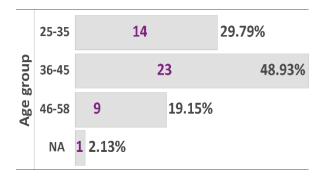
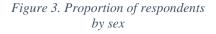


Figure 2. Age range of respondents

 Female
 22
 46.81%

 Sex
 Male
 25
 53.19%



Officer 29 61.7% Out of 47 respondents, the majority of the Deputy Chief of 8 17.02% respondents (61.70 percent) hold a position as Office/Bureau Chief of Office officers, followed by chief of office/bureau (12.77 6 12.77% /Bureau percent), deputy chief of office/bureau (17.02 Deputy Director 2 4.25% percent), deputy director of department (4.25 percent), and director of department (2.13 Director 1 2.13% percent) (Figure 4). NA 1 2.13%

The proportion of respondents taking part in this survey by sex was almost equal at 22 respondents (46.81 percent) for

female and 25 respondents (53.19 percent) for male (see

Figure 3).

Figure 4. Proportion of respondents by positions

Among 21 Cambodian respondents, only 2 respondents were from the National Assembly and 19 from the Senate. The 2 respondents from the National Assembly were from the Research Department for National Affairs (1 person) and the Commission on Planning, Investment, Agriclutrue, Rural Development, Environment and Water Resources (1 person).

The 19 respondents from the Senate of Cambodia were from the Legal Research Department (1 person), the Parliamentary Affair Research Department (7 persons), the General Research Department (1 person), the Budget Research Department (4 persons) and International Research Affairs Department (6 persons).

Among 26 Thai respondents, 13 respondents from the Senate and 13 respondents from the House of Representatives. The 13 respondents from the Senate of Thailand were from the Bureau of Legal Affairs (1 person), the Committee on Energy (9 persons), the Committee on Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation (1 person), the Committee on Natural Resources and Enviornment (1 person) and the Committee on Agriculture and Cooperatives (1 person).

The 13 respondents from the House of Representatives of Thailand were from the Bureau of Academic Services (6 persons) and the Committee on land, Natural Resoruces and Environment (7 persons).

Country	Parliament	Name of department/commissions	Number	Total
		Legal research	01	
		Parliamentary affair research	07	
	Senate General research		01	
		Budget research	04	
Cambodia		International research affairs	06	21
		Research for National Affairs	01	
	National Assembly	Commission on Planning, Investment, Agriclutrue, Rural Development, Environment and Water Resources	01	
		The Bureau of Legal Affairs	01	
		Committee on Energy		
	Senate ailand	Committee on Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation	01	
Thailand		Committee on Natural Resources and Environment		26
		Committee on Agriculture and Cooperatives	01	_
	House of	The Bureau of Academic Services	06	
	Representatives	The Committee on Land, Natural Resources		••

 Table 1: Number of respondents by departments/commissions of the Senate and National

 Assembly of Cambodia

In terms of English level, Figure 5 showed 24 respondents (51.06 percent) had a medium level of English and 8 respondents (17.02 percent) had very good and a good level of English. However, there remained 29.79 percent and 2.13 percent who respectively had a low level of English and had no English. This statistics showed that one third of respondents still had English difficulties.

The majority of respondents received a good level of education, in which 23 respondents (48.93 percent) held a master's degree, 22 respondents (46.81 percent) had a bachelor's degree, 1 respondent (2.13 percent) had a PhD degree and 1 respondent (2.13 percent) had others (Figure 6).

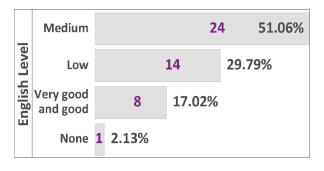


Figure 5. Proportion of respondents by English level

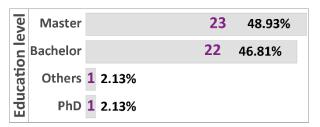


Figure 6. Proportion of respondents by education level

3.2 Workplan of Departments and Commissions/Committees and Challenges

Respondents were asked to describe the scope of the workplan and/or mandate of their departments or committees/commissions. Tables 2 and 3 shows the workplan and mandate of Cambodia's and Thailand's parliaments by department or commissions/committee.

Parliament	Name of department /commissions	Workplan and/or mandate
	Legal research	 Working on an environmental code and natural resources in Cambodia and case study from other countries in ASEAN. We need PCAsia to support the knowledge related to this topic
	Parliamentary affair	
	research	Research on news of parliament in America
	General research	n.a
Senate	Budget research International research affairs	 Monitoring and compiling data in agriculture, forestry and fisheries Studying and analyzing the national budget Continuing to monitor government's fiscal implementation, economic and social situations in the National Strategic Development Plan Conducting research on Corporate income Tax (CIT) Building budget databases system Conducting geopolitical, economic and war situation shift in middle east region. Following up and compiling information on foreign policy developments, security, economics, society, environment (climate change), and challenges/issues in the Asia and Middle east region Studying ASEAN green deal which was proposed by
		Cambodia Royal Government and mainstreaming this concept in future inter-parliamentary events.
	Research for National Affairs	 Integrating the theme of "Climate Change" into annual work plan in terms of publication of a book
National Assembly	Commission on Planning, Investment, Agriclutrue, Rural Development, Environment and Water Resources	 Reviewing the Laws related to the Planning, Investment, Agriculture, Rural Development, Environment and Water Resource. Preparing a Seminar to share information to the relevant stakeholders and ministries Conducting a hearing(s) with relevant stakeholders and ministries

Table 2: Workplan b	v denartmente	c/commissions o	of the Parliament o	f Camhodia
TUDIE Z. WOIKPIULD	γ αεραιτητεπις	5/ CUITITIISSIUTIS U	i une rumument o	j cumbouiu

Parliament	Name of department /committees	Workplan and/or mandate
	The Bureau of Legal Affairs	• There is a program called "Senate Go Green" with the aim of raising awareness of the benefits of following 'green office' standards. The activity was conducted by disseminating knowledge on waste management.
Senate	Committee on Energy	 Monitoring National Energy Plan / Power Development Plan (PDP2023) for Energy /Hydrogen Energy /Smart Grid and Electric Vehicle (EV) Studying Hydrogen to reduce carbon and recommending for strategy on hydrogen roadmap for Thailand
Senate	Committee on Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation	 Studying and considering bills, carrying out activities, considering fact-finding or studying any matters related to the administration, promotion, support and development of science and technology, research and innovation creation.
	Committee on Natural Resources and Environment	 Reducing the use of paper at commission meetings to contribute to reducing global warming
	Committee on Agriculture and Cooperatives	 Monitoring carbon credit in agriculture.
	The Bureau of Academic Services	 Documenting climate change topic initiative, clean air drafting Act., academic journals on climate change.
House of Representatives	The Committee on Land, Natural Resources and Environment	 Investigating issues related to environment and climate change and reporting to the parliament such as, report of "Investigation on Climate Change" and "Air Pollution Control" Taking responsibility for occupational hygiene, safe and healthy environment at the Bureau of Committee 3.

Table 3: Workplan by departments/commissions of the Parliament of Thailand

In this survey, we also asked respondents to share their perspectives on the key challenges they faced while performing their roles to support parliamentary commissions/committees. A number of challenges were identified such as limited data sources, low access to up-to-date information, short deadlines to address research requests, lack of knowledge on certain topics on environment and climate change and English barriers.

3.3 Assessment on the Topics of Previous Capacity Building and Training

To assess the topics of previous capacity building and training, we asked the respondents two questions. The first was if they have received any training on environment and climate change in the last two years and the second was the titles or topics of those trainings.

The results of this survey showed that 33 respondents (70.21 percent) did not receive any training on environment and climate change in the last two years whereas only 13 respondents (27.66 percent) said they had received training (see Figure 7). The topics they received training on were the concept of climate change, ecosystem and biodiversity management, corporate social responsibility (CSR), green office concept, leadership under climate change and workflow during the Covid-19 crisis, Nano technology, and natural resources and environmental laws.

3.4 Staff's Needs and Priorities for Knowledge Development

Figure 8 shows the proportion of respondents who needed capacity building on environment and climate change. 31 respondents (65.96 percent) said they needed capacity building, 14 respondents (29.79 percent) said they did not need it, and 2 respondents (4.25 percent) did not respond.

Next, respondents were asked to prioritize topics they wanted to study to acquire knowledge based on their parliamentary priorities.

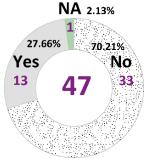


Figure 7. Proportion of respondents who ever received training on environment and climate change in the last two years.

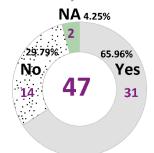


Figure 8. Proportion of respondents who needed capacity building on environment and climate change.

21 respondents (44.68 percent) wanted to study climate change budget scrutiny for parliament, 20 respondents (42.55 percent) selected climate change, gender and human rights as topics for study, and 19 respondents (40.42 percent) chose green growth/cities.

Other topics that receive mid-level interest from respondents were international frameworks for climate change and roles of parliaments (38.30 percent), disaster risk management/resilience (34.04 percent), sustainable forest management and policy (34.04 percent), public-private partnerships to promote the adoption of environmentally-sound technologies for maximizing resource efficiency (31.91 percent) and ecosystem and biodiversity management and policy (31.91 percent) (see Table 4).

Topics	Number	Percent
Climate change budgeting Scrutiny for Parliament	21	44.68
Climate change gender and human rights	20	42.55
Green Growth/City	19	40.42
International frameworks for climate change and roles of parliaments	18	38.30
Disaster Risk Management/Resilience	16	34.04
Sustainable forest management and policy	16	34.04
Public-private partnerships to promote the adoption of environmentally-		
sound technologies for maximizing resource efficiency	15	31.91
Ecosystem and biodiversity management and policy	15	31.91
Sustainable consumption and green lifestyle	14	29.79
Natural resource governance and policy	13	27.66
Urban planning and management for sustainable urbanization towards a clean		
and green environment	12	25.53
Carbon neutrality and energy efficiency	11	23.40
Water energy and food nexus	11	23.40
Environmental education (including eco-school practice)	8	17.02
Coal phase out and renewable energy	6	12.76
Marine ecosystem and coastal management and policy	5	10.64
Hazardous and waste management policy	5	10.64
Others	3	06.38

Table 4: Proportion of respondents choosing topics for capacity building that apply to theirparliament's priorities

When asked what forms of capacity building, they needed the most, out of 31 respondents, 17 respondents (54.84 percent) said they needed a training for one to three days, 14 respondents (45.16 percent) said they needed on the job coaching and mentoring, 13 respondents (41.93 percent) said they needed learning seminars/webinars with experts (1-3 hours) and 5 respondents (16.13 percent) said they needed other forms such as study visits or one-week training (see Figure 9).

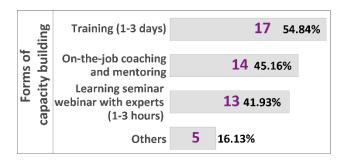


Figure 9. Proportion of respondents choosing different forms of capacity building

In terms of schedule that suited for capacity building, out of 31 respondents, the majority (38.71 percent) chose October-December (see Figure 10).

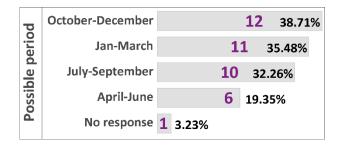


Figure 10. Proportion of respondents choosing the best time for capacity building

3.5 PCAsia's Research Products

Over half of respondents required PCAsia to produce research products for knowledge sharing on environment and climate change. Figure 11 showed that out of 47 respondents, 26 respondents (55.32 percent) needed research products from PCAsia, 19 respondents (40.42 percent) did not need it and 2 respondents (04.26 percent) did not respond to the question.

In terms of research product forms, Figure 12 illustrated that out of 26 respondents, 22 respondents (84.62 percent) required PCAsia to produce research briefing notes, 19 respondents (73.07 percent) required a regional paper, 19 respondents (73.07 percent) required library/data, and 13 respondents (50 percent) required fact sheet .

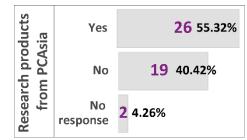


Figure 11. Proportion of respondents requiring research products from PCAsia

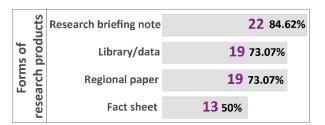


Figure 12. Proportion of respondents choosing different forms of research products

When asked what topics respondents would suggest PCAsia do research on, in order from high to low, out of 26 respondents, 17 respondents (65.38 percent) selected natural resource governance and policy, 13 respondents (50 percent) selected sustainable forest management and policy, 13 respondents (50 percent) selected green growth/cities, 13 respondents (50 percent) selected urban planning and management for sustainable urbanization towards a clean and green environment, 12 respondents (46.15 percent) selected ecosystem and biodiversity

management and policy and 12 respondents (46.15 percent) selected gender, environment and climate change

Suggested topics	Number	Percent
Natural resource governance and policy	17	65.38
Sustainable forest management and policy	13	50.00
Green Growth/City	13	50.00
Urban planning and management for sustainable urbanization towards a clean and green environment	13	50.00
Ecosystem and biodiversity management and policy	12	46.15
Gender, environment and climate change	12	46.15
Energy efficiency policy	11	42.31
environment and climate change	11	42.31
energy and food nexus policy	9	34.61
Sustainable consumption and green lifestyle	8	30.77
Water	8	30.77
Disaster Risk Management/Resilience	7	26.92
Environmental education (including eco-school practice)	6	23.07
Marine ecosystem and coastal management and policy	5	19.23
Coal phase out and renewable energy	4	15.38
Hazardous and waste management policy	4	15.38
Others	2	07.40

Table 5: Proportion of respondents choosing different topics for PCAsia to do research on

4. CONCLUSION

This assessment aims to identify the needs of targeted parliaments, namely the Parliaments of Cambodia and Thailand, to assist the Environment and Climate Change program to prepare its own capacity building activities for 2024-2027. The findings showed that the two parliaments expressed a high interest in working on environment and climate change issues. However, the delivery of capacity building on these topics remained limited at the two parliaments. This suggested that PCAsia needs to fill this gap in the future. The analysis also suggested that the common challenges faced by parliamentary staff in the two countries were limited data sources of information and short deadlines. One third of respondents still had English difficulties, therefore applying appropriate pedagogical strategies for parliamentary staff training considering their different English levels should be considered in the future. Furthermore, the top three topics for PCAsia to consider for future capacity building are i) climate change budgeting scrutiny for parliament; ii) climate change, gender and human rights; and iii) green growth/cities. However, there is still a need to verify these topics with the actual workplan of each commission or committee of the two parliaments. The analysis also suggested that capacity building through the form of training remained relevant to the needs of parliamentary staff of the two countries. In addition, capacity building of parliamentary staff could be enhanced if PCAsia continued producing research products (preferably in collaboration with staff of the two parliaments) on specific environment and climate change issues.

Questionnaire

Need Assessment of Parliamentary Staff In charge of Environment and Climate Change in the Parliaments of Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand

The aim of this survey is to match the needs of the Parliaments of Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand and PCAsia's ECC Program activities, to help in the design of its training, research and other support services for 2023-27.

The information will be kept confidential and it will be solely used by PCAsia's ECC team. We would like to encourage your cooperation in providing information to this survey so it will assist us in formulating the activities that meet the needs of your parliament for effective response to environment and climate change issues in 2023-27. Thank you for your time and participation.

A. General Information on the Committee and Staff

Country				
Name of Parliament				
A.1 Background	l informatio	on		
Age			Sex:	 Male Female Prefer not to answer
Ethnicity	inicity (If applicable)			
Position			Englis	sh level:
Office			□ Noi □ Lov	
Department			□ Medium □ Good	
Name of Committee/ Commission			□ Very good	

Education	 Bachelor Master PhD 	In what subjects/or fields:
	Others:	

A.2 Please briefly explain the mandate and functions of your office/department or your Committee/Commission?

A.3 Please briefly describe the workplan of your office/department, or Committee/Commission in 2023 and beyond on environment and climate change or other related issues?

A.4 What roles and responsibilities do you have in supporting your office/department or the Committee/Commission? (e.g., Conducting research, drafting a research report, a speech, memo, resolution etc.)

A.5 What challenges do you often face when performing your roles?

B. Assessment on the Topics of Previous Capacity Building and Training

B1. Did you receive any training on environment and climate change in the last two years?

If YES, please list all the titles/themes/topics of those trainings			
Titles/themes/topics	Who provided/or organized the training?		
1.	1.		
2.	2.		
3.	3.		
4.	4.		
5.	5.		

□ Yes □ No

C. Committee/Commission Staff's Needs and Priority for Knowledge Development

C1. In support for your office/department or Committee/Commission to implement its activities in 2023 onward, do you need capacity building on environment and climate change?



If YES, please tick the following topics that apply to your priority.

Climate change budgeting Scrutiny for Parliament	Natural resource governance and policy
International frameworks for climate change and roles of parliaments	Ecosystem and biodiversity management and policy
Climate change, gender and human rights	Water, energy and food nexus
Climate finance	Marine ecosystem and coastal management and policy
Green Growth/City	Hazardous and waste management policy
Carbon neutrality and energy efficiency	Disaster Risk Management/Resilience
Sustainable forest management and policy	Coal phase out and renewable energy
Environmental education (including eco-school practice)	Sustainable consumption and green lifestyle

Urban planning and management for sustainable urbanization towards a clean and green environment		Public-private partnerships to promote the adoption of environmentally-sound technologies for maximising resource efficiency
Others (please write other topics that	арр	ly)

If YES, what forms of capacity building do you need the most? (Please tick all that apply)

Training (1-3 days)	Learning seminar/webinar with experts (1-3 hours)
On- the job coaching and mentoring	
Others (please list any other capacity building needs that you require)	

C.2 Which months of the year is the best time for your capacity building? (Please tick all that apply)

🗆 Jan-March	April-June	
July-September	October-December	

D. PCAsia's research products

D.1 Do you require research products from PCAsia?

Yes	No
103	110

If YES, what forms of research products do you need?

Fact sheet	Research briefing note
🗆 Library/data	Regional paper
Others (please list any other capacity bui	lding needs that you require)

If you need fact sheets, research briefing note or regional paper, what topics would you suggest PCAsia-ECC focus on? (Please tick all that apply)

Gender, environment and climate change		Ecosystem and biodiversity management and policy
Natural resource governance and policy		Marine ecosystem and coastal management and policy
Green Growth/City		Hazardous and waste management policy
Energy efficiency policy		Disaster Risk Management/Resilience
Sustainable forest management and policy		Coal phase out and renewable energy
Environmental education (including eco-school practice)		Sustainable consumption and green lifestyle
Water, energy and food nexus policy		Urban planning and management for sustainable urbanization towards a clean and green environment
Others (please write other specific topic	s if yc	ou need more)
	change Natural resource governance and policy Green Growth/City Energy efficiency policy Sustainable forest management and policy Environmental education (including eco-school practice) Water, energy and food nexus policy	changeNatural resource governance and policy□Green Growth/City□Energy efficiency policy□Sustainable forest management and policy□Environmental education (including eco-school practice)□

E. Final Comments

E.1 Do you have any final comments on what, and how, PCAsia's ECC capacity building program should do to support you and your office/department or Committee/Commission in better addressing environment and climate change issues in 2023-27?

