

CLIMATE RISK TALK

CLIMATE POLICY BRIEF OF THE REGIONAL INSTITUTE FOR POPULATION STUDIES

EDITORIAL

Climate change policy frameworks, including national mitigation actions and adaptation strategies are often characterised by "top-down" approach in their formulation. These at times end up with no direct bearing on the realities on the ground because the primary actors at the receiving end are often alienated and thus depriving policies of local context. Yet opportunities exist that could provide arenas for policy makers, managers and other actors to work towards common goals for integrating climate change issues into development planning. In coastal zone planning this may be complicated because climate change raises difficult concerns for sustainable ecosystem management due to the fragility of coastal



systems including shoreline retreat and biodiversity loss. However, if we do not understand the preferences and responses of the communities at risk and other interest groups such as developers, these frameworks would rather create gaps in priorities between the various levels of governance that further restrict mainstreaming. In Africa, planning for coastal resources may face delays because of the perception of climate change as mostly non-factual and complex, and complicated by gaps in policy frameworks. Hence the need for dialoguing of the challenges on our way to adaptation. Policy dialogues for example, can help identify gaps and opportunities to facilitate the attainment of the goal of efficient and effective coastal urban management in the face of climate change. Yet unless there is an emotional connection with coastal climate risks, we do not bring the best of ourselves to solving the challenges, as the CDKN Project seeks to pursue a paradigm shift in climate policy framing in coastal Ghana. Dialogues would help to:

- ♦ **Create and intensify awareness about the stake of climate change and coastal urban disasters in national development efforts; and**
- ♦ **Enhance understanding to facilitate and sustain a consistent, comprehensive and a targeted approach to solving coastal urban development challenges.**

What are implications of Climate Change for Ghana's Coastal Features (below) & Policy?

- ♦ The coastline of Ghana is 565 kilometers long and occupies 7% of the total land area.
- ♦ More than 25% of the population live in the coastal zone.
- ♦ Five major and strategic cities are located there - Keta, Tema, Accra, Cape Coast, Takoradi.
- ♦ Many important historical, cultural structures & unique ecological habitats supporting livelihoods, exist.



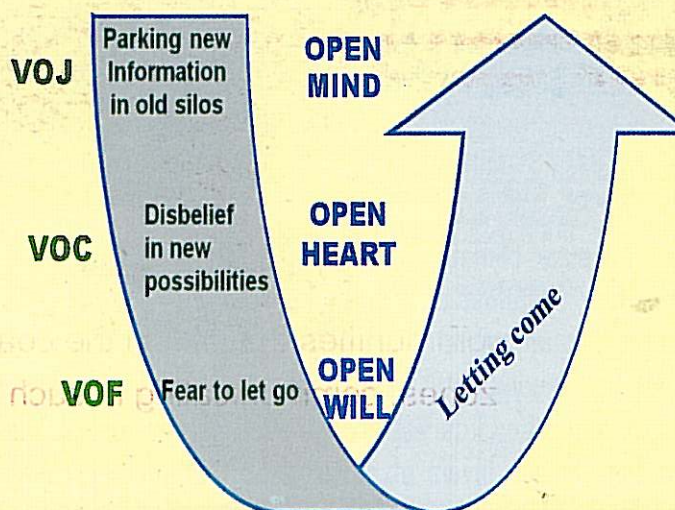
Connecting Leaders' Emotions to Climate Change The U-PROCESS

What is the U-Process?

◇ The U-Process brings people with different or same characteristics together in a shared learning space where individuals from different backgrounds work together for a common purpose.

◇ The U-Process environment allows knowledge sharing about individuals' experience of knowledge that fosters the holistic analysis of issues, willingness to act and how the roles of the individual matters in finding solutions.

When leaders become aware of how they learn, they tend to be more conscious of the activity of learning. They gain more out of the learning situation than before they became aware.



The U - Process entails suspending beliefs for innovation to access new information:

- ◇ **VOJ (Voice of Judgment)**
- ◇ **VOC (Voice of Cynicism)**
- ◇ **VOF (Voice of Fear)**

Unless we create an environment that enables us to discover the limits of our potential, we will never know what we have inside of us.

- Mohammed Yunus

The U-Process in Practice under CDKN Project

- ◇ RIPS held a workshop on climate change and coastal urban risks for diversity of stakeholders titled **High Level Climate Change and Policy Dialogue**.
- ◇ The stakeholders came from government, especially key sectors such as water resources, agriculture and fisheries, and health in addition to personnel from industry, private sector, CSOs, development partner community and key opinion leaders in climate change vulnerable coastal communities such as MPs, Assembly members and Presiding members.
- ◇ The workshop used the U-Process approach to generate innovative ideas, create and intensify awareness for enhanced understanding of participants and towards mainstreaming climate change and effective coastal urban management.



Connecting to climate change

Creativity, innovation and climate change solutions.

Doing it and Doing it Better

Group Discussions

- ◇ New ways for effective leadership can emerge from a learning which involves the future in mind, requiring open-mindedness and the suspension of old beliefs and having traditions. The complexity and the ambiguities surrounding climate change provides recipe for leaders to look more into the future to inform the present.
- ◇ Personal impressions of the impacts of climate change are an important step in the U—Process.
- ◇ Video informed discussion guided adaptation options, focusing on disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and resource management.



Drama Sketch

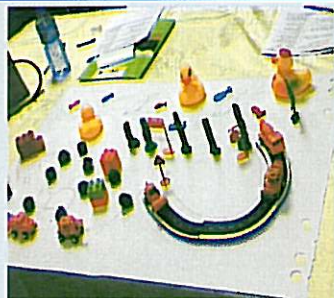


A Sketch about the impacts of climate change on coastal areas and associated development risks in Ghana portrayed views of the public about climate change, as unbelieving, cynical, unimportant, uninformative and that people were not well-informed because of limited information sources. The sketch ends in an appeal to the leaders to do something about it.

Sculpturing

This involved the use of toys, including miniature animals and plants, lego, play dough, etc., to create the model of an ideal coastal town even in the face of climate change. Thus the exercise generated a lot of enthusiasm in spite of the initial hesitation (as toys for example are often associated with kids), with lessons shared in an open forum. Important amongst the lessons was that same toys resulted in different animations depending on the perception behind. As a result there was the need to pool resources to be able to respond to the impacts of climate change and that is what should happen in reality. Not a single leader hence institution has all the solutions.





Pictures of the sculptures by Leaders, showing models of their ideal urban coastal towns facing the risk of climate change. Each group highlighted a healthy environment and alternative sources of livelihoods and energy that supported communities and minimized impacts on coastal ecosystems.



"The sculpturing session was very interesting. The picture of a good coastal environment will always stay with me" - A Participant Comment

REALITY OF CLIMATE CHANGE RELATED COASTAL URBAN RISKS LEADER REALIZATION

- ◇ Climate change and its risks is inevitable and is everyone's concern.
- ◇ There is the need to share information because stakeholders have different kinds of information and interest.
- ◇ Combinations of adaptation strategies are needed, for example, effective waste treatment that generates biogas, solar and water management.
- ◇ There is the need to educate communities that live in the coastal zones, communicating in such a way to affect positive change.
- ◇ Uncontrolled human activities from poverty enhance climate change impacts.
- ◇ Need to identify and engage vulnerable groups in intervention processes.

The Leaders Affirmed That:

- ◇ They would identify quick wins that lead to proper coastal management.
- ◇ Identifying opportunities and long term goals having potentials to help in coastal urban management would be top of their planning.
- ◇ They are committed to group action on some aspects of coastal urban challenges.
- ◇ Individual commitment to taking action on some aspects of coastal urban challenges should also be pursued.



Climate & Development
Knowledge Network

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