DRR TERMINOLOGY
APPLICATION AND DEVELOPMENT AT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS

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Dr. P. G. Dhar Chakrabarti, Distinguished Fellow,
The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), India
Multi-level Multi-disciplinary Multi-sectoral Multi-stakeholder

- Earth sciences
- Space sciences
- Engineering
- Communication

- Government at all levels
- Science & technical community
- Academic & research institutions
- CBOs/NGOs/INGOs
- Corporate/private sector
- Regional organisations
- International organisations
- Media

- Social sciences
- Medical sciences
- Agricultural sciences
- Management sciences

- Planning
- Finance
- Agriculture
- Housing
- Health
- Education
- Public Works
- Power
- Telecommunication
- Transport
- Rural Dev.
- Urban dev.
- Women & child
- Heritage
- Defence and Security

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT MOST CROSS-CUTTING ISSUE IN CONTEMPORARY WORLD
Common terminology is crucial for common approach and common understanding of various issues in disaster risk management.
Distinguishing features of DRR terminology

1. These are picked up from common vocabularies, but endowed with extra-common meanings and interpretations.

2. Meanings and interpretations have not remained constant but evolved over time with evolving knowledge and practices.

3. New terminologies have been added to capture new elements and ideas.
1994
Yakohama Strategy for Safer World

2004
DRR Terminology - Living with Risks

2005
Hyogo Framework of Action

2009
UNISDR Terminology on DRR

2015
Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

2016
UNISDR Terminology on DRR

UNISDR Terminology on DRR
Influence of DRR terminology on national frameworks

• National governments and regional organisations have adopted these terminologies in their own ways, leading to considerable variation in emphasis across countries and continents

• Overall this marked a paradigm shift from conventional disaster management (DM) to new disaster risk management (DRM) frameworks
Conventional DM framework

• Conventional DM framework looked ‘disaster’ as an event and not at the forces leading to the event and the factors that can prevent or reduce the impact of the events

• Event is taken as *fait accompli* – Theories of *Anger of God* or *Wrath of Nature*

• Therefore focus was on ex-post response, relief and rehabilitation rather than on ex-ante disaster risk reduction
New disaster risk management framework

Disaster risks = \frac{[(h \times v) \times e]}{c}

Total risks - Prevention + Mitigation = Acceptable risks = Preparedness

Hazards \times Vulnerabilities \times Exposure \div Capabilities

Absolute prevention

Relative to conditions specific to countries

Total risks

Prevention

Structural

Heavy Engineering Solutions

High Technical Solutions

Risk Transfer

Non structural

Education Awareness CBDRM

Training Capacity Building

Legal and Institutional Framework

Response

Relief

Recovery

Reconstruction

Regulation Development Governance
New terminologies have been applied in diverse ways:

- National legislations
- National Policies
- National Action Plans
- National Guidelines and Standards
National variation in applications

• Countries that had pre-existing laws mostly focused on emergency management and new terminologies were introduced in sectoral laws, regulations, policies and action plans.

• Countries that enacted laws between 2004 to 2009 such as India, Sri Lanka adopted older terminologies.

• Countries that enacted laws after 2009, such as Bangladesh, Philippines adopted some of the new terminologies.
Regional variations

• West European, Latin American and Caribbean countries were most consistent in their applications of new terminologies on DRR

• East European, Asia-Pacific and African countries adopted some of the new terminologies but focus still remained on emergency management

• In many countries ‘disaster management’ still remained the generic term that is used to convey ‘disaster risk management’
Challenges for new terminologies

• Legal and policy regimes of countries do not change frequently and therefore older laws and policy regimes would coexist with new terminologies

• It may be necessary to look at how countries have adopted terminologies in their system of law and governance

• Tension between theories and practices have to be resolved through more consistent practical guidelines for action