



Rain School Initiative in Monsoon region to overcome climate crisis

Rain For All (Non-governmental organization (NGO))

#SDGAction49796

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Description

Rainwater is recognized as directly related to the current climate crisis, especially the phenomena of flood and drought. It, however, has been receiving less attention among water management practices or even ignored or managed off-site instead of source-control. As people in the Monsoon region have traditionally suffered from droughts and floods each year, rainwater is either a blessing or a curse, depending on how they manage rainwater. They might also have cultivated site-specific wisdom to tackle climate issues, which should be learned and shared widely. Young people in particular, who are the leaders and owners of the world, must know how to survive unprecedented climate extremes while living in peace with friends and neighbors by gaining and sharing the wisdom of their ancestors. In this context, school is believed to be an ideal place to teach and learn creative ideas and spread knowledge to the community and society. The objective of this initiative is to raise the awareness of schools and students in each country about the importance of rainwater through international activities. The friendship made among young students would lay the foundation for the resilience of not only world peace but also climate change combat. To this end, "Rain School" and "Rain School Network" are proposed here, as school is the best place to harvest rainwater for drinking, exchange wisdom, and transfer knowledge. At Rain School, a Rain for Drinking system consists of the roof catchment area, gutter, first flush diverter, series of tanks, pump, and fountain is constructed, producing drinking water that meets National Drinking Water Quality Standards. The system is designed using a multiple-barrier concept and nature-based treatment method, supplying 0.5-1L of water to each student daily. Collected rainwater quality and quantity, as well as rainfall amount, are closely monitored mostly by the students. Water usage is self-regulated to minimize water shortage during the dry season. Remote consultation is provided through installed cameras and weekly reports. For innovative system maintenance and social promotion, a special group called BiTS ("Bi" means "rain" in Korean, "T" stands for "Teachers" and "S" for "Students") is formed. This group takes part in various Beauty (art and cultural exchange), Technology (system monitoring), and Social activities. They decorate the system, look for local ancient wisdom about water, and make creative dances. They then share the gained knowledge with their family and community, other school members, and society. International conferences and contests among different Monsoon Rain Schools are organized, drawing the attention, interest, and willingness to join BiTS groups and the Rain School Network. Another innovative idea is the creation of a SkyWater Committee, which consists of all parties: the school authority, Parent Association, rainwater experts, and local authority. It decides on necessary financial assistance and activities to ensure the system's safe and sustainable supply. Rain Schools are now operating in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Vanuatu. Laos and Myanmar's Rain Schools will start operation in 2023. The Rain School Network in Monsoon will soon expand to other regions, such as South Asia (SARNET) and Africa.

Expected Impact

Although rainwater has been used for drinking purpose throughout human history, it has been recently ignored due to technical challenges, such as poor quality of the harvested water, shortage during the dry season, and the lack of good models to follow. The proposed Rain School Initiative tackles these shortcomings in several ways. First and foremost, schools and youth are the primary beneficiaries of this initiative. The installed Rainwater for Drinking (RFD) system provides good drinking water necessary for students, through which schools save money on purchasing costly purified water or overpriced fuel to boil water. Student health thus is improved (SDG3). Thanks to ensured water security, students no longer waste time fetching water from far away, giving them more adequate study and improving their education (SDG4). Students also turn active in finding their own solutions to drinking water and climate change. They could influence their parents to change the prevalent misunderstanding surrounding rainwater, encouraging their families to make similar RFD systems at home and in the local community. Given the fact that most of the household water management is done by females, the system also contributes to gender equality, removing a heavy burden on women and girls (SDG5). After growing up and reaching all walks of life, they would spread these ideas to unlock the unlimited potential of rainwater. Moreover, through diverse activities at schools and international networks, students understand and appreciate the wisdom of neighboring countries and make friends with peers from different nations and ethnic groups. Starting from the Monsoon region, this Rain School Network will expand to other countries, especially those suffering from the recent climate crisis (SDG13). As the ultimate result of this initiative is the creation of an International Rain School Network, it emphasizes and strengthens the global partnership for sustainable development (SDG 17). When the Ministry of Education acknowledges the importance of rainwater and Rain School activities, they would devote effort to providing rainwater systems for all schools, even including it in the curriculum. Donors and international agencies then join hands, magnifying the Rain Schools in the world. This brand-new type of "micro-local ODA" outweighs the existing macro ODA in all aspects. In addition, when people recognize that roof-harvested rainwater is a good source of drinking water with proper design and maintenance, that RFD system is constructed using local materials and labor and sustainably maintained by local governance with a strong sense of ownership, it would expand to the whole society where the school belongs. This Rain School Initiative, therefore, serves as a game changer in achieving SDG 6.1. Last but not least, by taking advantage of rainwater – a free, precious and unlimited water resource that has often been called as "free gift from the sky" – this initiative also provides a brand-new approach to "Justice for All." It certainly will trigger an advanced water management paradigm of "Managing All Water, by All, for All," which helps promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development (SDG 16).

Partners

Rain For All
 Mekong Institute
 Seoul National University
 International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance (IRHA)

Additional information

International Seminar 1) 2021 SIWI Seminar on International Youth Rainwater Network (<https://youtu.be/mR5yBGkQBtc>) 2) 2022 SIWI

Action Network



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Timeline

- 01 January 2022 (start date)
- 31 December 2023 (date of completion)

Entity

Rain For All

SDGs

4 6 13

Region

Africa
 Asia and Pacific

Other beneficiaries

Schools in developing countries in Asia, Africa, and Pacific Islands
 Schools in Developed countries in the world



More information

<https://www.mekonginstitute.org/what-we-do/development-fund/mekong-republic-of-korea-cooperation-fund/fifth-mkcf-call/>

Countries

Cambodia

Seminar on Rain School Initiative in Monsoon Region to overcome climate crisis (<https://youtu.be/vreE8GmoLqW>) Contest Winning Essays (<https://baoquangninh.vn/hoc-sinh-quang-ninh-doat-giai-nhi-cuoc-thi-viet-luan-ve-hop-tac-mekong-han-quoc-3222932.html>) 1) Rain School Network: The Key for Mekong-ROK Cooperation in Tackling Climate Change 2) Visit the World-Best Rainwater for Drinking System at Nguyen Binh Khiem School, Vietnam News clips on Rain School Activities 1) Vietnam (<http://www.newkoreajournal.kr/590370>), 2) Cambodia (<https://fb.watch/hmWezvNhjG/>) 3) Thailand (<https://www.koraddaily.com/blog.php?id=15371&fbclid=IwAR0N2jOwRozNSMa5D1p-1RROu5gbDoY8LzG8pxdFLx1cgDsXgmbeOhUu3EU>) 4) Vanuatu (<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=vanuatu+rainwater+Korea&docid=603514807154843713&mid=6C147C360C08EA5B7D026C147C360C08EA5B7D02&view=detail&FORM=VIRE>) Homepage Links 1) World Health Organization (<https://www.who.int/vietnam/news/detail/31-08-2019-who-snu-and-vihema-collaborate-to-improve-wash-in-ly-nhan-district-hospital-ha-nam-province>) Congratulatory Remark from UNSG Ban Ki-moon 1) <https://youtu.be/dQh3EvedFI>

-  Lao People's Democratic Republic
-  Myanmar
-  Republic of Korea
-  Switzerland
-  Thailand

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