Call for Research Proposals for CLARE-ASEAN:

Accelerating Research for Sustainable and Inclusive Solutions for Enhanced Urban Resilience to Climate Change in ASEAN

Objectives and priorities

The CLARE Program, with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) and in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat, is implementing a two-year research program in ODA-eligible ASEAN members states. CLARE is funded by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO-UK) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC-Canada), and currently implements applied research projects in 30 countries across Africa and Asia.

The objectives of CLARE-ASEAN are to generate new knowledge and enhance the research capacity for understanding, identifying and enabling the urban resilience to climate change involving strengthening of physical, social and governance aspects. Specifically, CLARE-ASEAN aims to:

- enable socially inclusive and sustainable actions to support resilience to climate change and natural hazards, including through nature-based solutions;
- scale up research and innovation efforts to provide better information on climate risks, better decision-making tools, guidance, and better climate adaptation solutions to enable transformational change in ASEAN countries.

Research themes and scope

CLARE-ASEAN intends to focus on the following themes, and fund 3 to 4 research projects on these themes:

1. Multifaceted and hazard-agnostic urban-wide or sector-wide response to urban resilience to climate change, including: risks and resilience assessment, hotspot identification, structural aspects and means such as governance, policies, finance, integrated infrastructure, and other solutions that lead to structural change in the way city/sector can be better acted/governed/managed by urban planner/policy/decision makers.

2. Resilience against worsening urban heat extremes, including: assessment, monitoring and heat management options (e.g. infrastructure, technologies, Nature-based Solutions etc.), tradeoffs, and enabling means (e.g. planning, policies, financing, developing heat mitigation/ coping strategies and plans for cities).

Research leading to short/long-term sustainable solutions for most vulnerable groups and systems, with clear pointers to immediate actions by actors, including urban planners and decision/policy makers, are a priority under this call.

Potential alignment with IPCC's Special Report on Climate Change and Cities will be encouraged.

Research approach

The research will be done through implementation of activities that directly inform action through evidence, data and tools supporting urban climate resilience (in line with the CLARE theory of change, see Annex). In particular:

- Research will use place-based and transdisciplinary (e.g. integrating knowledge from across academic disciplines *and* from non-academic stakeholders) approaches. Projects integrate climate hazards, risks, as well as economic, institutional, cultural and political drivers that shape potentials for solutions for more inclusive and resilient urban futures and identify windows of opportunity for implementing resilient, transformative pathways.
- Research will be co-created with key users and contribute to strengthening capacity of those developing and applying the research, according to the Adaptation Research for Impact Principles (i.e. research designed to have direct impact on the ground, promoting action that enhances climate resilience in urban areas). Also see: https://clareprogramme.org/update/read-about-research-for-impact-approaches-in-clare-in-our-first-working-paper/.
- Research focuses on the most vulnerable urban system, communities, sectors, or infrastructure.
- Gender equality and inclusion principles are integrated in all aspects of the project life cycle including the research topic, methodologies, uptake, and team composition. For background on the CLARE approach to gender and inclusion, please consult the scoping study for CLARE by KIT (applicants may also consult IDRC's Equality Statement and FCDO's Women and Girls Strategy.
- Project will report against the CLARE theory of change and log frame (see Annex).

The above requirements could be met by employing lab-type approaches, "inclusive spaces where stakeholders, practitioners and researchers come together to co-design and test ideas, co-produce knowledge and co-evaluate solutions." To learn about how other CLARE projects are using lab-type approaches, see p. 13-15 in the CLARE working paper in R4I approaches. Other approaches also will be considered.

Multi-country approach

Proposals involving multi-country collaborations and partnerships (more than one) are encouraged, to foster collaborative knowledge sharing, building network with the researchers and stakeholders, and help scale up the outcomes.

Evaluation criteria

The research proposals will be evaluated against the following (equally-weighted) criteria:

1. **Relevance**: Relevance of research topic to given context of the place where research will be carried out (clear problem statements, need-based, solution-oriented, address most vulnerable segment of urban system) and in line with objectives stated in the Call for Proposal and overall CLARE Programme.
2. **Scientific quality, research design and methodology:** Clarity regarding research gaps, potential for new knowledge, robustness of research design and methodologies, expected quality of research and deliverables.
3. **Proposal's strength in view of project's feasibility**: Research strength and scholarship of the research team, and the practicality of research plan from the viewpoints of time, resources, expertise, and network.
4. **Positioning for impact:** Potentials for the project to make the intended impact with identified/targeted audiences including planners and decision makers, leading to solutions. Research could address long-term issues but there should be enough guidance for solutions that can be pursued immediately. This is encouraged through integration of co-creation and transformative lab-approaches and clarity on how project will continuously work and help to transform challenges of urban resilience towards solution climate change with targeted stakeholders. Evidence of partnership with stakeholders is needed but required only at a later stage (before the grant agreement, only for successful projects).
5. **Fostering network-approach to research:** Multi-country (more than one) institutions and Co-PIs and clear demonstration of collaborations and partnerships within and across researchers in the region and beyond.
6. **GESI contribution**: Gender equality and inclusion principles in the design, implementation, monitoring, and communications, including GEI expertise in the team, local stakeholders, how communities, including underrepresented groups are engaged, equitable partnerships, capacity strengthening for GESI work.

Target countries and eligibility

The target countries of this call are ODA-eligible ASEAN members states. The research must be led by PIs from research/academic/think tank institutions (with independent legal status) in the ODA-eligible ASEAN members states. Collaboration with researchers in other ASEAN member states and beyond the ASEAN region are encouraged; institutions beyond ODA-eligible ASEAN member states can be part of the proposal and a small resource (up to 10%) can be allocated.

Funding amount and duration

The funding for each project is in the range of CAD (equivalent) 400,000 - 500,000 and the number of projects to be selected in the range of 3 to 4, to be decided upon after receiving applications and evaluating their merits. The project duration will be 15 months from the date of the agreement signed.

Application deadlines

The Proposals must be received by midnight (Thailand time) of 15 March 2025; notification of tentative acceptance will be made within a month thereafter.

Successful applicants will be expected to join an inception workshop in Jakarta sometimes in early June.

Application modality

Applicants are required to submit the following (four) documents, in one email, by the specified deadline:

1. Research proposal - in the prescribed template file given below in MS Word format (editable), adhering to the word limit.
2. Financial proposal - in MS Excel sheet, available [here](https://idrc-crdi.ca/en/proposal-budget) (https://idrc-crdi.ca/en/proposal-budget) for which guidelines for preparing financial proposal indicating how to prepare budget and which costs are eligible for funding are mentioned [here](https://www.idrc.ca/sites/default/files/sp/Documents%20EN/resources/idrc-guidelines-for-acceptable-project-expenditures.pdf) (https://www.idrc.ca/sites/default/files/sp/Documents EN/resources/idrc-guidelines-for-acceptable-project-expenditures.pdf). Note this is the template used by IDRC, and budget and spending need to be compliant with IDRC rules.
3. One single pdf file including CV of PI, Co-PIs and others as appropriate. Each CV should not be longer that three pages.
4. One single pdf file including letters of support, as appropriate, from Co-PIs. Letter of support from stakeholders are encouraged but not mandatory at the proposal stage: successful projects will have to submit it before grant agreement as evidence of collaboration and co-creation.

A complete proposal should be submitted to CLARE-ASEAN@ait.ac.th with a copy to shobhakar@ait.ac.th by email with Subject Heading in email as "Submitting Proposal to CLARE-ASEAN Call: < Surname of PI>."

A brief online consultation, if necessary and requested, will be conducted for clarifications regarding this Call at 13.00 (Thailand time) on 03rd March 2025. Please register [here](https://ait-ac-th.zoom.us/meeting/register/ZaYS6E09SwGXZ0W-Ri66Yg) (https://ait-ac-th.zoom.us/meeting/register/ZaYS6E09SwGXZ0W-Ri66Yg) to request registration and to receive required information to join online consultation.
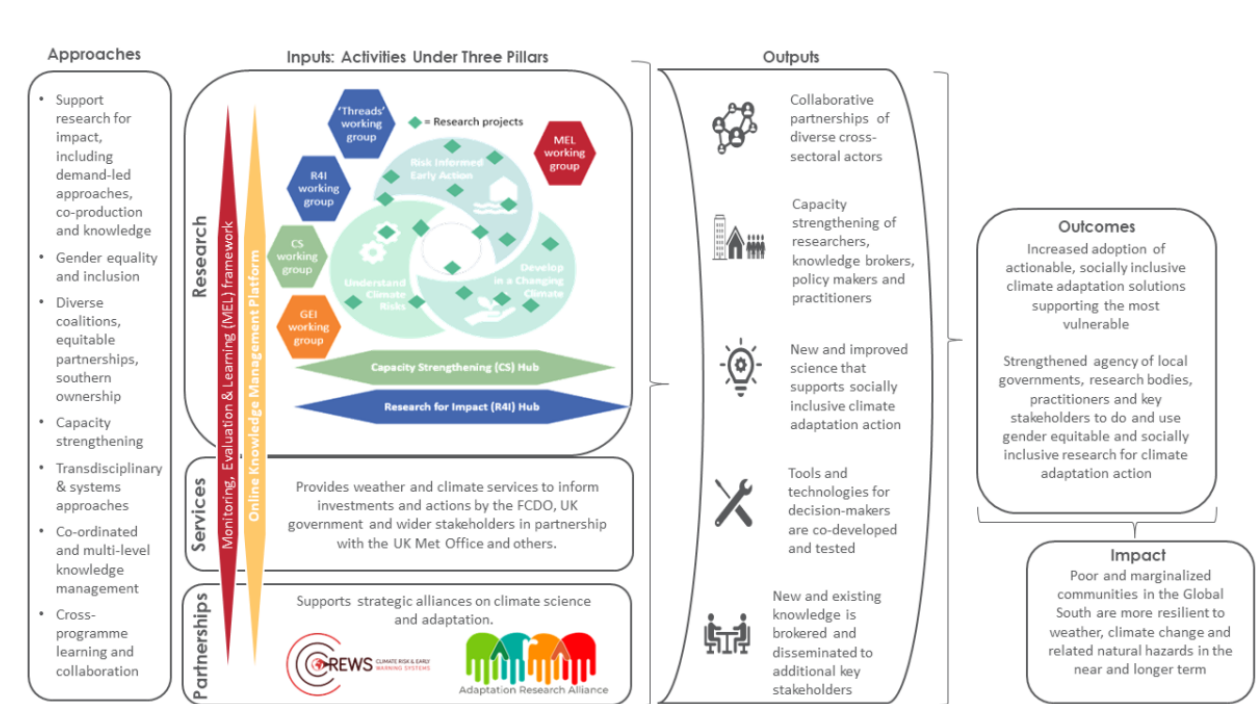
Annex: CLARE Theory of Change

Goal

To enable socially inclusive and sustainable action to build resilience and reduce vulnerability to risks from climate change and natural hazards for the most vulnerable through action-oriented research and capacity strengthening.

Objectives

- To accelerate *immediate action* on climate adaptation and resilience *by maximizing the uptake of existing knowledge at multiple scales* through development of climate services, tools, technology and innovation to inform policy and practice.

- *To drive the development of new knowledge to support adaptation and resilience of the most vulnerable* through transdisciplinary research that builds novel coalitions of actors dedicated to supporting urgent and future climate action.

- *To enable capacity to support sustainable climate-resilient development* in the Global South along the whole chain from research to action, across scales and regions.

- *To support socially inclusive practical action* by addressing social, economic and political barriers to adaptation.

CLARE links up short- and long-term issues by working across three interlinked themes:

- **Understanding climate risk**: Improving our understanding of the risks associated with climate and natural hazards that addresses gaps in the underpinning science.

- **Risk-informed early action:** Supporting early action to reduce impacts of climate variability, reducing humanitarian impacts on lives and livelihoods.

- **Developing in a changing climate:** Enabling long-term, sustainable and equitable economic and social development in a changing climate.

Projects will encompass one or more of these themes and promote the following approaches that underpin CLARE's efforts, and commit projects to address some of the above-listed assumptions:

- *Support for research for impact* through dedicated investments in research uptake, including demand-led approaches, co-production and brokering. CLARE endorses the **Adaptation Research for Impact Principles.**

- *Gender equality and inclusion* are integral to just and sustainable action. Transformative research and knowledge that addresses barriers experienced by the most vulnerable is critical for increasing resilience to climate-related risks.

- *Diverse coalitions and equitable partnerships* are critical to link research to action and to strengthen capacities along the research-to-action value chain. CLARE recognizes that *Southern-led research* is more likely to have an impact on adaptation policy and practice in Africa and the Asia-Pacific region.

- *Capacity strengthening* across the research-to-action value chain to improve implementation of evidence-based climate action, and support effective equitable and socially inclusive climate adaptation.

- *Co-ordinated and multi-level knowledge management***,** including investments in knowledge infrastructure and knowledge-exchange processes is necessary to support adaptive program management and research uptake.

- *Transdisciplinary systems approaches* to evaluating human-environment dynamics, impacts and potential adaptation and resilience-building responses will lead to more robust, inclusive and sustainable outcomes.

- *Facilitate cross-program collaboration and learning* through a portfolio approach.

Simplified version of the CLARE log frame

	Results	Indicator
IMPACT	Poor and marginalized communities are more resilient	• The extent to which CLARE is likely to lead to **transformational change** in capacity of key actors that builds the resilience of communities vulnerable to and affected by climate change • **Number of people** supported to better adapt to the effects of climate change
OUTCOMES	Increased adoption of climate adaptation solutions	• Number of government plans, policies or strategies that better integrate adaptation or improve climate resilience • Number of tools, data, technologies, models and approaches that are adopted by relevant actors • Number of organizations, institutions and communities that have adopted tools, data, technologies, models and approaches • 'Case-stories' that demonstrate increased influence and adoption of adaptation evidence and solutions
	Strengthened agency to do and use research for action	• Percentage of female and male researchers reporting strengthened capacity to do research • 'Case stories' that demonstrate strengthened agency of local governments, research bodies, practitioners and key stakeholders to do and use research • Monetary value of additional financing (in-kind and cash) secured • Sustainability of cross-sectoral partnerships and collaborations
OUTPUTS	Collaborative partnerships	• Number of organizations and inter-disciplinary partnerships that are part of CLARE • Number and percentage of CLARE partnerships that represent diverse research teams and/or include transdisciplinary focus

		• Number of engagement and outreach events for the purpose of sharing and encouraging use of evidence by key stakeholders
	Capacity strengthening	• Number of capacity-strengthening activities, attendees participating, and countries involved
	New and improved science	• Number of publications, working papers and grey literature produced
		• Number of adaptation solutions (tools, data, technologies, models, approaches) created or significantly improved
		• Quality of projects and activities on gender equality and social inclusion
	Tools and technologies co-developed and tested	• Number of organizations and people involved in co-developing and testing adaptation tools, data, technologies, models and approaches
		• Degree to which research is built with intended knowledge users, and intent to ensure findings are useful for knowledge users
		• Percentage of female and male users involved that report high satisfaction
	New and existing knowledge is brokered and disseminated	• Number of knowledge-brokering services delivered and organizations that receive those services
		• Percentage of organizations receiving knowledge-brokering services reporting high satisfaction

CLARE-ASEAN - Call Application Form

Applicants are expected to carefully read the Call, including its objectives, research themes and scopes, research approaches, evaluation criteria, timeline and align proposals concretely in line with these.

Section 1: Project general information

1.1.   Project Title

Enter a title of the proposed project (including a short acronym).

1.2.   Research Country(ies)

Please indicate country(ies) of project focus, i.e., countries where the research will be conducted.
Note: This Call will not be weighted on the basis of the number of countries where the project plans to work but this Call encourages multi-country(ies) proposal.

1.3.   Project Duration

Proposed **project duration in months**. The maximum duration of projects is **15 MONTHS**

1.4.   Total Budget Requested

Enter the total amount this project requests, in Thai Baht

Section 2: Applicant Information

2.1 Are you applying as an individual institution or as a consortium comprised of multiple institutions? (Choose an applicable option)

Individual institution
Consortia of multiple institutions

2.2 Is your institution legally registered in your country of operation?

Yes/No

2.3 When required, will you be able to provide audited financial statements?

Yes/No

2.4 Lead Applicant/Institution

Name of the institution	
Country	
Mailing address	
Website	

2.5 Project Leader

First and last name	
Title	
Telephone number (include country and area code)	
Email address	
Gender (not used for selection purposes)	

2.6 Type of Institution (Lead Applicant/Institution)

University/ academic institution/think tanks	
Non-Governmental organization (NGO)	

/Civil Society Organization (CSO)	
Private sector	
Other (please specify)	

Collaborating Institution(s) Information (if applicable)

Please fill out the following information for any collaborating institutions (specify up to five partner institutions, excluding the lead institution)

Collaborating Institution #1

Name	
Country	
Mailing Address	
Website	

Type of institution - Collaborating Institution #1

University/ academic institution/think tank	
Non-Governmental organization (NGO) /Civil Society Organization (CSO)	
Private sector	
Other (please specify)	

Project Lead in Collaborating Institution #1

First and last name	

Title	
Email address	
Gender (not used for selection purposes)	

Collaborating Institution #2

Name	
Country	
Mailing Address	
Website	

Type of institution - Collaborating Institution #2

University/ academic institution/think tanks	
Non-Governmental organization (NGO) /Civil Society Organization (CSO)	
Private sector	
Other (please specify)	

Project Lead in Collaborating Institution #2

First and last name	
Title	
Email address	
Gender (not used for selection purposes)	

Collaborating Institution #3

Name	
Country	
Mailing Address	
Website	

Type of institution - Collaborating Institution #3

University/ academic institution/think tank	
Non-Governmental organization (NGO) /Civil Society Organization (CSO)	
Private sector	
Other (please specify)	

Project Lead in Collaborating Institution #3

First and last name	
Title	
Email address	
Gender (not used for selection purposes)	

Section 3: Project Proposal

3.1 Problem Identification and Background (max. 500 words)

Clearly state the problem or opportunity your project seeks to address, as it relates to the research questions and priorities identified in this call. In this, explain how the proposed project seeks to address this problem and what contribution it seeks to make, and briefly highlight who is impacted by the problem or opportunity, how, and what solution the project seeks to test and/or scale, including gender equality and inclusion considerations (to be elaborated in questions below).

3.2 Project Questions and Objectives (max. 1000 words)

Clearly state the proposed project objective(s) and research question(s) - general and specific - and how these are relevant to affect intended change. The general objectives should state the goal being pursued, and how they relate to the guiding questions of this call. The specific objectives should indicate the type of knowledge to be produced, how it adds to existing knowledge, stakeholders to be engaged, and forms of capacity to be reinforced.

3.3 Project Design and Methodology (max. 750 words)

Outline research design, methods, data sources, and type of analysis to be applied to answer the key research questions. Describe how the project addresses gender, equality and inclusion considerations, as well as any intersectional approaches, and how these will be integrated at all stages of the proposed project.

3.4 Co-creation and lab-type approach (300 words)

Describe briefly how the research proposes to co-produce research questions and results with potential knowledge users, ensuring that the research is needs-driven, solutions-oriented, and geared towards intended results and impact. What strategies and approaches to co-creation will the project use? Keep in mind that co-creation requires going beyond basic engagement and consultation, and consider the use of co-creation lab approaches.

Note: Your proposal can include Letters/Expressions of Support from stakeholders and Letter of Intent from CO-PI institutions. These are not mandatory at this stage. However, successful grantees may need to show this as evidence before the grant agreement.

3.5 Anticipated Impact (max. 750 words)

Describe the envisaged outputs of the proposed project, anticipated outcomes and intended impact to which the project will contribute. Beyond research outputs, include a brief description of the changes or results you expect to affect within the life of the project, changes you hope to see (but cannot guarantee), and the impact you would love to contribute towards even if beyond the project timeframe and your sphere of control. Include insights on the significance and relevance of the anticipated results, the practical use of results, and impacts related to equality, inclusion and vulnerable communities.

Provide a preliminary indication of how you will track project-level progress to inform your work on an ongoing basis. Note that you will also be expected to report against relevant common indicators in the CLARE program log frame, including the number of people supported to better adapt to the effects of climate change through the project. Explain how the expected results will be achieved within chosen countries during the funding period.

3.6 Team Research Capacities (max. 750 words)

Describe the institution or consortium's expertise and previous research experience in relation to the project focus. Provide examples of how the team's previous work experience and thematic expertise match the needs of the proposed research activities.

If more than one research institution is part of the proposal, include a short description of the track record of each organization relative to its proposed role in the project, and a rationale of why this consortium has come together to implement the project, describing the role and added value provided by each institution.

Briefly describe project governance and coordination arrangements, and how the responsibilities will be shared among participating institutions.

CVs (3 pages max for each team member) must be attached to the submission.

3.7 Research Ethics and Safeguarding (max. 500 words)

Describe how research ethics and safeguarding issues will be upheld including prevailing institutional mechanism, if any.

3.8 Project Risks (max. 300 words)

Identify and outline the key risks to delivering your research objectives and plan. Describe strategies for risk mitigation.

Section 4: Budget

As CLARE-funded project, administered by AIT, the project budgets need to align with IDRC rules and procedures: information on budget items and guidance including maximum indirect cost is available here.

In the case of a consortium and collaboration between institutions, please submit one budget, including expenses of the lead institution.

Use the IDRC format in an excel sheet, which can be downloaded here, with an appropriate level of detailed breakdown of proposed expenses in each category. This should include the total of proposed expenses of all partners in the proposal.

Section 5: Attach CVs

Please attach CV of the project leader and CVs of the project leads from each collaborating institution.

CVs must not exceed THREE (3) pages each.

Note: Attach all CVs as ONE (1) single file in common format (for all) at the end of the proposal.

Section 6: Querry on Capacity Development Needs (300 words)

Please make suggestions on what, where and how your capacity to deliver the intended outcome can be enhanced and supported in CLEARE-ASEAN. Your feedback will assist in devising better support measures (incl. events) in CLARE-ASEAN activities.

CLARE is a flagship research programme on climate adaptation and resilience, funded mostly (about 90%) by UK Aid through the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), and co-funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada. CLARE is bridging critical gaps between science and action by championing Southern leadership to enable socially inclusive and sustainable action to build resilience to climate change and natural hazards.