

Provisional programme

Disaster risk reduction in Asia: identifying and maximising opportunities for action

Monday 12 – Wednesday 14 December 2011 | WP1125

To be held in Pattaya, Thailand

Aim

To convene a highly participative forum for experts from Asia and elsewhere to discuss the priorities and next steps for approaches to disaster preparedness, mitigation and sustainable risk reduction strategies across Asia. This conference forms an important part of the 25th anniversary celebrations of the Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC).

Organisers

The conference is organised by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) in collaboration with Wilton Park of UK. The event is financially supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Objectives

- To bring together key actors from Asia working on disaster preparedness and risk reduction at sub-national, national, regional and international level, to identify opportunities which can be maximised to ensure greater risk reduction in Asia over the next 25 years in the face of increased risks from climate change and ongoing risks from geologically driven disasters.
- Highlight the potential increase in severe weather events as an expected result of climate change, identify their impact in Asia and appropriate disaster risk reduction (DRR) responses, linked to the recent IPCC report on Severe Weather Events. Include experts working on climate change adaptation to meet with DRR experts.
- Identify new opportunities for disaster risk reduction and how these can be applied, for instance through the use of the media, working with climate change adaptation programmes and economic development programmes particularly in urban settings.

Questions to address include:

How should Asia develop its approaches for reducing the risk from disasters in the coming years? What are the likely trends in climate related disasters which Asia will face and what opportunities can help reduce risks? What are the lessons from DRR approaches taken so far in Asia and elsewhere which would help future strategies? How can new scientific and technological advances help reduce risks? How to ensure their application? What systems work best at country and sub-national level in managing risks? What priorities for Asia's DRR agenda in the next few years? How

can a regional approach be strengthened?

(Speakers invited - * denotes unconfirmed)

Sunday 11 December

1500-1830 Participants registration

1830-2030 Reception drinks followed by dinner

Monday 12 December

0800-0900 Breakfast

0900 Registration

0915-0930 **Welcome and introduction**

Bhichit Rattakul

Executive Director, Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), Bangkok

Katja Nordgaard

Ambassador, Royal Norwegian Embassy, Bangkok

Robin Hart

Director for Programmes, Wilton Park, Steyning

0930-1100 **1. Lessons from recent mega-disasters**

What lessons from the recent floods in Pakistan and Thailand? Are current resilience indicators satisfactory? How can disaster risk reduction programmes adapt to such lessons? How to ensure DRR is a central point of planning?

Thai floods

Bhichit Rattakul

Executive Director, Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), Bangkok

Pakistan floods

Ahmed Kamal

Member (DRR), Planning, National Disaster Management Authority, Islamabad

1100-1130 Tea/coffee (and conference photograph)

1130-1215 **1a. Lessons from recent mega-disasters (confirmed)**

Lessons learned from Wenchuan earthquake and the implication for the disaster risk reduction

What can we learn from the Wenchuan earthquake in 2008 (also known as the Sichuan earthquake)? How to share key lessons and expertise on DRR? What are the major issues for DRR in relation to future earthquake disasters?

Wang Xiaoqing

Director, Earthquake Disaster Research Centre, Institute of Earthquake Science, China Earthquake Administration, China

1215-1245

2. Future risks and impacts: global trends and lessons for Asia

What are the expected trends in natural disasters globally and for Asia specifically? How are climate changes likely to impact the region? How will trends such as growing urbanisation, food insecurity and migration shape the likely impact of disasters? What lessons for Asia in reducing the risk and impact? How can Asia's recent experience in disaster risk reduction help its future approaches? How can development be disaster proofed? How to link programmes to adapt to climate change to DRR work and maximise leverage?

Chair: **Amit Jha**

Joint Secretary, National Disaster Management Authority, New Dehli

Oliver Lacey-Hall

Head UN OCHA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, UNOCHA, Bangkok

1245-1400

Lunch

1400-1515

3. Science and technology: opportunities for reducing risks

How have science based approaches such as mapping, forecasting and modelling supported the definition of risk in Asia and elsewhere? How have scientific applications been successfully transferring the scientific developments to practical application? What are the constraints in their deployment? How have successful projects overcome these? What has worked and why? What new science will prove valuable for reducing current and future risks? How can science support DRR practitioners? What kind of technologies might be useful in response to climate change for example reducing the impact of flooding? Where might science developments in adaptation to climate change provide added resilience to risk from severe weather events? What role could such new technological advances as urban cooling and reengineering reduce risk?

3a. Using new science and technology: how can this shape the future of DRR?

Chair: **Daniel Pruce**

Deputy Head of Mission, British Embassy, Bangkok

Using new technologies in mapping

Einar Bjørgo

Head of Humanitarian Rapid Mapping, Applications and User Relations, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), Geneva

Earthquake mapping in Bangladesh

Maksud Kamal

National Expert, UNDP/Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme, Dhaka

1515-1535

Tea/coffee

1535-1645

3b. Using new science and technology: how can this shape the future of DRR?

The role of the GFDRR labs

Andrew Ross

Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) Labs, World Bank, Washington DC

The Philippines experience in forecasting

Antonia Loyzaga

Executive Director, Regional Climate Systems Programme, Manila Observatory, Quezon City

1645-1655

Short break

1655-1815

4. Disaster risk financing: how to maximise opportunities?

How to fund disaster risk? How to maximise opportunities for applying DRR in broader development projects and funding?

Mihir Bhatt

Managing Trustee, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute, Ahmedabad

***Haresh Shah**

Professor Emeritus, Stanford University, Stanford

Sanny Jegillos (in principle)

Practice Coordinator a.i. and Regional Programme Coordinator, UNDP, Bangkok

1900

Dinner out at local restaurant (to be advised)

Tuesday 13 December

0800-0900

Breakfast

Managing intensive and extensive risks: systems based solutions

0900-1030

5. Reducing intensive risks: what is working? what next?

Focusing on disasters which occur rarely but with acute intensity such as earthquake, volcano, tsunami. How have systems-based solutions reduced and enabled better management of risk? What has worked and why? What have been the constraints in ensuring better systems based approaches? How have successful projects overcome these? What lessons from earthquake preparedness measures in Chile and New Zealand?

Amod Mani Dixit

Executive Director, National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET), Kathmandu

Jonathan Griffin

Geophysicist, AusAid - Australia-Indonesia Facility for Disaster Reduction (AIFDR), Jakarta

1030-1100

Tea/coffee

1100-1230

6. Reducing the risk of extreme weather events: what is working? what next?

How have systems-based solutions reduced and enabled better management of risk? What has worked and why? What have been the constraints in ensuring better systems based approaches? How have successful projects overcome these?

With an expected increase in extreme weather events what are the appropriate next steps for Asia in integrating the climate change adaptation work in DRR to reduce the risks? What lessons can be shared from new initiatives and developments in country-based approaches?

Huang Jinch

Chief Engineer, Department of Water Hazard, China Research Institute of Water Resource and Hydropower, Ministry of Water Resources, Beijing

Rebecca McNaught

Senior Programme Officer, Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre, Victoria

How to apply systems approaches from other sectors: preventing health disasters

James Rudge

Research Fellow, Communicable Diseases Policy Research Group, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Bangkok

1230-1345

Lunch

Applications of risk reduction: new opportunities

1345-1515

7. Urban settings

How can Asian approaches in reducing risks be focused adequately on urban areas and megacities? What distinct impact might climate change have on urban areas? How to engage best with the municipal authorities and urban communities? What linkages can be made between climate change adaptation measures and increasing resistance to risk?

Ashvin Dayal

Managing Director, Asia Office, The Rockefeller Foundation, Bangkok

Asian case studies

N.M.S.I. Arambepola

Director, Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), Bangkok

1515-1540

Tea/coffee

1540-1700

8. Engaging the communities: why and how?

Plenary presentations followed by discussion in smaller groups

How to get the risk reduction messages across? What messages work best? How to involve different actors such as community based approaches? How to work best in partnerships?

Chair: **Marcus Oxley**

Chairman, Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction, Teddington

Gwendolyn Pang

Secretary General, Philippines Red Cross, Manila

Manu Gupta

Chief Executive Officer, Seeds India, New Delhi

Discussion in smaller groups: Suggested themes

1. Engaging with affected communities: how to do this better?
 2. Getting the messaging right: including how to engage with the national and local media: how? Using new messaging systems (mobile phone, technology)
 3. Interpreting science: how to get the message across?
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1700-1730

9. Feedback from discussion groups and round-table discussion

Chair: **Marcus Oxley**

Chairman, Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction, Teddington

1730-1830

10. Concluding discussion: fulfilling the needs of Asia

How to maximise opportunities across Asia in developing the next stage of disaster risk reduction policies and practices across the region? What can ADPC do to support region-wide strategies? What can individuals do as a result of participation?

Round-table discussion with a few participants invited to lead off the discussion

Chair: **Bhichit Rattakul**

Executive Director, Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), Bangkok

1900

Dinner

Wednesday 14 December

0800-0900

Breakfast

0900

Participants depart

This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.

Enquiries about the programme can be directed to:

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Enquiries about participation and local travel to:

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