

Historical Achievement for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Pasang Dolma Sherpa, PhD
Co-Chair of FWG, LCIP of UNFCCC

The adoption of the two year workplan of the Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples' Platform (LCIPP) by the closing plenary of Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) 51 on December 9, 2019 during the Conference of Parties (COP) 25 of the United Nation Framework Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Madrid has been an historical achievement for the recognition of the values and role of indigenous traditional knowledge and cultural practices while implementing three functions of the LCIPP: knowledge, capacity for engagement and climate change policies and action from January 2020.



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The history of the recognition of the role and contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities for climate change resilience took almost 20 years in the negotiations of climate change. The struggle of indigenous peoples began right from the beginning when the first world climate change conference was held in 1979. Indigenous elders who began their early journey in the climate change history said, "We were a handful of people there to scream for the rights of indigenous peoples to participate in the negotiation but we were hardly visible". However, along with the history of UNFCCC that formally entered into force in 1994 and held

the first session of the COP 1 of UNFCCC in 1995, indigenous elders have been continuously following the negotiation despite low in numbers, ultimately they led for the establishment of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) in 2008, the formal space as constituent negotiating body of indigenous peoples in the space of UNFCCC.

Although indigenous peoples have been contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation through their traditional knowledge and cultural practices for generations, their roles and contributions were hardly heard by the state parties and decision makers until the adoption of the LCIPP by COP21 in 2015. This has become the hope for indigenous peoples and local communities to exchange their knowledge and experiences, how they have been protecting the remaining biodiversity, ecosystems and natural resources that ultimately contributed to climate change resilience. COP 22 in 2016 welcomed the multi-stakeholders' dialogue between indigenous peoples and state parties that helped sharing the soothing ground for coming up with the decision of 3 functions of the platform by COP 23 in 2017. Finally, COP 24 in 2018 welcomed the establishment of the FWG and operationalization of the functions of the LCIPP comprising 14 members: one representative of a party from each of the five United Nations regional groups; one representative of a Party from a small island developing state; one representative of a least developed country Party and seven representatives from indigenous peoples organizations, one from each of the seven United Nations Indigenous Sociocultural regions: Asia, Africa, Central and South America and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe-Russian Federation-Central Asia & Trans Caucasia, North America, The Arctic and the Pacific.

I have been representing to the FWG as member from Asia. The first meeting of FWG that was held from 14 to 16th June 2019 began with the nomination of co-chairs, myself as representing from indigenous peoples and Mr. Majid Shafiepour from the state parties. This was the first formal meeting in the history of climate change negotiation where indigenous peoples' representatives were given the same space as parties for negotiation for the recognition of indigenous knowledge and cultural values that contributed for climate change resilience. The FWG-1 meeting came up with 2 years workplan with 12 activities to begin the implementation of the functions of LCIPP. FWG-2 meeting that was held from 28 to 30th November 2019 just prior to the COP 25 prioritized 5 activities to be started for the implementation from January 2020 lead by FWG members and contributions.

In the beginning of the negotiation of COP 25, despite a hope of the adoption of the workplan of the LCIPP, we were still not sure what would be our strategy if the workplan would not be adopted by SBSTA? However, we members of IIPFCC and FWG worked very hard to convince the parties for their full support for the adoption of the LCIP workplan so that we could already begin the journey of hope of empowering both indigenous peoples and state parties on the role and contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities for both climate change adaptation and mitigation by respecting, recognizing and promoting the indigenous knowledge and cultural practices and pass to the future generations for sustainable environment and development.

Although the outcome of COP 25 did not meet expectation of many delegates for respecting the Paris Agreement, silently I had to compromise with the adoption of the workplan of the LCIP that opened the door for our work into reality that would help for respecting, recognizing and promoting indigenous knowledge, skills and cultural practices for climate change resilience not only limited at global dialogue but also pervasive at the national and local levels too.