



REPORT OF PEER TO PEER EXCHANGE VISIT TO SWEDISH UNIVERSITIES



Organized By

International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD);
Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)



BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

The International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) has been a leading institution in climate adaptation and resilience research, particularly in the Global South. With increasing climate risks, collaborative research and knowledge-sharing between different institutions are essential for developing sustainable solutions. The peer exchange visit to Swedish universities aimed to create a long-term partnership between institutions in Bangladesh and Sweden, facilitating deeper cooperation in tackling climate change challenges through joint research and policy advocacy.

Two key visits took place as part of this exchange program: one to the University of Gothenburg and the other to Karlstad University. Each visit included knowledge-sharing sessions, expert presentations, and discussions on climate change adaptation and resilience strategies. Participants from ICCCAD, IUB, and Swedish universities engaged in meaningful dialogues to explore opportunities for collaborative research and policy development. Additionally, Maria Aktar, Assistant Project Manager of CAP-RES, and Juel Mahmud, Manager of CAP-RES, joined online, providing their insights and contributions to the discussions.



Key Highlights

- Project Duration: October 14, 2024 – October 19, 2024
- Organizers: ICCCAD and IUB
- Lead Representative: Dr. Md. Hafizur Rahman, Head of DESM and focal of ICCCAD
- Objective: Research collaborations between ICCCAD, IUB and University of Gothenburg and Karlstad University
- Visit Locations: University of Gothenburg and Karlstad University

Meeting with University of Gothenburg

- The delegation engaged with faculty members and researchers to discuss the economic dimensions of climate change.
- Jahangir Khan, Professor, University of Gothenburg delivered an in-depth presentation on climate change economics, highlighting issues such as economic policies, market failures, and strategies for climate mitigation.
- Dr. Md. Hafizur Rahman, Head of DESM, IUB and Focal of ICCCAD presented ICCCAD's research findings, emphasizing the role of climate adaptation policies and the need for global collaboration.
- Maria Aktar, Assistant Project Manager of CAP-RES, and Juel Mahmud, Manager of CAP-RES, participated online, contributing to discussions and knowledge exchange.



- The discussion centered around policy frameworks that enable economic resilience in the face of climate change, as well as funding mechanisms to support developing nations.

Meeting with Karlstad University

- The visit to Karlstad University involved extensive discussions on risk management and environmental studies.
- Syed Moniruzzaman, Senior Lecturer, Karlstad University presented research on climate risk assessment, highlighting the importance of adaptation strategies and innovative research methodologies.





Research presentations were delivered by:

1. Avit Bhowmik, Senior Lecturer, Karlstad University – Climate risk modeling and community-based adaptation approaches.
2. Dide Dijkers, PhD Student, Karlstad University – Socioeconomic vulnerabilities and climate risk resilience.
3. Sai Ganesh Veeravalli, PhD Student, Karlstad University – Environmental stressors and adaptation frameworks.
4. Jenni Koivisto, Post-Doctoral Researcher, Karlstad University – Policy integration for sustainable adaptation measures.
5. Emelie Hindersson, Project Coordinator, RiskLab, Karlstad University – Risk analysis and climate-resilient infrastructure.

- Dr. Md. Hafiz ur Rahman, delivered a comprehensive presentation on ICCCAD' s initiatives, focusing on the South-North partnership model and the role of academic collaboration in climate action.
- Maria Aktar and Juel Mahmud also participated online in this session, sharing insights on the CAP-RES project and its impact on climate adaptation strategies.

Objectives and Outcomes

- **Knowledge Sharing** Facilitating in-depth discussions on climate risk management and adaptation strategies, enabling cross-learning among researchers from Bangladesh and Sweden.
- **Research Collaboration** Establishing partnerships to strengthen research capacities between ICCCAD, IUB, and Swedish universities.
- **Sustainable Network** Developing a global knowledge-sharing platform that connects institutions from the Global South and North.
- **LUCCC Initiative** Reinforcing the Least Developed Countries University Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC) model for better international cooperation.
- **Policy and Capacity Building** Encouraging collaborative policy development and training programs to enhance climate resilience strategies in vulnerable regions.



Future Prospects

- **Joint Research Initiatives:** The visit set the stage for new research projects focusing on climate adaptation, resilience, and socio-environmental sustainability.
- **Collaborative Events:** Plans for future international conferences and workshops to facilitate ongoing knowledge-sharing and capacity-building initiatives.
- **Sustainable Solutions:** The exchange highlighted the importance of integrating
- **Global South and North expertise** in addressing climate challenges, aiming for long-term impact through collaborative research and policy influence.
- **Student and Faculty Exchange Programs:** Future initiatives may include exchange programs for students and faculty members to foster experiential learning and joint research opportunities.



Memorable Moments

From left to right: Aberg Maria, Head of the School of Public health and community medicine, University of Gothenburg, Sweden, Dr. Md. Hafizur Rahman (ICCCAD), and Jahangir Khan delegate exchange ideas and gifts, symbolizing the partnership between institutions during the peer exchange visit.

Conclusion

The peer exchange visits successfully laid a strong foundation for future collaborations between ICCCAD, IUB, and Swedish universities. This initiative reinforces the critical role of international partnerships in advancing climate adaptation and resilience. The knowledge shared during these sessions is expected to drive meaningful research, inform climate policies, and contribute to the global fight against climate change. With continued commitment, the collaboration is poised to generate impactful solutions that will benefit both local and global communities.

