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AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
KATHMANDU

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Note No: 140/23

The Australian Embassy presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Government of Nepal and has the honour to inform that Government of Australia is delivering an Australia Awards Regional Short Course (multi-country participants) titled "Accessing Climate Finance" in 2023-2024.

This Short Course will equip up to 25 participants with the knowledge, skills and tools needed to navigate the complex landscape of climate-related finance, contribute to sustainable development and support the global transition to a low-carbon economy.

The Embassy has the honour to inform that of the 25 participants, four seats are allocated for Nepal. Two seats are reserved for Government of Nepal candidates (including at least one female) and the other two will be offered for open Nepali candidates.

Through Australia Awards Short Courses, the Australian Government offers and funds short-term training opportunities. Short Courses develop participants' skills and knowledge and help them build networks to drive change and contribute to the development in their home countries and regions.

The Short Course aims to enhance knowledge, build capacity, facilitate decision-making, promote sustainable investments, encourage policy understanding, foster collaboration and promote innovation.

The Embassy has the honour to request the Ministry's support to facilitate nomination of two relevant officials from Government agencies, including Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Forests and Environment and the National Planning Commission – by **1 November 2023.**

The Embassy seeks nominees (preferably one female from each agency):

- who will have knowledge and experience working in ministries or organisations focussed on climate change adaptation/mitigation and/or climate finance and have occupied their current position for at least 12 months.
- who will have worked at policy making levels, preferably Joint Secretaries of their relevant agencies.
- who will have proficient level of English to be able to complete the Short Course without any language assistance.

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Following receipt of the nominations from relevant agencies, the nominees must complete an application online at <https://oscar.australiaawardssouthasiamongolia.org/register> and upload the required documentation by 6 November 2023.

The Embassy has the further honour to inform that the program will be delivered in Australia. The course will also entail online pre-learning activity and online/in-person applied learning activity (post-visit) in 2024.

The Australian Embassy avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Government of Nepal and all the Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations in Kathmandu the assurances of its highest consideration.



KATHMANDU
20 October 2023

Cc:

1. Secretary, Ministry of Finance
2. Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Environment
3. Secretary, National Planning Commission

Enclosures:

1. Short Course concept note
2. Obligations for Australia Awards Short Course participants



Australia Awards

Australia Awards

South Asia & Mongolia

Concept Note

Accessing Climate Finance Short Course (Regional)

FINAL- October 2023 [FOR DISTRIBUTION]



Context

According to the World Bank Group (WBG), South Asia is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate shocks. The region is living through a “new climate normal” in which intensifying heat waves, cyclones, droughts, and floods are testing the limits of government, businesses, and citizens to adapt. More than half of all South Asians were affected by one or more climate-related disasters in the last two decades. The changing climate could sharply diminish living conditions for people in a region that already has some of the world’s poorest and most vulnerable populations. Projected losses from climate change in GDP per capita for South Asian countries are higher than the global average of about seven percent, with Bhutan facing a potential loss of 18 percent, Nepal 13 percent, India 10 percent, and Pakistan 10 percent in 2100¹. Mongolia, being a developing country with vulnerable ecosystems and an economy heavily dependent on natural resources, is similarly susceptible to the impacts of climate change.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported that climate crises in the region will be the most challenging issues for the next two decades. According to the IPCC report, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka face rising sea levels and severe flooding while landlocked Afghanistan, Bhutan, and Nepal face higher temperatures and drought². The report also mentions the small island country of the Maldives will be lost in the future. Moreover, the first-ever report of the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) on a children’s climate risk index reported that children in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan are extremely vulnerable because of high temperatures (heatwaves) and natural calamities (extreme flooding)³. UNICEF also mentioned this climate crisis will impact children’s health, education, and protection.

Global calls for greater climate ambition must be accompanied by provision of the means for implementation, including finance, from developed countries to developing countries. Generally, climate finance refers to collecting and utilising money from different sources to better the natural environment and reduce natural and manufactured disasters caused by climate change. Climate finance is defined by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as “local, national, or transnational financing—drawn from public, private, and alternative sources of financing—that seeks to support mitigation and adaptation actions that will address climate change”. Climate finance is one of the essential goals of sustainable development.

However, accessing financing for climate resilience projects remains a challenge for many countries. Continuing high inflation, slow economic growth, and the ongoing fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic have constrained the fiscal space of governments across South Asia and Mongolia. Unlocking private investment in climate resilience and adaptation has proven difficult.

Addressing these challenges requires a multi-faceted approach, including capacity building, technical assistance, improved data collection and management systems, streamlined application processes, and stable policy frameworks. Collaborative efforts between governments, international organisations, civil society, and the private sector are essential to overcoming these barriers and ensuring developing countries can access climate financing effectively.

Purpose & Objectives

The purpose of this regional Short Course in accessing climate finance is to equip participants with the knowledge, skills, and tools needed to navigate the complex landscape of climate-related finance, contribute to sustainable development, and support the global transition to a low-carbon economy.

¹ . Kahn, Matthew E., Kamiar Mohaddes, Ryan N. C. Ng, M. Hashem Pesaran, Mehdi Raissi, and Jui-Chung Yang. 2019. “Long-Term Macroeconomic Effects of Climate Change: A Cross-Country Analysis.” Working Paper No. 19/215, International Monetary Fund, Washington, DC.

² Foreign Policy. 2023. Available online: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/08/12/south-asia-climate-ipcc-report-front-lines/>

³ UNICEF. The Climate Crisis is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children’s Climate Risk Index. 2021. Available online: <https://www.unicef.org/reports/climate-crisis-child-rights-crisis>

The Short Course will aim to:

- **Enhance knowledge:** deepen participants' understanding of climate finance concepts, mechanisms, and instruments. It may cover topics such as climate finance sources, project financing, investment frameworks, and risk management.
- **Build capacity:** develop participants' skills and expertise in analysing, planning, and implementing climate finance strategies.
- **Facilitate decision-making:** provide participants with the knowledge and tools necessary for effective decision-making in climate-related financial matters. This may involve assessing investment opportunities, evaluating financial risks, and considering the economic viability of climate projects.
- **Promote sustainable investments:** emphasise the importance of directing financial resources towards sustainable projects and initiatives. Participants may learn about green investment criteria, sustainable finance frameworks, and emerging trends in climate-related investments.
- **Encourage policy understanding:** enhance participants' understanding of policy frameworks and international agreements related to climate change and finance. This may include exploring the roles of various stakeholders, understanding policy instruments, and examining global climate finance mechanisms.
- **Foster collaboration:** provide a platform for networking and collaboration among participants from diverse backgrounds. Collaboration can help facilitate knowledge sharing and foster partnerships to address climate finance challenges.
- **Promote innovation:** foster innovation in financial solutions for climate-related challenges. Participants may be encouraged to explore innovative financing mechanisms, such as green bonds, carbon markets, and impact investing.

Aligned Australian Counterparts

Tenderers will be required to incorporate Australian and regional subject matter expertise into the Short Course program, and to include networking opportunities with these experts during the in-Australia component. Aligned Australian counterparts may include, but not be limited to the following organisations:

- [Clean Energy Finance Corporation](#)
- [Australian Renewable Energy Agency](#)
- [The Climateworks Centre](#)
- [Clean Energy Council](#)
- [CSIRO](#)
- [Institute for Climate, Energy and Disaster Solutions](#)
- [Australian Investor Group on Climate Change](#)
- Financial institutions

Course Content and Expected Learning Outcomes

A learning program will be developed by the Provider to meet the learning objectives. Topics covered may include (but not be limited to) the following:

- **Climate Finance Fundamentals:** Understand the basics of climate finance, including its definition, sources and mechanisms.
- **International Climate Funds:** Learn about international climate funds, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Adaptation Fund, and Global Environment Facility (GEF). Understand the evolving landscape of climate finance, including public, private, and blended finance sources, and the roles of different stakeholders such as governments, multilateral organisations, private sector entities, and civil society.

- **Climate Policy and Frameworks:** Explore the policy and regulatory frameworks that shape climate finance, including the Paris Agreement, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), national climate change policies, and relevant laws and regulations.
- **Project Development and Design:** Learn how to develop and design climate change projects that align with the requirements of climate finance institutions. This includes identifying priority areas, conducting feasibility assessments, and developing project proposals.
- **Climate Finance Instruments:** Explore different climate finance instruments, such as grants, loans, equity, and guarantees. Understand their advantages, disadvantages, and application processes. Learn how to select the most appropriate instrument for your project.
- **Climate Finance Governance:** Understand the principles of transparent and accountable climate finance governance and the importance of stakeholder engagement and participation.
- **Stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships:** Learn strategies for engaging with relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, private sector entities, and civil society organisations. Understand how to build effective partnerships to enhance project implementation and access to climate finance as well as the importance of integrating GEDSI principles into stakeholder engagement practice.
- **Risk Management and Climate Resilience:** Explore risk assessment and management techniques specific to climate change projects. Understand how to incorporate climate resilience and adaptation measures into project design and implementation.
- **Proposal Writing and Resource Mobilisation:** Develop skills in writing compelling project proposals tailored to the requirements of climate finance institutions. Learn techniques for effective resource mobilisation and attracting financial support from various sources.
- **Monitoring, Reporting, and Impact Assessment:** Explore the fundamentals of project monitoring and reporting in climate finance. Identify tools and methodologies for assessing the impact and effectiveness of climate finance initiatives and the importance of incorporating climate resilience and risk management into project evaluation.
- **Case Studies and Best Practices:** Analyse successful climate finance projects and case studies from South Asia and around the world. Understand the lessons learned, best practices, and challenges faced in accessing and utilising climate finance.
- **Networking and Professional Development:** Take advantage of networking opportunities provided by the course to connect with professionals, experts, and practitioners in the field of climate finance. Explore avenues for ongoing professional development and collaboration.

Return to Work Plan

All Participants will be required to develop a Return to Work Plan (RWP) that applies the knowledge and skills gained in this Short Course. The RWP will describe how Participants will apply their newly acquired skills and knowledge to a specific project or set of activities. Participants will be encouraged to develop their initial thinking and approach to individual RWPs through consultations with the Provider during the Preliminary Learning Activities phase. Participants will be expected to fully develop their RWP during the Core Learning Elements, with the guidance of the designated Course Leader and to commence implementation prior to the commencement of the Applied Learning Activities.

Tenderers will be encouraged to consider innovative approaches to RWP design. For example, Participants may develop a real world climate finance proposal in country groups, or as individuals.

Each RWP will include measures to reduce the likelihood of discrimination against women as it may relate to policy development, program planning or service delivery.

The Program may undertake selected reviews of progress with RWP implementation post-course.

Delivery Approach

The program will be delivered via blended delivery (online and in- Australia) using a range of connected learning strategies. This approach will maximise opportunities for participant familiarisation, contextualisation of materials and learning as well as information exchange and interaction with key stakeholders and counterparts, across the region and in Australia.

In designing the Short Course program, the Provider will be required to engage with regional subject matter experts and to identify organisations with which to partner to support face to face engagement, facilitate networking and encourage collaboration amongst the Participant cohort.

Preliminary Learning Activities (online)

The following preliminary services are in addition to the mandatory activities detailed in the *Australia Awards South Asia & Mongolia, Short Course Handbook*:

- Learning Needs Analysis

- The Provider will conduct a Learning Needs Analysis (LNA) to build an understanding of each Participant's needs and expectations. **Introductory online learning modules**

A minimum of three modules will be delivered by the Provider, with the aim of introducing the key objectives of the course including conceptualising Participant's Return to Work Plans.

The Course Provider will use an existing LMS to deliver the Short Course.

A summary of participant's reflections and reactions to the online learning experience and any modifications or additions required to address these considerations in the Core Learning Elements (CLE) will be outlined in the Preliminary Learning Activities report.

Core Learning Elements (in-Australia followed by online mentoring)

A two week program will be delivered in Australia. It is expected the CLE will:

- incorporate a mix of interactive panel discussions with subject experts (drawn from Australian and regionally).
- provide virtual and face to face events and interactions to facilitate structured networks with Australian and other experts.

The selected Provider will be required to offer regular virtual mentoring sessions for participants of the CLE and the Applied Learning Activities (ALA) to sustain engagement and monitor RWP implementation.

A schedule outlining delivery sequence, methodologies and time allocations will be prepared by the selected Provider.

Applied Learning Activities (online)

The ALA will be conducted a minimum of two months after the conclusion of the Core Learning Elements to enable Participants time to implement their RWPs. The ALA workshop designed to explore and reinforce the value and importance of the transfer and application of learning achieved through Participants' Return to Work Plans. Over approximately three days Participants will:

- provide an update on the implementation progress of their RWPs.
- share learning and explore solutions to common challenges by the group allowing for further learning for Participants.
- deliver a presentation providing an overview of progress on RWP outcomes and impacts.
- be provided support to improve the sustainability/applicability of their RWPs.

Participant Profile

Up to 25 Participants will be selected for this Short Course.

The selection of participants will be merit-based, and it is strongly recommended selected applicants are able to demonstrate capacity and willingness to act as change agents within their own country, and to actively contribute to a regional community of practice.

People from diverse ethnic backgrounds and people with disabilities who are working in relevant area will be strongly encouraged to apply. The successful Tenderer will be provided with information so that reasonable adjustments can be made as required.

Nomination and selection process

To be eligible, applicants will need to meet the following criteria:

Specific:

- Demonstrate a strong commitment to contributing the skills and knowledge gained during the Short Course within and across Participants' organisations to support regional connectivity.
- Willingness to participate in a virtual 'community of practice' with other Participants and the course Provider to maintain connections made during the course.
- Have knowledge and experience working in ministries or organisations focussed on climate change adaptation/mitigation and have occupied their current position for at least 12 months.
- Have proficient level of English to be able to complete the Short Course without any language assistance.
- Have access to the internet and be computer literate.

General:

In addition to the course specific eligibility criteria listed above, applicants must:

- Be a citizen of their respective country, currently residing in that country.
- Not be applying for or hold permanent residency in either Australia or New Zealand, or be married, engaged to, or a de facto of a person who holds, or is eligible to hold, Australian or New Zealand citizenship or permanent residency. This criterion applies at any stage of the application, selection or mobilisation phases of the course.
- Be able to provide attested documents for processing a visa application to enter Australia for the duration of the Australian component of the course and satisfy all requirements of the Department of Home Affairs for an Australian Student Visa (Subclass 500) or an Australian Visitor (Business Visitor stream) Visa (Subclass 600).
- Not be a currently serving military personnel.
- Obtain the necessary study and travel approvals from their employer and be available and committed to participate in the course based on the anticipated course schedule outlined below.
- Not have attended a Short Course previously (however Australian Awards Scholarships alumni who completed their degrees more than two years ago may be considered).

When assessing applications, the following criteria will be considered:

- Evidence of organisational support for the objectives of the course and the applicant's participation for the duration of the program.
- The relevance of the applicant's current workplace role and responsibilities to the course outcomes.
- The applicant's demonstrated capacity and willingness to act as an organisational change agent, sharing new skills and knowledge with colleagues to build capacity in accessing climate change financing.

Australia Awards South Asia and Mongolia Posts together with DFAT Canberra will determine the final list of participants for this Course.

Women's Leadership, Inclusion and Gender Equity

The Australian Government identifies gender equality as a critical cross-cutting theme across the Australian Aid program. The [gender equality and women's empowerment strategy](#) makes it clear that gender equality and women's empowerment are a core part of the foreign policy, economic diplomacy and development work of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The Government is committed to strengthening our ability to engage in policy dialogue about gender issues in the Indo-Pacific region and globally and advancing our international reputation as a global leader on gender equality and women's empowerment.

The strategy establishes three priorities that guide DFAT's work on gender equality:

- enhancing women's voice in decision-making, leadership and peace building
- promoting women's economic empowerment
- ending violence against women and girls.

Practical approaches to the promotion of women as leaders and active participants in decision-making will be explored throughout this Short Course. Gender-sensitive perspectives will complement relevant theory through the development of individualised Return to Work Plans. Consideration of the needs of those from traditionally marginalised groups, including people with disabilities, will also be included in the course.

Gender equity will be maintained in the initial nomination and the final selection process. Females, people from traditionally marginalised groups, ethnic backgrounds and people with disabilities who are working in a relevant area should be strongly encouraged to apply.

Delivery Schedule

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| - Final day for receipt of applications: | 6 November 2023 |
| - Preliminary activities– Online: | December 2023 or Late January 2024 |
| - Core Learning Activities – in-Aust: | February 2024 |
| - Applied Learning Activities – online/in-country/in region: | early May 2024 |



Australia Awards

Obligations for Australia Awards (Nepal) Short Course Participants

The participant must read, understand and agree to comply with the following stated obligations before attending the Short Course:

- Flights to and from Australia for participation in the Core Learning Activities of the Short Course are organised by the Program and cannot be changed to accommodate an individual Participant's preferences.
- Spouses, family members or other individuals are not permitted to accompany a Participant.
- Australia Awards provides travel and health insurance for each Short Course Participant for the duration of the in-Australia training component.
- Accommodation in Australia is single room basis per Australia Awards – South Asia & Mongolia's current COVID-19 risk mitigation strategy. This can also be changed later depending on the situation to bedroom sharing. Generally, a 2 bedroom fully furnished apartment with kitchen and cooking facilities. In this case, each participant is required to share the apartment with another participant.
- Participants with disability will be assessed individually and will be provided with support to facilitate full participation in the short course.
- The course schedule is fixed, and Participants are expected to fully participate in all aspects of the program. The program schedule will not be altered to accommodate individual Participant requests.
- Each participant will be provided a maximum per diem of AUD 82.00 per day during their stay in Australia. Meals provided by the program will be deducted from this total. Participants are required to cover the cost of meals during transit.