



---

BROWN-BAG PRESENTATION

---

## **Building Capacity for Climate Adaptation: EWC's Urban Climate Change Adaptation Training Course**

### **Keith Bettinger**

Team Leader for Capacity Building  
*USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific*

### **Micah Fisher**

PhD Candidate, Geography Department, *University of Hawaii*

### **Kem Lowry**

Adjunct Senior Fellow, *East-West Center*  
Emeritus Professor, Urban and Regional Planning, *University of Hawaii*

---

Thursday, August 25, 2016

12:00pm – 1:00 pm

John A. Burns Hall, Room 3012 (3rd floor)

---

In global surveys, Asian coastal cities have been identified as those at greatest future risk of loss of life, property and critical infrastructure due to flooding brought on by climate change [including more intense storms and sea level rise], land subsidence and rapid, unregulated urban development of low lying coastal areas. It has been estimated that by the year 2100, even with a sea level rise of only 59 cm, a 100-year storm surge could inundate areas in Asia with a population of 362 million, 10 per cent of the total projected population. By 2050 the number of people exposed to tropical cyclones and flooding, the majority of whom will reside in Asia, is expected to double as a result of urban growth in coastal zones.

Climate adaptation---a process of anticipating and reducing the adverse effects of climate change on humans and natural systems---is an urgent requirement of effective governance. Successful climate change adaptation requires enhanced public and private capacity to analyze climate threats at several geographic scales. It also requires strategies for educating key policy makers, business, community residents, and NGO leaders on the threats, opportunities and costs of local adaptation and the development and funding of adaptation strategies.

In 2013, USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific contracted with East West Center to develop a week long training course on urban climate change adaptation for urban managers, planners, and other local officials as well as NGOs working with Asian cities and smaller communities. The course introduces techniques for assessing local vulnerability to climate change and for developing and funding strategies for building greater community resilience to climate threats.

This session is an opportunity to learn more about course content and experiences in delivering the course a total of eight times to participants from more than twenty countries across South and Southeast Asia.