

2024 AP RM ANNUAL *Report*

APRIL 14 - 18 2024



GLOBE Asia – Pacific Regional Meeting of Country Coordinators

April 14-18 2024

Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) is a hands-on international environmental science and educational program.

The primary role of the Regional Coordination Office is to conduct support services to the countries in their respective region, rather than have this support stem solely from the GLOBE Implementation Office (GIO). In general, each GLOBE Regional Coordination Office is responsible to provide the following services:

- Help Desk and basic support services to all community members in the region.
- Sustainability through identification and generation of external funding from sources within and outside of the region.
- Translation of relevant GLOBE and GIO communications and regionally produced materials in the languages of the region if needed, and dissemination of information to community members.
- Recruitment of community members in existing countries and identification and assistance of recruitment of new countries in the region in collaboration with the GIO Director (or designee).
- Logistical organization of regional student research campaigns and any other events (including the Annual Region Meeting) as outlined and agreed upon by the Regional Governance Board or advisory committees.
- Building and collaborating with the region's Alumni and Scientist Network; and Record keeping and evaluation reporting as required by the GIO.

The 2024 Annual Regional Meeting of Country Coordinators, organized by the GLOBE Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Office (AP RCO), took place in Male, Maldives, from April 14th to April 18th, 2024. Bringing together 12 GLOBE Country Coordinators, alongside notable figures including **Dr. Tony P. Murphy**, Director of Community Engagement and Program Strategy (GIO); **Dr. Desh Bandhu**, Coordinator of AP RCO; **Mr. David Overoye**, Web Project Manager at Axient; and Assistant Country Coordinators and

Working Group Members from the region, the event aimed to discuss GLOBE achievements, schools' and students' activities over the past year, and strategies to strengthen the GLOBE Program in the Asia-Pacific region. Additionally, the meeting focused on preparing GLOBE students for more active participation in various GLOBE activities.

Preparatory activities for the Regional Meeting:

The GLOBE Regional Coordination Office for Asia-Pacific orchestrated the "GLOBE Annual Regional Meeting of Country Coordinators," with support from the GLOBE Implementation Office (GIO). This gathering saw the participation of 20 attendees from 12 Asia-Pacific countries. The meeting took place at the Conference Room of the Environmental Protection Agency in Male, Maldives.

Following are the dates for the Meeting: -

Venue: Conference Room, Environmental Protection Agency, Male, Maldives

Dates: 14-18 April, 2024

Theme: Navigating Sustainability: Empowering Communities through Environmental Action

Following activities were planned and accomplished before & during the meeting: -

○ **Coordination with the participant:**

The GLOBE Regional Coordination Office reached out to and extended invitations to all Country Coordinators for their participation in the GLOBE Annual Regional Meeting. Each Country Coordinator was personally contacted. Out of the 19 GLOBE countries in the region, 12 Country Coordinators and Assistant Country Coordinators (CCs & ACCs) joined the meeting.

○ **Booking of the venue and arrangement of Lunch & refreshment during the meeting:**

- Accommodations were reserved for all participants attending the three-day meeting, with rooms booked in advance at a hotel conveniently located for easy access to the EPA Office, where the conference room served as the meeting

venue. Throughout the duration of the event, attendees were provided with breakfast, lunch, dinner, and refreshments in between sessions.

- **Development and printing of Country report, Working Group Report & submission of annual partner survey:**
 - The RCO compiled country reports, presentations, working group reports, as well as RCO and GIO reports, providing all participants with copies of these materials. Ahead of the annual regional meeting, country coordinators were asked to complete the annual partner survey. Additionally, APRCO updated the Country Report on both the Country GLOBE page and the AP GLOBE webpage under the Documents Section.

Activities carried out during the Meeting:

The meeting commenced with an opening session, led by Ms. Henna Kausher, Project Lead at the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordinator, who served as the Master of Ceremonies. Ms. Kausher then invited Mr. Rifath Naeem, Country Coordinator for Maldives, to deliver the welcome address. Mr. Naeem extended a warm welcome to all participants before inviting Mr. Ibrahim Naeem, Director General of EPA Maldives, to share his welcome remarks. Subsequently, Mr. Mohamed Zahy from USAID, representing the U.S. Embassy, commended the participants for their outstanding work in their respective countries.

Dr. Tony P. Murphy, Director of Community Engagement and Program Strategy at GIO, welcomed everyone back to the second in-person meeting and provided insights into the progress made by the countries in the region, as well as the Regional Coordination Office (RCO), highlighting the key aspects of the program for 2023 and the upcoming activities. Following Dr. Murphy's remarks, Dr. Desh Badhu, Coordinator of the RCO, delivered the closing remarks, expressing gratitude to all participants for their attendance and acknowledging GLOBE Maldives for their exceptional hospitality as the local host.

After the opening remarks, all participants introduced themselves, culminating in a group photograph.



After the opening remarks, the inaugural session of the "GLOBE Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting" commenced. Dr. Desh Bandhu, Coordinator of the RCO, delivered a presentation highlighting the activities and progress achieved by countries in the region since the previous regional meeting in March 2023. Following the regional gathering in Hanoi, Vietnam, in April 2023, the AP RCO initiated several impactful endeavors for the GLOBE community in the area.

Of notable mention is the GLOBE Teachers Training workshop held in Bangladesh, orchestrated by AP RCO to revive the GLOBE Program after a hiatus of a decade. Additionally, a Learning Expedition to the Sea took place in Maldives in October 2023, alongside Capacity Building Training sessions. Furthermore, a Virtual Wetland Symposium showcased student research, and a series of webinars were conducted to enhance regional connectivity.

In a bid for broad dissemination and community engagement, AP RCO ensures all webinar recordings are uploaded to its YouTube Channel and shares pertinent details

across various social media platforms within the regional community. Dr. Bandhu concluded his presentation by expressing gratitude to all participating countries and the GIO for their unwavering support.

Ms. Henna Kausher, Project Lead AP RCO moderate the sessions of during the meeting.

Following updates from GIO and AP RCO, the meeting proceeded with a presentation by Mr. David Overoye, GLOBE Web Manager at Axient, focusing on the GLOBE Observer App and its latest updates. During the presentation, Mr. Overoye elucidated all the recent changes to the app, providing assistance to new Country Coordinators and additional participants in setting up their accounts and navigating the application. Following the demonstration, Mr. Overoye engaged all participants in hands-on activities with the Observer app, involving the collection of cloud and tree height data.

After the field training, all participants reconvened in the conference room to commence the Country Presentation Session. Each Country Coordinator delivered a presentation highlighting the current status of the GLOBE Program in their respective countries, along with the best practices developed during the pandemic to continue GLOBE activities. Access to all country presentations can be found [here](#).

Following the Country Presentation AP RCO hold an open discussion session for the participants which gives us an opportunity to learn more in depth about the best practices to Do GLOBE & how AP RCO can help countries in the region to accommodate that first day of meeting ended followed by dinner at the hotel.

The Second day of the meeting started with **Mr. David Overoye**, GLOBDE Web Manager – Axient who gave a presentation GLOBE Website and new features on Website during which he explained all the new changes on the website as well as what more CC's can do to their country page and how they can disseminate information to community. Old CCs encourages new CCs to utilize the GLOBE.gov country page as it is the best tool to encourage participation & disseminate information. He also explains about the workshop registration process and how to add participants for Students under a GLOBE Teachers account, how to change the status of participates who attended the workshop created by CCs.

After Mr. David Overoye's presentation, Dr. Rod Allen De Lara, Chair of the GLOBE Education Working Group, delivered a presentation detailing the accomplishments made under the new Mentor Trainers certification process. He solicited input from Country Coordinators on facilitating the transition for their respective Master Trainers interested in becoming Mentor Trainers. Additionally, Mr. De Lara sought suggestions from Country Coordinators on enhancing the process and encouraging more Master Trainers/Trainers to apply for the Mentor Trainer role.

Following the GLOBE WG Members session, Dr. Desh Bandhu, Coordinator of AP RCO, conducted a presentation on forthcoming GLOBE Activities in the region, encompassing Student Exchanges/Expeditions, GLOBE Regional Campaigns, and the Asia-Pacific Science Festival. Dr. Bandhu emphasized the importance of participation in local, regional, and international exchange programs, providing students with opportunities to interact and exchange knowledge with fellow GLOBE students.

He also outlined the RCO's activities aimed at promoting and facilitating the smooth operation of the program in the region. This includes advocating for inquiry-based, collaborative approaches in campaigns, fostering participation from students, teachers, and scientists to explore the profound mysteries of Earth science.

The campaigns highlighted were:

MISSION MOSQUITO CAMPAIGN (July 20th to August 20th, 2024):

Empower participants to monitor and comprehend disease dynamics, contributing valuable data.

SOIL IN SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN:

Discover soil's secrets and inspire sustainability, empowering students as stewards of our planet.

AIR QUALITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN (November to January):

Aim to empower students and teachers to combat air pollution, fostering collaboration and advocating for cleaner air in the region.

WATERBODIES CAMPAIGN titled "*H2O Heroes: Dive into Discovery*":

Invite global participation to explore and appreciate local water sources and ecosystems, fostering collective efforts to advance knowledge and promote planet health.

PLANET WALK AFRICA

Asia – Pacific region collaborates to promote Plant Walk Africa in the Asia Pacific region, merging science, community, and action. Participation is welcomed virtually, physically, or through support. The journey also includes exploration of indigenous wisdom and spreading kindness. GLOBE Asia – Pacific will engage through awareness campaigns, data collection, and community collaboration, amplifying the message of hope and unity across cultures and landscapes for a sustainable future.

Additionally, there will be an Expedition/Science Festival celebrating STEM education, uniting students, teachers, and scientists to share their work, learn, and celebrate GLOBE program achievements.

Dr. Bandhu announced that AP RCO will organize a subsequent meeting with Country Coordinators in the region to solidify the dates and associated activities of the Regional Campaign, as deliberated during the session. With this announcement, day two of the regional meeting draws to a close.

The third day meeting start with presentation by **Mr. Dr. Tony Murphy**, on GLOBE Annual Meeting where is explain in details Modality, Location, Dates, Schedule, Participants, Theme, Strands, Call for presentations, Registration & Logistics of the upcoming Annual Meeting. He also answered question from the participants regarding participating at GLOBE Annual meeting. He also informed the participants the next GLOBE Strategic Plan will be from 2025 -2030. He also shares with the participants the SP reports and its importance to access the status of the program.

Following Dr. Murphy's session, Dr. Bandhu conducted an open session for participants (CCs) to discuss future activities of GLOBE in their respective participating countries. On the third day of the meeting, GLOBE Maldives arranged a school visit to Dharumavantha School in Lonuziyaarai Magu, Malé, Maldives for the participants. During the visit, participants engaged with students, STEM teachers, as well as the school principal and vice principal.

Dharumavantha School expressed their intention to host a GLOBE Information Day for students interested in STEM, believing that the GLOBE Program would greatly benefit their STEM students. APRCO provided GLOBE equipment to GLOBE Maldives during the

Regional Meeting, which was then handed over to Dharumavantha School to kickstart GLOBE activities within the school.

At the conclusion of the meeting, GLOBE Maldives also organized a sea visit for the participants to a nearby island.

Follow-up of the Meeting: -

1. **Action Plan Development:** Collaborate with Country Coordinators and relevant stakeholders to develop a detailed action plan based on the discussions and decisions made during the meeting. The plan should outline specific tasks, responsibilities, timelines, and resources required to implement the proposed activities and campaigns.
2. **Regular Communication:** Maintain regular communication channels among participants, including Country Coordinators, AP RCO, and other stakeholders. This can be facilitated through email updates, virtual meetings, or online collaboration platforms to ensure that everyone stays informed and engaged.
3. **Capacity Building:** Provide training and support to Country Coordinators and other stakeholders as needed to enhance their capacity to implement GLOBE activities effectively. This may include training sessions on data collection protocols, use of GLOBE tools and resources, and outreach strategies.
4. **Partnership Development:** Explore opportunities for collaboration and partnership with other organizations, institutions, and stakeholders to leverage resources, expertise, and networks in support of GLOBE initiatives. Foster new partnerships and strengthen existing ones to broaden the reach and impact of the program.
5. **Documentation and Reporting:** Document the outcomes, achievements, and lessons learned from the meeting and subsequent activities. Prepare regular progress reports to share with stakeholders, donors, and the wider GLOBE community, highlighting successes, challenges, and opportunities for collaboration.
6. **Sustainability Planning:** Develop sustainability plans to ensure the long-term viability and impact of GLOBE activities in the region. This may include strategies for securing funding, institutionalizing GLOBE programs within educational institutions, and fostering community engagement and ownership.

By following up on these actions, Asia - Pacific Region can build on the momentum generated during the meeting and work collaboratively to advance the goals and objectives of the GLOBE program in the region. This plan will help ensure that the initiatives discussed during the meeting are effectively implemented and sustained over the long term, benefiting students, teachers, and scientists in the region.

RCO promises his full support to all the CCs for successful implementation of GLOBE Program in the Region.

List of the participants who attended the RM along with some photograph is attached as annexure:

- List of Participants who attended the meeting is attached as Annexure 1
- Photograph of the meeting is attached as Annexure 2

ANNEXURE – I

No.	Name	Affiliation/ Position	Organization	Country	Email
1	Mr. Sangay (Tiger)	Country Coordinator	Principal Forestry Officer Education and Capacity Building Services Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Forestry Research and Training Lamai Goempa, Bumthang	Bhutan	sangay@uwice.gov.bt
2	Sabbir Ahmed	Senior Manager	Shakti Foundation, House 4, Road 1, Block A, Section 11, Mirpur, Pallabi, Dhaka-1216, Bangladesh.	Bangladesh	sahmad@shakti.org.bd
3	Mr. Rifath Naeem	Country Coordinator	Environmental Protection Agency, Green Building, 3rd Floor, Handhuvaree Hingun, Maafannu, Male', 20392, Republic of Maldives	Maldives	rifath.naeem@epa.gov.mv
4	Basma Abdul Muhsin	Assistant Country Coordinator Program Manager	Environmental Protection Agency, Green Building, 3rd Floor, Handhuvaree Hingun, Maafannu, Male', 20392, Republic of Maldives	Maldives	basma.abdulmuhsin@epa.gov.mv
5	Ulziibayar Ragchaa	Country Coordinator	Officer of General Education Department Ministry of Education Culture and Science 210620a, Baga toiruu 44, Zasgiin gazriin, III bair, sukhbaatar duureg Ulaanbataar Mongolia	Mongolia	ulziibayarr@yahoo.com

6	Mrs. Sarantuya	RM Participant	Director, Information and Research Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology and Environment Juulchiny street - 5, BagaToiruu-3, Ulaanbaatar 15160 Mongolia	Mongolia	-
7	Mr. Yogendra Chitrakar	Country Coordinator	Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness (ECCA) Post Box 9210, Kathmandu Jwagal, Kupondol Lalitpur, nepal	Nepal	yogendra@ecca.org.np
8	Victoria Metcalf	Country Coordinator	Royal Society Te Apārangi 11 Turnbull St Wellington, , 6011 New Zealand	New Zealand	victoria.metcalf@gmail.com
9	Dearlynn Rebluud	Assistant Country Coordinator Program Manager	Melekeok Conservation Network, Palau	Palau	dearlynnrebluud@gmail.com
10	Dr. Rod Allan De Lara	Country Coordinator PSHS	Philippine Science High School System Sen. M. Defensor-Santiago Avenue, Diliman Quezon City.	Philippines	radelara@pshs.edu.ph
11	Damayanthi Balasuriya	Representative CC	Ministry of Education - Sri Lanka Agriculture and Environmental Studies Branch, Ministry of Education, 'Isuru Battaramulla, Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	damayanthibalasuriya@yahoo.com
12	Dr. Pay-Liam Lin	Country Coordinator	300, Zhongda Rd., Zhongli District Department of Atmospheric Sciences National Central University Taoyuan, , 32001 Taiwan	Taiwan Partnership	globe@pblap.atm.ncu.edu.tw

13	Mrs. Prudence Yu-Fen Chang	Assiatant Country Coordinator	300, Zhongda Rd., Zhongli District Department of Atmospheric Sciences National Central University Taoyuan, , 32001 Taiwan	Taiwan Partnership	tliam@mail.atm.ncu.edu.tw
14	Suwinai Mongkonthan	Representative CC	The Institute for the Promotion of Teaching Science and Technology (IPST) 924 Sukhumvit Road Ekamai Bangkok, , 10110	Thailand	smong@ipst.ac.th
15	Mrs. Phan Ngoc Phuong Linh	Country Coordinator VNSC	International Cooperation Lead Administration Department Vietnam National Space Center (VNSC) Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST) VNSC Building (A6), No.18, Hoang Quoc Viet Str., Hanoi, Vietnam	Vietnam	pnplinh@vnsc.org.vn
16	Tony Murphy	Director Community Engagement and Program Strategy	UCAR USA	USA	tmurphy@ucar.edu
17	David Overoye	Web Project Manager	Axient USA	USA	david.overoye@axientcorp.com

18	Desh Bandhu	Coordinator RCO India	Indian Environmental Society	India	iesindia@gmail.com
19	Henna Kausher	Project Lead AP RCO	Indian Environmental Society	India	hennakausher.ies@gmail.com
20	Sunita Kapoor	Assistant Coordinator AP RCO	Indian Environmental Society	India	iesunitasharma@gmail.com

ANNEXURE – II

Photograph of the Event

(Press Ctrl & click on the link below for Annual RM Photographs)

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1YsGkDnCCNa23fZ_PLdU1vm7el3nIV8sf?usp=sharing

Contact US

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