



## Press Release

### **Youth experiences exchange on building Community Resilience against Climate Change**

**Da Nang, 24/2/2014.** The final workshop of the Youth Initiatives Program to build urban climate change resilience begins today in Da Nang City. The workshop is providing an opportunity for the 12 funded youth groups and city partners share experiences and discuss about ‘Climate Change Resilience through the eyes of Youth’.

Challenge to Change (CtC) has provided technical support to youth groups in the cities of Da Nang, Quy Nhon and Can Tho since 2012, within the **Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN)** with assistance from the Rockefeller Foundation. The **ACCCRN Youth Initiatives Programme (AYIP)** supports youth participation to build resilience for communities in urban areas, through calling for ideas and enabling with resources for youth to implement their own initiatives.

Young people participating in the program come from different backgrounds. Some are young scientists, teachers, and university students. Some are from ethnic groups such as the Khmer, studying at university but holding aspirations about their home community’s condition of urban development. Overall, ACCCRN youth make a diverse and colorful picture of resilience: from assessing vulnerability of fishermen who live along the coast in Da Nang City, or researching what kinds of vegetables can help farmers in Quy Nhon get through storm and flood, to designing and installing a rooftop system which can cool down roof temperatures for poor people by harvesting and saving rain water in Can Tho City.

According to Ms. Vu Thi My Hanh, Youth Program Manager of Challenge to Change, “*The twelve Youth Initiatives reflect present priorities of city youth on how adaptive capacity should be built for their community, especially in the context of the changes posed by urbanization and climate change. But this is just the kick-off. These ideas were formulated with reference to the city’s own Urban Resilience Strategy. Now they should expand and to contribute their experiences to others who are building resilience to climate change.”*

In the final workshop, the Climate Change Coordination Offices and Youth Unions from ACCCRN cities are also discussing about the contribution of and future collaboration plan with 12 Youth Initiatives. On Tuesday a fieldtrip will take the participants to a youth project site where young scientists have supported urban farmers with techniques of hydroponic cultivation in Da Nang City.

“*To meet up with other youth groups from three cities is a great opportunity for us to learn from youth perspectives on climate change resilience. We are interested in how differently climate change impacts on Quy Nhon and Can Tho City, and how people in different places are living with those changes.*” said Nguyễn Ngọc Ánh, a Quy Nhon University student, leader of a project to build an information network of youth ideas on climate change resilience.

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