

Keynote Presentation – Climate Change Adaptation for Small Island States: Education, Visioning and Community Action as Critical Components

Therese Ferguson

Abstract

Whilst climate change mitigation strategies are necessary and should be pursued by the global community, within the current climate crisis, small island states in particular must address adaptation strategies with urgency. These countries, highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change on their populace, economies, infrastructure, physical environments and more, must respond to the crisis with measures to reduce vulnerabilities and enhance resiliencies. To ensure meaningful adaptation efforts, three key facets are needed: (i) education, to enhance knowledge and action competencies; (ii) visioning, of both undesirable and desirable futures, so as to inspire engagement in actions that further the optimistic, sustainable futures of these nations; and (iii) community action given the power, knowledge, and long-term commitment inherent in localised, collaborative efforts. With specific reference to the Caribbean, these three facets will be explored to illustrate their potency in climate change adaptation.