



**ARNEC**  
Asia-Pacific Regional Network  
for Early Childhood

# #ARNECwebinars

ARNEC holds webinars to connect the ECD community in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond on early childhood development

Demystifying Climate Science and its Relationship with ECD

30 May 2022, 11:00AM-12:00N Singapore time

## Climate science, links to early childhood development addressed in ARNEC webinar

Following the initial webinar on putting young children in the center of climate change and environmental actions in February 2022 (link here: <https://arnek.net/resource?id=307>), another webinar was held on 30 May 2022 demystifying climate science and its relationship with early childhood development or ECD.

The webinar introduced the basic concepts of climate change and the global frameworks and mechanisms to address this, as well as reinforcing the narrative that ECD is a building block of sustainable development, climate mitigation, and adaptation.

The webinar provided a space for environmental experts and ECD stakeholders to come together to explore ways to make ECD visible in climate and environmental actions at the global and country levels.

“High quality, well financed, equitable early childhood development can be a key building block to national plans for climate change resilience and adaptation,” stressed Dr. Adrian Cerezo, environmental scientist.

Investing in early childhood through quality and targeted programming is an entry point to making all



children benefit from nurturing care so that they are healthy, well-nourished, safe, and constantly learning, all of which are essential to keeping them more adaptable and resilient to climate change risks.

### Experts stress climate-ECD nexus, opportunities for early childhood investment as building block for adaptation, resilience



Dr. Adrian Cerezo, social ecologist and human development researcher, emphasised that ECD programs have multiple returns on investment (ROI) because they support communities immediately and into the future.

Adrian said climate change increases the risks to young



Nurturing policies and programs at the right moment make young children more resilient.

children and their families, through malnutrition; extreme poverty; disruptions in family, learning systems, and community life; toxic stress, trauma, and respiratory issues, among others.

He also articulated how adequate and well-timed ECD programs sow the seeds of

nurturing care so that young children have better life trajectory and therefore capacity to adapt to and be resilient against climate risks.

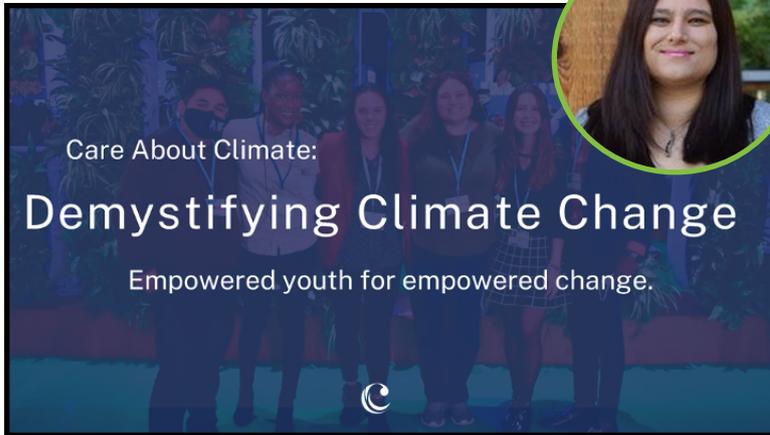
Natalie Lucas, founder of Care About Climate and specialist for the US Climate Action Network, clarified key concepts of climate science and walked through

international agreements and mechanisms to contain global warming, one of which was through the Nationally Determined Contributions or NDCs containing a set of commitments by governments to achieve the 1.5 degree limit to a maximum of 2 degrees.

Citing that the NDCs are not enough, Natalie also highlighted the transition in focus from climate mitigation to management at the global and national levels, although mitigation is deemed still important.

She also cited the shift to adaptation or how communities and systems adjust or behave in the face of climate risks and managing 'loss and damage' to life and property.

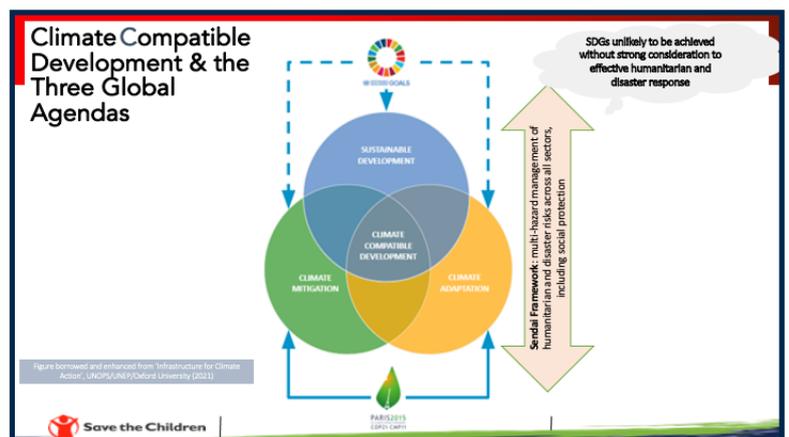
Meanwhile, in delivering the closing message, ECD Specialist Ana Maria Rodriguez of the UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office, reaffirmed UNICEF's commitment to support continuing dialogues and partnerships between ECD stakeholders and environmental scientists not only to make ECD heard in COP discussions, but also to affirm the need for sustainable investments for young children.



## From the Webinar Moderator

Rajib Ghosal, Regional Senior Technical Advisor for Climate Change at Save the Children Asia-Pacific Regional Office, highlighted the intersectionality of the three global agendas, particularly emphasising climate-compatible development.

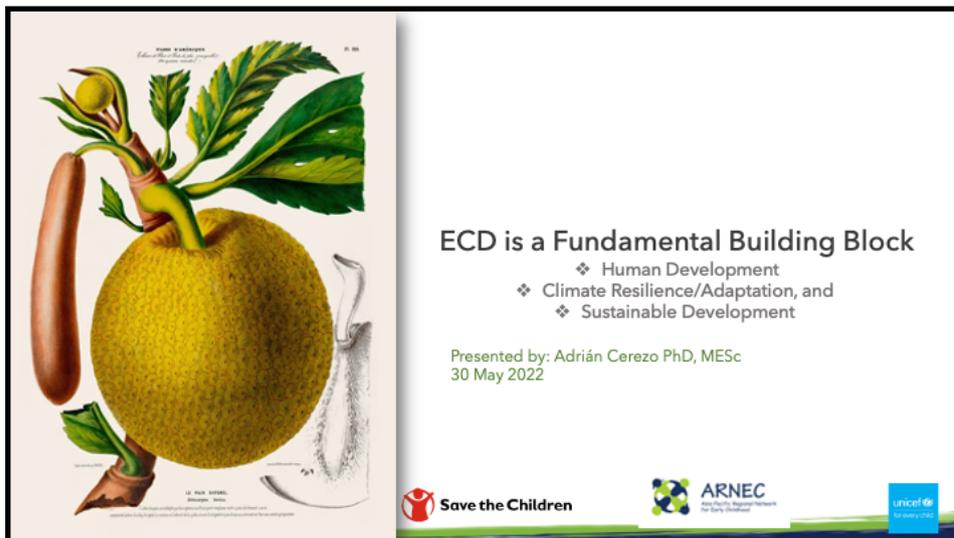
Rajib introduced the importance of effective humanitarian and disaster response based on the Sendai Framework, which is integral to managing 'loss and damage' presented by Natalie and also in sustaining the gains of the SDGs.





## Webinar insights and action points

- 1 Adequate, sustained and equitable investments for the early years essential to building the resilience of young children and their families and communities
- 2 Nurturing care priorities and ECD programs need to be part of national adaptation and resilience plans
- 3 Referencing young children as among the most vulnerable in the population in the face of climate change risks needs to be reframed to making ECD as a building block to sustainable development and climate action
- 4 Partnerships between ECD stakeholders and environmental scientists essential; continuing conversations necessary to foster alliances for ECD-informed climate action



Webinar presentation resources and recording are available in the ARNEC website or click through this link

<https://arnek.net/resource?id=313>



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