



United Nations
Climate Change

Testimonials compilation from the LCIPP Biregional Gathering for Asia and CEERFCAT

Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP)

What the LCIPP Biregional Gathering Meant to Participants

“ A photo beautifully reflects a moment of cultural pride—two respected LCIPP leaders wearing Aronnai during UNFCCC Climate Week 3 in Yeosu, Republic of Korea. The Aronnai carries deep meaning from the Bodo Indigenous community of Bodoland, Assam, Northeast India.”

- Markush Basumatary, Indigenous knowledge holder (Bodo Indigenous community of Assam in Northeast India)



Cultural significance

Aronnai is a traditional handwoven ceremonial scarf of the Bodo people. It is not just clothing—it is a symbol of identity, honour and cultural heritage. Aronnai is used to honour and welcome guests, elders and leaders during ceremonies and gatherings. It is handwoven by Bodo women, with skills passed down through generations. Made mainly from cotton, it features colourful geometric and nature-inspired motifs, including flowers and birds.

Photo credit:

“ Warmest thanks to everyone who participated in the LCIPP Biregional gathering - the knowledge holders and practitioners, the members of the Facilitative Working Group, and the UNFCCC LCIPP team. I deeply appreciate the space for meaningful dialogue, shared learning, and collaboration, and for collectively amplifying the voices and lived realities of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. I remain encouraged by the strong spirit of partnership and look forward to continuing this work together.”

- Rodne Galicha, Local knowledge holder Rodne Galicha (Local communities in Sibuyan Island in the central Philippines)

“It was great to meet you and I wish the FWG & LCIPP strength and wisdom in the process. Thank you to the FWG for organizing everything and making us feel so welcome. Sanatate si numai bine!”

- Ramona Duminicioiu, Local knowledge holder (Local communities from Bucharest, Romania)

“Tashi Delek everyone. It has been a great week with everyone and thank you for all the memories, learning and connections. Hope to share each other’s presence in future as well. Blessings and prayers for everyone’s incredible work.”

- Pema Wangmo Lama, Indigenous knowledge holder (Mugum Indigenous Peoples from Nepal)

What the LCIPP Biregional Gathering Meant to Participants

"We didn't meet as delegates. We met as people carrying our homes on our backs. An elder who reads rivers by memory. A farmer who revived a seed variety in her backyard. A youth who maps floods by walking them. We are not climate experts by degree. We are local knowledge holders, indigenous communities, survivors who became storytellers."

"I came from the mountains of Pakistan. Others came from islands, deltas, forests. We sat in circles, not rows. We shared stories, not slides. Real initiatives. Real failures. Real silence when someone finally admitted ."

"These moments are proof that the mountain, the island, and the village already sat at one table."

- Shamim Baig, Local knowledge holder
(Mountain community in Pakistan)



Shamim Baig · 2nd

Sustainability Advocate | Researcher | Founder YANG | ...

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Last week in Yeosu, these faces became my allies. We didn't meet as delegates. We met as people carrying our homes on our backs. An elder who reads rivers by memory. A farmer who revived a seed variety in her backyard. A youth who maps floods by walking them. We are not climate experts by degree. We are local knowledge holders, indigenous communities, survivors who became storytellers.

I came from the mountains of Pakistan. Others came from islands, deltas, forests. We sat in circles, not rows. We shared stories, not slides. Real initiatives. Real failures. Real silence when someone finally admitted, "I never asked my community what they need."

Now I'm taking that fire home. To gather young people in indigenous communities. To tell them , your story is the solution they keep looking for.

These moments are proof that the mountain, the island, and the village already sat at one table. We just had to bring Yeosu to us.

Let's keep building.

@UNFCCC_RCC_AsiaPacific

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Photo: screenshot of LinkedIn post by Shamim Baig

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What the LCIPP Biregional Gathering Meant to Participants

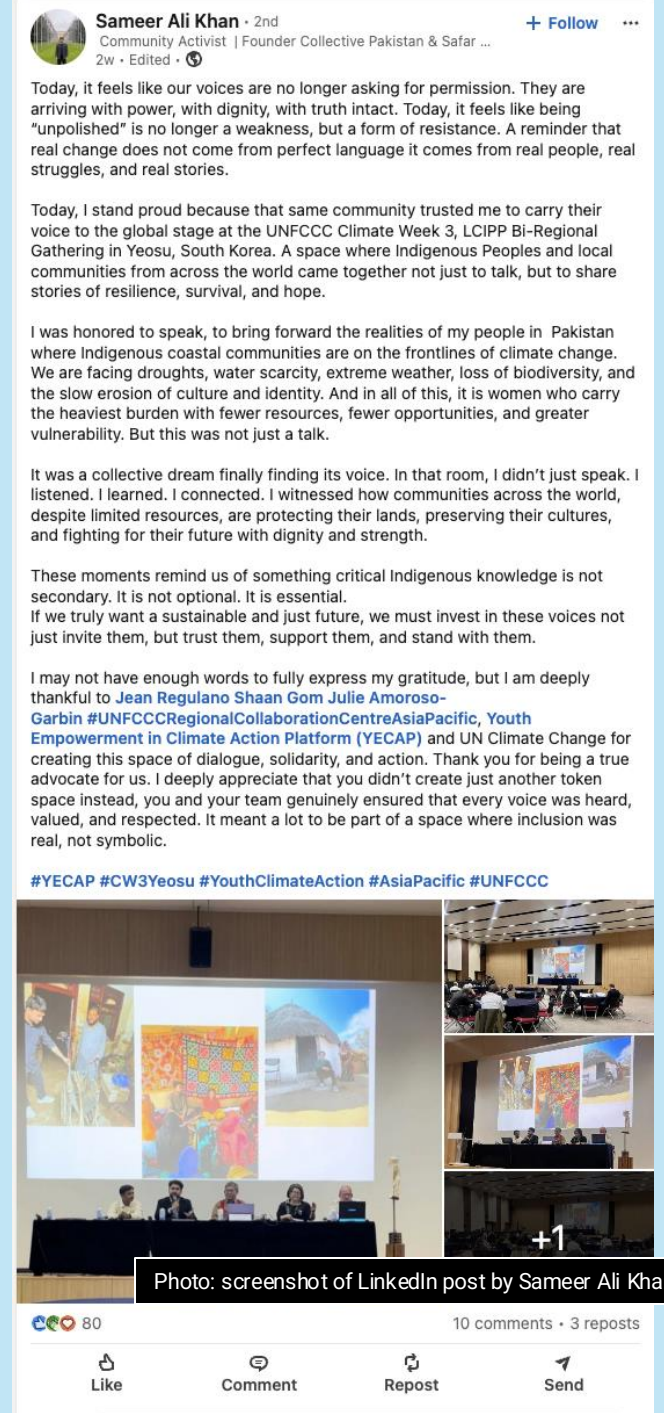
"Today, it feels like our voices are no longer asking for permission. They are arriving with power, with dignity, with truth intact. Today, it feels like being "unpolished" is no longer a weakness, but a form of resistance."

"A space where Indigenous Peoples and local communities from across the world came together not just to talk, but to share stories of resilience, survival, and hope."

"It was a collective dream finally finding its voice. In that room, I didn't just speak. I listened. I learned. I connected. I witnessed how communities across the world, despite limited resources, are protecting their lands, preserving their cultures, and fighting for their future with dignity and strength."

"You didn't create just another token space... every voice was heard, valued, and respected."

- Sameer Ali Khan, Indigenous and local knowledge holder (Coastal community of Thatta, Pakistan)



What the LCIPP Biregional Gathering Meant to Participants

“Spaces like the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) are not only important they are necessary. For many Indigenous Peoples, meaningful participation in global climate processes continues to be challenging, shaped by structural barriers, limited resources, and unequal access.”

“What stood out in this gathering was the sense of safety and belonging it created. It brought together knowledge holders from diverse regions in a space where experiences could be shared openly, where perspectives were respected, and where community realities were understood not questioned. These moments matter. They remind us why this work continues, even when the path is not always supported by resources or recognition.”

“Personally, this experience strengthened my commitment to continue working in this space because beyond the challenges, there is purpose, responsibility, and a shared vision that connects us all.”

- Niya Tapo, Indigenous knowledge holder (The Idu Mishmi Indigenous Community in India)



Niya Tapo · 2nd

Indigenous Climate Advocate | COP28 & COP29 Delegate | ...
2w · 🌐

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Participating in the LCIPP Biregional for Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, the Russian Federation, Central Asia, and Transcaucasia was held in Yeosu, Republic of Korea. The four regional gathering during Climate Week in Yeosu was a meaningful and grounding experience.

Spaces like the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) are not only important they are necessary. For many Indigenous Peoples, meaningful participation in global climate processes continues to be challenging, shaped by structural barriers, limited resources, and unequal access.

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Personally, this experience strengthened my commitment to continue working in this space because beyond the challenges, there is purpose, responsibility, and a shared vision that connects us all.

Looking ahead, I hope such spaces continue to grow ensuring that Indigenous voices are not only present, but supported, valued, and able to shape climate action meaningfully.



Photo: screenshot of LinkedIn post by Niya Tapo

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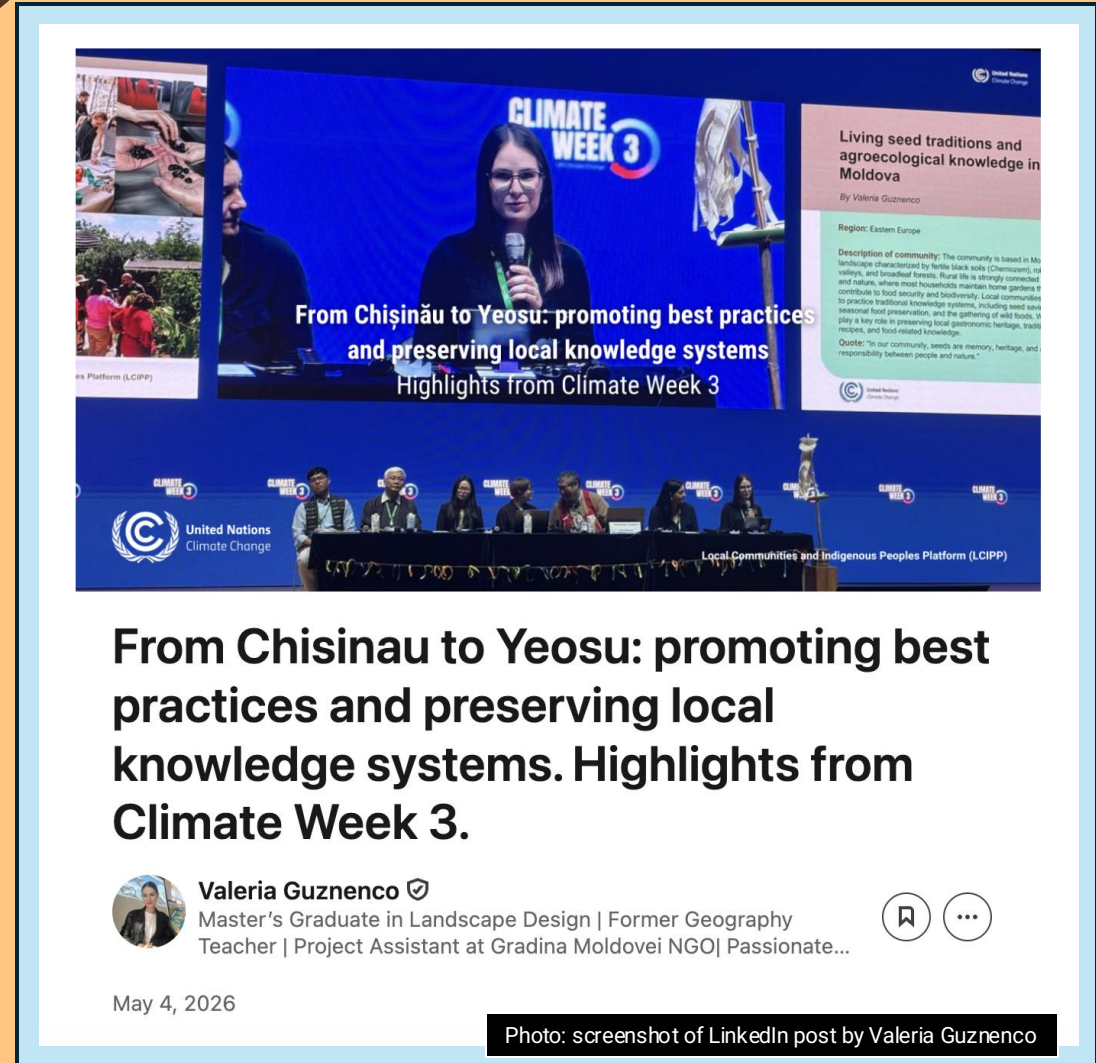
Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP)

What the LCIPP Biregional Gathering Meant to Participants

“This gathering marked the first time that representatives of local communities from our region participated in such a format. After learning about this opportunity, I applied – and discovered that Moldova had not yet been represented on this platform. It was both a responsibility and an important opportunity to bring forward local perspectives.”

“This experience highlighted the importance of connecting local knowledge with global processes. It reinforced the idea that real solutions to climate challenges already exist within communities – but they need recognition, support, and integration into policy and finance systems.”

- Valeria Guznenco, Local knowledge holder (The local communities from the Republic of Moldova, Eastern Europe)



What the LCIPP Biregional Gathering Meant to Participants

From: Photo: screenshot of email response from Doris Borna Mae Esteban
Sent: Monday, 18 May, 2026 7:08
To: Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform <LCIPP@unfccc.int>
Subject: Re: LCIPP Biregional Gathering for Asia and Central and Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia regions

Dear LCIPP Secretariat,

Once again, I am deeply thankful for the opportunity you have given me to join the Biregional Sharing. Yes, I am giving my consent to use the materials and any of the responses I shared during the event.

My additional reflections on the biregional sharing:

I am honored to have been given the opportunity to join such an important event where we were able to share some of the initiatives done by Indigenous Peoples in our part of the world as well as gain updates and insights from all the different Climate Week events that occurred. These updates garnered shall help me and my colleagues a more informed facilitation of community-based meetings and discussions, allowing more community-based counterparts to impart updates on climate initiatives and decisions happening at the regional and global levels.

I can remember the Loss and Damage session where one of the things I realized and commented was that there seems to be a need to increase information dissemination for L&D as most Indigenous Peoples working on the ground are uninformed of the developments on the said topic, despite the fact that many Indigenous communities are affected by L&D. In fact, it may be good to further target information dissemination on the ground level re global discussions on climate action, thereby ensuring that discussions and decisions are fully and properly informed and inclusive.

As for our efforts on the ground here in the Philippines, revitalizing age-old knowledge as well as slowly welcoming helpful innovations with regard to agri-food systems is becoming a trend because Indigenous Peoples have realized that commercial agricultural practices--the use of hybrid seeds, commercial fertilizers and pesticides have only increased the loss of biodiversity in their areas, bringing forth--and exacerbating--the occurrence of landslides, floods, water shortage, and increased non-fertility of the soil. Thus, many Indigenous groups are now calling for the revitalization and bringing back of their Indigenous food systems, going back to the use of organic farm inputs and heirloom seeds, which are also more resilient to climate change.

Once again, I deeply thank the Secretariat for allowing and supporting my participation in the recent biregional gathering of the LCIPP. Rest assured that all I have learned shall be used and shared to others, allowing better informed work not only for climate adaptation and mitigation but also for biodiversity conservation and beyond.

Thank you very much.

doris

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- Doris Borna Mae Esteban , Indigenous knowledge holder (The Indigenous Ibaloy from La Trinidad, Benguet, Cordillera Administrative Region, Philippines)

What the LCIPP Biregional Gathering Meant to Participants



Photo: screenshot of email response from Mariam Jorjadze

To: Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform; Polina Shulbaeva; Markush Basumatary; +54 more

Dear LCIPP colleagues,

Thank you very much for your kind message and for the excellent organization of the LCIPP Biregional Gathering and Climate Week events in Yeosu.

It was a very inspiring experience to exchange with Indigenous Peoples and local communities from different regions and to learn from the diverse knowledge systems, practices and experiences shared during the gathering. I highly appreciated the open and respectful atmosphere created throughout the event.

Please consider this email as my consent to upload and use the case stories, videos, photos and related materials shared during the gathering on the event webpage, and in relevant documentation and summary reports. I also appreciate the opportunity to contribute reflections for the future LCIPP workplan. The discussions during the gathering were very important, and I believe they can help strengthen the recognition of community-based knowledge, agroecology, biodiversity conservation and locally-led climate action in future processes.

Thank you once again for your important work and continued support for Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

With best regards,
Mariam

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"The discussions during the gathering were very important, and I believe they can help strengthen the recognition of community-based knowledge, agroecology, biodiversity conservation and locally-led climate action in future processes."

- Mariam Jorjadze, Local knowledge holder (Local farming communities in Georgia, the South Caucasus)