



Online workshop on strengthening adaptation and resilience planning in Asia through knowledge co-generation between universities and cities

Using the EPIC model in Asian cities — 8-9 March 2021, in conjunction with the virtual Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network conference

Are you a university or municipality that wants to strengthen climate resilience in your city? The EPIC model has a proven track record of increasing climate resilience and sustainability by forming key partnerships between city officials and local universities.

BACKGROUND

All cities and communities contend with development challenges and many cities have nearby university faculty and students who are invested in their cities and can help find sustainable solutions. The EPIC (Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities) model has a proven track record of identifying win-win community-university partnerships — by first asking communities what they need and want and then matching those needs to existing faculty courses and programs of study.

EPIC offers an efficient and robust yet flexible means for harnessing university-based knowledge and applying it in practice. Presently, 50+ universities in the US, Latin America and Africa have programs that are implementing the EPIC model, and they have completed nearly 2000 community-identified projects in more than 250 cities. These programs work together in the [EPIC Network](#) (EPIC-N).

EPIC is expanding to the Asia-Pacific region through this online training event, and in doing so it is partnering with the UN Environment Programme's [Global Adaptation Network](#) (GAN), which provides a worldwide platform to distribute and exchange climate change adaptation knowledge, and [START](#), which promotes science capacity development in Asia and Africa.

OPPORTUNITY

EPIC-N, in partnership with the GAN and START, are pleased to offer a virtual learning workshop on the EPIC model for Asian countries. This virtual event will provide a unique opportunity for *collaborating pairs of individuals representing municipal governments and corresponding local universities* to gain skills on the use of the EPIC-N model to strengthen capacities for climate change adaptation and resilience in the city and return home with a work plan to implement it. Upon completion of the workshop, participants will also be awarded a certificate of training on the EPIC

model. Also, the most promising pairings will be eligible to apply for a small seed grant after the initial training to support follow-on activities towards implementing an EPIC project.

QUALIFICATIONS

The EPIC learning process requires **pairs** of candidates (at least one person from a local university and at least one person from a local municipal/city government within the same area). The ideal pairing combines decision-makers and/or people-of-influence on both sides: for example, from the community side, a city manager, assistant city manager, chief resilience officer or equivalent; on the university side, a department or program head, senior administrator, or distinguished professor. The training will be conducted in English. The members of the designated pair need not have collaborated previously although a history of collaboration or active progress toward developing a collaboration is preferred.

While we prefer the application be done by pairs of individuals, please note that if you are interested in participating in the EPIC training but do not have a partner (for instance, a university faculty who does not have a match to a city official or a city official who does not have a match to a local university), we urge you to go ahead and apply and we will make a concerted effort to create a suitable match.

SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process for the virtual event will proceed in three steps.

1. The workshop application is ***due by 1 November 2020*** and can be accessed at <https://start.org/epic/>.
2. The workshop organizers will follow up with qualified applications to seek more in-depth information from each applicant pair, or attempt to create a match for interested individuals who do not have a pair.
3. Finalists will be determined by early December and, for final eligibility, applications will be asked to consider a set of pre-workshop materials on EPIC basics and examples, as applied to their circumstance.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information on the application process, please contact Dr. Mzime Murisa (mmurisa@start.org)

For more information on the EPIC-N model and network, please go to www.epicn.org or write to info@epicn.org

Thank you for your interest and we look forward to receiving your application!