

## Statement of Voluntary Commitments of Asia Science, Technology and Academia Stakeholder Group for the 6<sup>th</sup> Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction

#### 22-26 June 2014

### Bangkok, Thailand

The need to address disaster events requires a more strategic integrated approach of all scientists, engineers, policy makers, insurance industry and mass media to make disaster risk reduction a reality. This stakeholder group provides a platform from which to launch trans-disciplinary, multi-sectorial alliances for the advancement of disaster risk science, monitoring, research and academic programs. The main objectives are the following:

- Research: Promote, prioritize and advance research on natural, social, engineering and technology aspects of disaster risk in an integrated environment; enhance team efforts in hazard and disaster monitoring and research, building on existing networks, universities and initiatives; and integrating various stakeholder needs on all levels.
- Higher education: Strongly promote multi-disciplinary disaster risk reduction in university education as well as professional training. This will ensure human resource development in the DRR field.
- Integration: Ensure that disaster research programs, policies, and applications are integrated across disciplines, and contribute to enhancing policy-making and capacity building for the effective DRR and sustainability.
- Global Standards: Develop and coordinate globally standardized open source information and data, , event documentation and analysis procedures, guidelines and frameworks for integrated and effective disaster risk management and sustainable development.
- Awareness: Raise awareness of decision-makers and the public by promoting effective, integrated, demand-driven, evidence-based disaster risk initiatives and increased advocacy.
- Increase Funding: Motivate funding sources (public, private, humanitarian, development, scientific, etc.) to allocate priority funding to address the urgent need for applied and basic integrated research on disaster risks.
- 1. Actions related to the three sub-themes of the conference (Community Resilience; Public investments and Private Sector engagement):

- I. Community resilience
  - Engage in innovative community based action research.
  - Promote higher education linked to communities with engagement of university students.
  - Enhance regional cooperation on disaster information management.
- II. Public investment
  - Enhance funding for cutting edge monitoring (including in-situ and space-based) and implementation research in disaster risk reduction.
  - Target specific higher education programs in DRR in public universities.
  - Increase funding for trans-disciplinary hazard, risk and DRR research with emphasis given to application of research for international, bilateral, and trilateral funding.
- III. Private sector engagement
  - Enhance private sector participation in demand-driven research in risk reduction.
  - Promote private sector support to independent academic research on climate risks.

### 2. Actions related to evolving HFA2 priorities:

- I. Close collaboration with major stakeholders. This includes stakeholders from science, academic and research organizations, space agencies, UN organizations, international relief agencies, leading international and regional development banks, and national civil protection agencies, local governments, and other end users.
- II. Improve understanding of integrated approaches to DRR with local, national, regional and global awareness-raising programs, training, and advocacy.
- III. At local/ national level, set the target for number of universities providing higher education.
- IV. Actively engage and support scientific and technical communities to inform decision making, and ensure policy is informed by both science and lessons learned.
- V. Ensure that disaster risk data and information are timely and easily understandable to local managers and integrated with existing disaster risk management systems taking into account the cultural context of risk perception.
- VI. Ensure research approaches have practical applications, are consistent with and actively engage stakeholders from all sectors and are sensitive to gender and cultural differences.
- VII. Support the establishment of an international science, academia and technological advisory mechanism for disaster risk reduction to strengthen resilience for the post-2015 agenda.

- VIII. Full cycle of DRM supports at global and regional/local scales at all levels of government and for users across sectors.
- IX. Identify and prepare scientifically informed multi-hazard risk assessments and scenarios.
- X. Encourage cross-sectorial cooperation that makes best use of available information and technology in an open access environment.
- XI. Support the use and development of science and technology, including in-situ and space-based Earth observations, geospatial information technologies, modeling and prediction, information and communication technologies
- XII. Promote the adoption of standard hazard, vulnerability and risk profiles for use by all stakeholders for integration into disaster-resilient development and sectorial planning.
- XIII. At regional level, the AUEDM will provide technical resources to set up the curriculum.
- XIV. Raise awareness amongst decision-makers at all levels to commit to and apply inputs from science, academia and technological domain into policies, funding and legal means for integrated DRR initiatives.
- XV. Scale up advocacy with the wider public, mainly through the media and civil society organizations for the development of a culture of resilience, prevention and safety.
- XVI. Promote a holistic, scientific-based approach in natural hazards and disaster risk education and training by promoting integration into curricula in schools and communities.
- XVII. Promote increased investment in integrated disaster risk reduction (DRR) research, and develop policy guidelines for integrating DRR into development.
- XVIII. Promote an increase in disaster management and humanitarian funding for integrated DRR research to ensure that DRR is fully integrated in strategies, and programmes.
- XIX. Ensure that development funding sources follow-up the resourcing provided for DRR by disaster management and humanitarian agencies with the required integration of DRR in development sectorial funding.
- XX. Ensure the necessary investments to further enhance and sustain the existing capacity in observing, monitoring and application of weather, climate, weather and related environmental services in support of the DRR.
- 3. Each action to specify:
  - I. Short-term target by 2016
    - At least 5 countries in Asia-Pacific regions will have at least 2 universities providing Master level programs in DRR.
    - Increase the number of science ministries, national science foundations, and national academies of sciences involved in hazard, risk and DRR research and application by 5%.

Final

•

# The AXA Research Fund, the scientific philanthropy initiative of the AXA insurance group is committed to grant EUR 100M to global basic academic Research from 2013 to 2018. It actively seeks partnerships with academic institutions on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Risks studies, notably in Asia.

Final

- Restore and upgrade existing monitoring and observing networks.
- II. Medium term target by 2020
  - At least 10 countries in Asia-Pacific regions will have at least 2 universities providing Master level programs in DRR
  - Support the development of a minimum standards for graduate programs including technical topics, teaching methods, and integration.
  - To develop and/or enhance the quality of DRR higher education in the Asia-Pacific Region.
  - Increase the number of science ministries, national science foundations, and national academies of sciences involved in hazard, risk and DRR research and application by 15%.
  - Expand the existing monitoring and observing networks by 10%.
- III. Long-term target by 2025
  - At least 15 countries in the Asia-Pacific regions will have at least 2 universities providing Master level programs in DRR.
  - Increase the number of science ministries, national science foundations, and national academies of sciences involved in hazard, risk and DRR research and application by 25%.
  - Institutionalize efforts to create the demand of trained professionals in DRR.
  - Enhance the accuracy of weather forecasting and climate prediction capability of NMHS in at least up to 85% in support of DRR.
  - Halve the population without protection from natural hazards.
  - Halve the population without access to the basic early warning for natural hazards.
- IV. Means of Verification:

Stakeholder group will provide periodic report in the ministerial meetings and various planning meetings, as requested.