Green jobs, skills, education and training

Reflections from COP21: inspiring dialogues on the road to COP22
Climate challenges are global and need multisectoral and global responses. Therefore, many agencies working on the issue of greening skills, employment & jobs, economy and social development decided to come together to create opportunities for synergetic dialogues that can inform the multi-faceted debate during COP21. Utilizing COP21, the following partners came together to synergize efforts towards creating a platform for advancing green human capital:

- the Asian Development Bank (ADB),
- International Labour Organization (ILO),
- United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and
- UNESCO International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (UNESCO-UNEVOC),

in cooperation with the Government of France through,

- the Ministry of Environment, Energy and the Sea (Ministère de l'Environnement, de l’Énergie et de la Mer - MEEM)
- the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (Agence de l'Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l'Energie - ADEME),
- the French Development Agency (Agence Française de Développement - AFD), and

French territorial actor,

- Alliance Villes Emploi.

Together, they organized side events around three main perspectives that were tailored to specific target audiences.

In these side events, panelists and participants debated on climate change and its implications for labor market, training and education policies. Stakeholders from Member States and civil society organizations attending COP21 were informed of ways to mobilize employment, education and training partners to prepare and facilitate implementation of actions in line with country objectives, targets and intended contributions to global climate change response.

Discussions echoed collective aspirations from communities engaged in mobilizing economies, societies, education and training. They reaffirmed that the targets set to act on climate change response are reinforced by guided societal and economic transformations, particularly in promoting decent jobs, fighting unemployment and poverty etc.

The COP21 resulted in a global agreement to fight against climate change, adopted by 195 countries.
Dialogues and side events hosted by the Platform for advancing Green Human Capital (GHC) and their immediate outcomes
3 - 11 December 2015, Paris, France

"Policies should make sure they address not only the issues of financing and hard infrastructure development but also soft infrastructure components such as training and workforce skills development." (Synthesis report of dialogues, Platform for advancing GHC)

"Sharing of expectations facilitates the development of projects that meet the needs of companies and contributes to shared implementation of climate change actions. (Synthesis report of dialogues, Platform for advancing GHC)

"This event was an opportunity to present the involvement of local players on the solutions implemented to take account of employment issues and skills related to the energy transition. (Synthesis report of dialogues, Platform for advancing GHC)"
Three mutually reinforcing messages emerged from the dialogues:

1. **Economy, investment, employment and skills development are interrelated areas to advance climate change actions and develop sustainable societies.**

   - The investment for mitigating and adapting to climate change needs to be thought of as a cross-sector issue taking into account the critical importance to invest in economic, social and human capital development. Supporting the development of the right skills for greener economies and sustainable societies will contribute to avoiding skills mismatches and skills shortages, hence improving employment and employability.
   
   - Mitigating climate change will impact skills and employment and, more broadly, the economy and social development.
   
   - The integrated development of policies for the green transition is necessary, at the international, regional, national and local levels. Policies should make sure they address the issues of financing, hard infrastructure development but also soft infrastructure components such as training and workforce skills development.

2. **The mobilization of all the partners for the anticipation of changes is crucial.**

   - The anticipation of green jobs and skills needs to be supported by policies framed around the engagement of public-private and community-based stakeholders, including social partners, to take account of skills development issues linked with climate change.
   
   - While national policy frameworks are critical for establishing policy coherence across ministries and agencies, their implementation at the local level by municipal and community stakeholders are the key. It leads to mapping of a skills spectrum relevant to anticipation of jobs and skills based on local skills ecosystem (i.e. skill demands and skill supply/surplus).
   
   - Social dialogue at all levels is of central importance for the development and implementation of climate policies. Coordination between public and private actors is necessary to achieve policy coherence and to reach common goals.
   
   - A better understanding of the impacts on jobs and skills must be promoted to raise awareness and inform policies.

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**Employment and skills training are not simply a consequence of the fight against climate change, but a determinant of its success. It must be at the heart of negotiations.** *(Synthesis report of dialogues, Platform for advancing GHC)*

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Mr Raymond Torres, Director of Research Department, ILO
Multi-stakeholder partnerships are necessary to take forward capacity development and improve policy-local capacity development interactions.

Educational and training curricula should be reviewed and adapted to meet skills needs to enable education and training systems meet labour market requirements in existing and emerging occupations.

The standardization of skills for emerging jobs could be achieved through cooperation between actors in order to facilitate the elaboration of training needs, job competencies and the design of training programmes.

Upgrading of skills in existing occupations is needed to enable workers and enterprises to address climate change. It is essential for all countries to develop and promote awareness and engagement even if their development prospects differ.

Empowering youth and other communities will help accelerate sustainable solutions, prevent rural youth migration, and foster lifelong learning based on the principles of Sustainable Development at the local level more rapidly.

A critical milestone reached, a decisive turning point inscribed into history. We have come together to address the most daunting of challenges. We have done so by respecting our differences and setting aside our enmity, by focusing on the present we share and the future we must build together. (Excerpt from an Open Letter of appreciation by the UNFCCC Chief)
Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Founded in 1966, the Asian Development Bank aims for an Asia and Pacific free from poverty. With $27.17 billion in approved financing in 2015 and 3,105 employees from 60 of its 67 members, ADB in partnership with member governments, independent specialists and other financial institutions is focused on delivering projects that create economic and development impact. ADB is the first multilateral bank to commit to sizable climate finance target. www.adb.org

United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

UNESCO supports Member States to identify skills demands and develop technical and vocational education and training (TVET) policies and programmes to support transitions to sustainable economies and societies. It does this through its normative work, policy advice, and by promoting inter-agency collaboration and knowledge sharing. Through UNESCO-UNEVOC, UNESCO's specialized Centre for TVET, UNESCO assists Member States to strengthen their TVET systems through capacity development, and knowledge development and management. Its activities on greening TVET are implemented through the UNEVOC Network and further the development of tools and guidelines for adopting whole-institution approaches to greening TVET and mainstreaming sustainable development agenda in TVET. www.unesco.org, www.unesco.org/unevoc

International Labour Organization (ILO)

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the United Nations agency for the world of work. It sets international labour standards, promotes rights at work, and encourages decent employment opportunities, the enhancement of social protection and the strengthening of dialogue on work-related issues. The ILO has a unique structure, bringing together governments, employers' and workers' representatives. Sustainable development including coping with climate change is only possible with the active engagement of the world of work. The World of Work has demonstrated that it offers solutions for resource and energy efficiency, deployment of clean energy, restoration and sustainable use of natural resources for present and future generations. It also helps to safeguard livelihoods and to deal in an equitable manner with possible adverse impacts of the transformation to low carbon economies on employment and incomes. www.ilo.org

Agence de l’Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l’Energie (ADEME)

The French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME) is a public agency under the joint authority of the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, and the Ministry for Higher Education and Research. The agency is active in the implementation of public policy in the areas of the environment, energy and sustainable development. ADEME provides expertise and advisory services to businesses, local authorities and communities, government bodies and the public at large, to enable them to establish and consolidate their environmental action. As part of this work the agency helps finance projects, from research to implementation, in the areas of waste management, soil conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy, air quality and noise abatement. www.ademe.fr
Alliance Villes Emploi

Alliance Villes Emploi is a not-for-profit national French organisation. Its members are Local Authorities involved in employment, training, and inclusion policies. Most of these Local Authorities manage Employment Houses (Maisons de l’Emploi), which have for main function to develop with the local stakeholders shared local strategies (from diagnosis to action plan), with the objective of anticipating skills and employment challenges of environmental transitions in the main sectors concerned (building, transport, marine energies ...).

www.ville-emploi.asso.fr

Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

The Agence Française de Développement (AFD), a public finance institution, has worked for 70 years to alleviate poverty and support economic growth, in both developing and emerging countries and in France’s overseas provinces. The Agency finances and assists projects in more than 90 countries, aiming to improve living conditions, support economic growth, protect the planet and help countries in fragile situations. AFD works towards broader schooling, better infant and maternal health, more abundant water supply, and stronger farms and businesses, while fighting against climate change.

With over €8 billion of funding approved in 2015, AFD counts as one of the world’s primary development finance institutions. AFD fulfills its mission with help from its subsidiary PROPARCO, dedicated to the financing of the private sector. www.afd.fr

Ministère de l’Environnement, de l’Énergie et de la Mer (MEEM)

The Ministry of Environment, Energy and the Sea develops and implements policies in the fields of sustainable development, the environment and green technologies, energy transition and energy, including tariff matters, the climate, the prevention of natural and technological hazards, industrial safety, transport and infrastructure, equipment, sea, except construction and ship repair and in the areas of marine fisheries and aquaculture.

The Ministry develops and implements the policy against global warming and air pollution and promotes the sustainable management of scarce resources. It represents France in European and international climate negotiations. It participates in the development of research programs within its remit. It steers the action for the development of jobs and careers in green growth; ensures the development of “corporate social responsibility” environmental management approaches, socially responsible and fair trade investment. It participates in the development of ecoindustries and green industries.

www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr
Moving the climate change agenda forward: our ambitions and perspectives for COP22

The new climate change agenda gives a push to changing the way we live, the way we produce and consume, and how we work and develop societies. Steering discussions and actions based on short-term prospectives and knowledge to achieve the climate change agenda is not sufficient. It should be the long term framing of dialogues, plans and actions that drive all other policy decisions essential to produce results within an integrated sustainable development and climate change agenda.

The platform is committed to continue policy dialogues at COP22 taking forward the three key messages stemming out of COP 21.

COP22 will be held in Marrakesh, Morocco from 7-18 November 2016.