**Engaging Researchers in Capacity Building**

 Capacity building requires sharing of skills and knowledge, both to accomplish immediate tasks and to improve the capacities of everyone involved to accomplish future tasks.  The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) addressed capacity building and has continued to stress its importance ever since.

 Article 11 of the Paris Agreement stresses the importance of capacity building to developing countries.  Capacity building requires matching identified needs to skills and knowledge, and bringing people together in order to solve problems and raise the capabilities of everyone participating.  Long-term collaborations will produce teams that can address current and future climate problems

 The Research and Independent Non-Governmental Organizations (RINGOs) are one of the nine civil society constituencies under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).  Members of the RINGOs study just about every aspect of climate change.  Most RINGOs are affiliated with universities or think tanks around the world, with a concentration in the global north.  The researchers who attend the COPs are interested in the negotiations, and many share their research with parties and civil society at the COPs.  Our members belong to extended networks of researchers throughout the world, and play an important role in bringing issues raised at the COPs home to engage colleagues in discussions about needs for further research, opportunities for research collaborations, and needs for training and partnerships to plan, implement, and evaluate climate programs.

 Researchers from all disciplines have been studying every aspect of climate change, and have developed theories, knowledge, skills, and technologies that can be applied in climate challenges.  But researchers often lack understanding of how to apply their work to real world problems.

 Practitioners know how to turn knowledge into practice, but often lack understanding of local customs and conditions.  Interactions with local researchers and community planners provide the important contextual framework essential to plan and implement successful projects.

 Educators teach skills and knowledge to prepare the next generation for the challenges of climate change.  Educators also inform the public about the causes and impacts of climate change, and the need for action to protect vulnerable communities and ecosystems.

 The RINGOs and their colleagues provide a rich network of researchers, practitioners, and educators who can contribute skills and knowledge to climate-related policies and projects.  By working together, we can solve problems and build the capacities of all participants.