



Official Statements

ISDR-ASIA PARTNERSHIP FORUM
14-15 DECEMBER 2017, BANGKOK, THAILAND

Member States

1. Afghanistan
2. Australia
3. Bangladesh
4. Bhutan
5. Cambodia
6. India
7. Japan
8. Malaysia
9. Maldives
10. Mongolia
11. Myanmar
12. Nepal
13. Pakistan
14. Sri Lanka
15. Thailand
16. Vietnam

UN and International Organisations

1. UNESCAP
2. FAO
3. JICA
4. RCM-TWG
5. UN WOMEN
6. UNDP
7. UNESCO
8. UNFPA
9. UN-HABITAT
10. UNICEF
11. UNOOSA
12. WHO

Stakeholder Groups

1. CSO, ADRRN
2. ARISE
3. Children and Youth
4. Duryog Nivaran
5. Huairou Commission
6. IFRC
7. Science and Technology group

Intergovernmental and Regional Organisations

1. ADPC
2. ADRC
3. ASEAN
4. ECO
5. IUCN

Official Statements of Member States

Afghanistan

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we all know, Afghanistan is at the top of Global Risk Index. Being the signatory of the Sendai Framework, the Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is committed to work towards achieving the goals and targets of Asia Regional Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction. As a first step in the direction, we are presently developing the comprehensive National Strategy backed up by a Capacity Needs Assessment study.

For enhancing awareness about the Sendai process, we have taken up a series sensitization programs at the national level in collaboration with local partners. The Sendai Framework document has been translated in local 'Dari' language for wider dissemination. A total of 3 National Consultation workshops have been organized involving Government line Ministries/Departments, NGOs, Civil Society Organisations, UN Agencies, academia, corporate bodies, local civic bodies and media. Provincial ANDMAs have also been conducting Sendai Awareness campaigns at the local level.

The preparatory work for setting up the multi-stakeholder and multi-sector National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) has already been initiated.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Afghanistan has steadily improving the availability and accessibility of hazard information, including mapping of hazard, resource and operational areas of different humanitarian agencies. We are working with UN and other technology driven organisations towards improving the Early Warning Systems in the country.

Urban Risk Reduction is one of the major focus of the Government. A UN - HABITAT 'City Resilience Project' is currently under implementation in Kabul and Mazar-i-Sharif. Enhancing urban communities' resilience to disaster and climate risks and strengthening national capacities for risk-sensitive urban development are the expected outcomes of the project.

Lack of Centralized disaster damage and loss data base, limited capacity in loss modelling, interpretation of hazard information to estimate the potential risks and capacity gaps in integrating disaster risk reduction into development plans are some of the critical challenges for us. Additionally, IDP's and returnees resettlement and security are the major challenge for our Government.

In 2017 we worked with our partners and communities to understand the Sendai process and prepare the National Action Plan for implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in the country. Setting up the Damage Loss Data Base is one of the challenging tasks. We look forward to critical support from UNISDR in this regard.

Ladies and Gentlemen, despite all the odds, our Government is seriously committed to work with the UNISDR, regional and international partners, keeping community in the forefront, towards the Sendai objectives and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) goals and targets for Afghanistan and Asia Regional Plan at large.

Thank you all for your kind attention....

[Back to table of content](#)

Australia

On behalf of the Australian Government, I would like to thank the Governments of Thailand and Mongolia for co-hosting this valuable meeting. I also thank the UNISDR for their work in preparation for co-hosting this event.

This meeting provides a valuable opportunity to share experiences and build stronger partnerships in the lead up to next year's Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) to be held in Mongolia in July.

The Australian Government remains firmly committed to implementing the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction* and the *Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework*. We look forward to exploring ideas and actions we can take to support our partners at this week's forum.

Major achievements in 2017

Since the adoption of the Sendai Framework, Australia has continued to focus on ensuring we have the right policies and governance arrangements in place to improve disaster risk management.

We are also building a stronger understanding of Australia's preparedness to report against the Sendai Framework. In 2017, the Australian Government formed a Sendai Framework Working Group with representatives from each Australian state and territory. The Working Group will consider what is feasible for implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Australian context, including in regards to reporting. Australia is now undertaking a data collection trial that will inform Australia's approach to Sendai Framework reporting. We are also currently developing a national strategy for the implementation of and reporting against the Sendai Framework.

Australia is looking for opportunities to more effectively integrate disaster risk reduction across a range of policy responsibilities. While there is a lot of work to do to mainstream disaster risk reduction, in 2017 we have seen success at the national level. This has led to major national government policy initiatives outside the emergency management space reflecting the importance of disaster risk reduction.

One example of how we have achieved this is through the Australian Government Disaster and Climate Resilience Reference Group. The Reference Group is identifying ways to integrate risk and resilience considerations into planning, policies and programs. The Reference Group is a forum to build relationships, share knowledge and lessons learnt and coordinate implementation of domestic and international policies. These activities will result in increased collaboration to assist

Australian Government agencies to embed disaster risk thinking in policy, programmes and for assets.

Throughout 2017, the Australian Government also continued to engage with the private sector, which contributes significantly to the policy debate through research on disaster resilience and innovative approaches to mitigation.

Key contextual issues

A key contextual issue for Australia is its federated structure. In Australia, states and territories have the primary responsibility for emergency management, and the national Government provides oversight and leadership. This structure poses complexities and challenges but also presents opportunities to collaborate and promote the concept of shared responsibility.

This is evident in the collection of data required for Sendai indicator reporting. Data on most of the indicators is currently collected and stored at a state and territory level. Australia has been working closely with its jurisdictions to consider the most pragmatic and effective way to report on Sendai Framework implementation. This work is ongoing and will be a national priority for 2018.

Activities contributing to disaster risk reduction in the region

Australia recognises that climate change and natural disasters will have an increasing impact on our region's stability, security and prosperity, and is committed to global action on disaster risk reduction.

Our aid investments have a focus on helping to build resilience to disasters. In the 2016-17 financial year, the Australian Government's total disaster risk reduction expenditure for a range of initiatives across the Indo-Pacific region and beyond is estimated at A\$120.3 million.

To implement our assistance in the region, we draw on our partnerships with UNISDR and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery. We also draw on Australia's technical expertise and experience to support our neighbours to develop and implement their disaster risk reduction strategies.

For example, Australia has helped the Government of the Philippines to develop guidelines for designing and constructing infrastructure to standards that are appropriate for the types of disasters experienced in the Philippines.

Australia's contribution to the Nepal Safe Schools Program enabled the retrofitting of 169 schools to improve earthquake resilience. All of these survived the 2015

earthquakes and provided much needed safe shelter and community spaces and facilitated the rapid return to normal education services.

Conclusion

We look forward to working with you all over the next two days, and over the coming months, to ensure the AMCDRR in July 2018 is a resounding success. The next AMCDRR meeting will be an important opportunity for all our countries to take stock on how we are implementing the Sendai Framework ahead of meeting our reporting commitments to the UNISDR in March 2019.

I appreciate the opportunity to present Australia's perspective. We can all learn from sharing our experiences and gain much from building stronger partnerships across the region. By doing this, we will make a substantial contribution to the stability and prosperity in our region, which benefits us all.

[Back to table of content](#)

Bangladesh

Mr. Chair, Excellency, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh, we appreciate the excellent arrangements made by the facilitation of UNISDR.

Mr. Chair,

In 2017, Bangladesh has been faced the impact of one of the worst flash flood and damaging landslide in the history of the country. It was record highest rainfall in the month of April 2017 in last 36 years. Climate change is considered as the cause of this erratic rainfall consequent flood and landslide. The Government of Bangladesh is addressing the disaster in a coordinated manner. Resources of relevant ministries are pulled to support the affected people under the coordination of Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR). Our investment in disaster risk reduction and response preparedness is paying back. We have overcome the shock with our national capacity and after shock recovery activities are on track.

Mr. Chair

Bangladesh is now taking disaster risk management to the next level. We have taken initiatives to mainstream Disaster Risk Management through the 7th Five Year Plan (7FYP), the medium term national development plan of the country. Now DRR is a shared responsibility of all ministries. Medium Term Budgetary Framework (MTBF) has also been prioritised Disaster Risk Management considering the country's vulnerability to multiple hazards. We have identified specific role of different ministries to achieve the targets of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR). In light of that Bangladesh has produced the second version of the National Plan for Disaster Management (NPDM) for the period of 2016-2020.

Mr. Chair

As you know that sustainable development framework is related to resilience nexus. That is why, the intersections and meeting point of poverty, environment, disaster and climate change, is adequately addressed through the mainstreaming in the development planning and budgeting systems. We have constructed 3851 cyclone shelters and 142 shelters to save the vulnerable people from cyclone and flood. Our government has also taken initiative to raise plinth of 20,000 houses in the flood prone areas to bring them out of the risk of flood as well as vicious cycle of poverty. We are happy to share that we are implementing a project to ensure access of the person with disability, elderly people and pregnant women to the shelters and market places. With the sense of ensuring build back better concept we are also implementing a rural infrastructure project for better local navigation and water

drainage. We have engaged NGO's in the DRR activities to address the issues of people with special needs as a mandatory provision.

Mr. Chair, Excellency, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

As a reflection of the spirit of inclusiveness, an initiative has been taken to bring the Gypsy people of the country under solar energy coverage. That will increase their access to energy and information, in particular disaster-related information.

Bangladesh is also emphasising to utilize demographic dividend increasing youth engagement in DRR as change agent and the community volunteer for emergency preparedness and response. We have taken initiative to promote social networking as a bridging point of youth engagement, volunteerism and green development. An act is under consideration of our government to give a legal backbone and specific direction to the volunteer organisations in the country.

Mr. Chair, Excellency, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

We completed implementation of the first version of National Plan for Disaster Management (NPDM) 2010-2015. Bangladesh has achieved a significant reduction of mortality in disaster within this period.

We have developed and practicing Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP) Model to ensure inclusive bottom up disaster management system in the country. About 1.6 million volunteers are working with CPP, FSCD, Scouts and BNCC. We are strengthening local government to address increasing threats of climate change and complex disasters. We have incorporated disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness in the mainstream education from elementary to tertiary level.

Mr. Chair, Excellency, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

Our government is working on drafting a Response Act to provide legal guidance to the institutions and individuals at government and private sector to be well prepared for any disaster. A project has been conducted to strengthen Search, Rescue and Recovery operation in Earthquake and others disasters and Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange (DREE) is arranged every year involving all stakeholders.

We are also under process of establishing disaster funds from local level to national level. Under the localisation concept our government is promoting indigenous ways of disaster management; i.e. we have taken initiative to plant one million Palm saplings to create a shield against lightening, an emerging disaster caused by climate change.

Mr. Chairman, Excellency, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to remind you that as a first country Bangladesh organised the first World Conference on Disability Inclusive Disaster Management in 2015, known as Dhaka Conference after adoption of SFDRR. Outcome of that conference was Dhaka Declaration, which has been endorsed by AMCDRR 2017. 2nd Dhaka Conference on Disability and Disaster is scheduled to be held in the middle of 2018. We cordially

invite all to participate in the conference to express our collective and firmed commitment to the inclusion agenda.

Mr. Chairman, Excellency, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

In this precious forum we would like to express our firm commitment to carry forward the SFDRR agenda, to build a safer country and a safer world with the cooperation of all member states and development partners.

Thank you so much.

[Back to table of content](#)

Bhutan

One of the main drivers for Bhutan to adopt disaster risk management approach is the vulnerability of our country to various natural hazards and disasters, which not only claim lives & properties, but also destroys decades of hard earned developmental gains.

Bhutan is located in one of the most fragile and vulnerable ecosystem in eastern Himalayas with active seismic activities. Bhutan is vulnerable to various hydro meteorological, geological and biological hazards which are further exacerbated by climate change. Past incidences such as the 2009 Cyclone Aila precipitated floods, 2009, 2011 and 2015 earthquakes, 4 consecutive fires in one of the major towns in 2010 and 2011, the Wangduephodrang dzong fire in 2012, the windstorm events which damages the roofs of thousand Bhutanese homes and acres of crops every year and the recurrent floods every monsoon has caused immense damages and loss of our people.

As mandated I would like to report to this august gathering about some of the major achievements which contributes to fulfilling the Sendai Framework targets and commitments of AMCDRR 2016.

- Inclusion of Disaster Risk Management as one of the National key Result Areas of the 12th Five Year Plan- the Royal Government of Bhutan recognizing the importance of investing in disaster risk management has therefore, adopted enhancement of Disaster Risk Management by different sectors as one of the key areas of focus in the 12th Five Year Plan.
- Through the National Adaptation Plan of Action Project, Save the Children and the RGoB funding we have developed draft DM and Contingency Plans for 12 districts and two municipality.
- Through the Japan Policy for Human Resource Development Project implemented through the World Bank, 6 seismic stations and intensity meters have been installed in all the 20 districts. This is aimed towards increasing capacity and systems to monitor and analyze local seismic activities.
- Through the same project funding we have developed and distributed Non-Structural Mitigation guidelines to all the schools in the country. ToTs were also conducted for teachers from two pilot districts
- Guidelines for improved earthquake resilient construction techniques for rammed earth structures have also been developed.
- Through the RGoB funding multi hazard key safety messages in the national language have been developed and distributed to local communities and other vulnerable sections of the society.

- To improve better response coordination, we have conducted simulation exercises in four districts and one municipality and also completed the basic Search and Rescue Training in all the 20 districts.
- Aimed at protecting our cultural heritage sites and structures from fire disasters we have now completed the Disaster Preparedness and Response for Monastic Institution.
- We have also observed the IDDR 2017 on 13th Oct. with the theme “Home Safe Home”. Schools throughout the country mark it as mock drill day.
- In line with the Sendai targets, we have also completed the DRM status review with support from ADPC.

Challenges in the implementation of Sendai Framework and Asia Regional Plan

- Like most the developing countries lack of financial and technical resources have been a major hindrance in taking forward the DRR initiatives
- The government tendering and procurement policies have also been a major challenge in mainstreaming of DRR
- Competition from other cross-cutting issues like poverty, environment, gender are also some of the challenges

Upcoming programs and activities

- Through the support from the World Bank we have plans to construct 10 helipads around the country to improve response during emergencies in the rugged topography
- We will also be constructing the National Emergency Operation Center
- To improve collection and analyzing Disaster loss data we are in the process of developing the disaster management information system
- We will also continue our efforts to develop district DM and CP and simulate the plans

Lastly, I would like to thank you all for the patient listening and also the opportunity to present our achievements.

[Back to table of content](#)

Cambodia

Madam Chair,
Distinguish Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen!

The Royal Government of Cambodia in close cooperation and partnership with line-ministries and multi-stakeholders including National, Regional and International Organisations, Development Partners and UN Systems to build the culture of resilience to disasters:

1) What are **THE MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS** made in year 2017? Please share any good practices and lessons.

- Commemorated the ASEAN Day on Disaster Management (ADDM) and International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR), under the themes “Safe and Resilience Communities for Resilient ASEAN” and “Home Safe Home”, on 13th October 2017, as part of the efforts to raise the general public awareness on DRR;
- Translated the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030 document into national language and published in both languages of Khmer and English;
- Translated the UNISDR Indicators and Terminology related to DRR in national language for the general use;
- Updated the National Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction 2014-2018 (NAP-DRR), to be aligned with Sendai Framework, SDGs and Paris Agreement on Climate Change;
- Developed the Legal Frameworks and Regulations for disaster management based on actual situations of the country;
- Developed the Provincial Contingency Plans and Guidelines for Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans (EPRPs) at sub-national level to ensure the response with effectively and timely manners.

2) What are **THE MAIN ISSUES/ CHALLENGES** in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Asia Regional Plan for the implementation of the Sendai Framework?

- There has no specific budget allocation for the effective implementation of DRR, prevention and preparedness activities;
- The line-ministries and institutions coordination mechanisms were not sufficient to achieve a comprehensive DRR and disaster framework;
- The roadmap/guideline for mainstreaming DRR into the development plans in major sectors and the effective early warning system (EWS) are significant required;

- Unsustainable DRR project implementation, since the projects funded by development partners only for the short and medium terms basis.

3) Please share any on-going or [THE UPCOMING MAIN PROGRAMMES/ ACTIVITIES](#)/ events contributing to disaster risk reduction in the region.

- Developing a roadmap for dissemination and implementation of the Disaster Management Law in the Kingdom of Cambodia;
- Enhancing the capacity of national and sub-national levels, especially communities on the linking between DRR and CCA;
- Continuing the cooperation and support the organisational partners in implementation of project entitled "Building Disaster Resilient Communities in Cambodia (IV)", which co-funded by ECHO under DIPECHO XI from June 2017 - November 2018;
- Continuing the cooperation and implementation of the Preparedness Capacity Building Programmes, which to be supported by a Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) under the Global Preparedness Partnership (GPP);
- Continuing the cooperation with multi-stakeholders in organizing the National DRR Forum.

I Thank You Very Much!

[Back to table of content](#)

India

I would like to present a brief overview of progress we have made against the Asia Regional Plan.

In 2016 we prepared our National Disaster Management Plan aligning it with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk reduction. India is one of the first few countries to do so. Currently, the plan is under revision to bring coherence with Sendai Framework, Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. In the revised plan, we are focusing on the vulnerable groups – Women, Children, transgender, handicapped and elderly people, especially. We have Disaster Management plans at the National, Provincial and local levels. As far as focus on mortality reduction is concerned, we are not only focusing on low frequency, high impact disasters, but also especially focusing on high frequency low impact disasters. For example, in 2015 over 2000 people died due to heat wave in 12 provincial states in India. Due to the efforts undertaken by the Indian Government, in 2016, we could reduce the deaths to 1111; and in 2017 to 222. Similarly, we are focusing on reducing lightening related deaths and deaths due to urban flooding. As far as issue of guidelines are concerned, we have come out with many guidelines to reduce disaster risk. Recently, within this one year, we have issued guidelines on boat safety; guidelines for disaster risk management in museums and guidelines for heritage structures, as well as a road map for urban flood risk reduction. India is implementing one of the largest cyclone risk mitigation programmes in the world, covering 7600 kms of coastline. We are in the process of preparing a National Earthquake Risk Mitigation Programme, covering 17 earthquake prone states in the country. We are also preparing a massive Landslide Risk Mitigation Programme.

Due to the size of our country, its large population, multiple hazards and vulnerabilities, and diversities, we have many challenges – I would only highlight a few: Establishment of a central database is a big challenge. We are in the process of setting- up a central database. As on today there is no central database, mainly because disaster risk reduction is primarily the responsibility of the provincial governments. Secondly, even in the provincial governments, the data is available for disasters, which are notified for relief by the government. So the main challenge is getting the data for the baseline from 2006 to 2015 – which will be a main challenge. Second is building capacity at the local level. All mitigation measures – land-use planning, enforcement of the building codes – all depend on the capacity of the local self-governance. We have over six hundred thousand villages in India. So, building technical capacity as well as financial capacity of these 600 thousand villages is a major challenge which we are facing. The third challenge which I would like to highlight here is putting a techno-legal regime in place for implementation of building codes. Building Codes exist in the urban areas. In the rural areas, as on date, there is

no effective mechanism for implementing the building codes. This is a big challenge for us. We are in the process of setting up a Competency based licensing system for engineers.

India has developed considerable capacity in Tsunami Warning System as well as in Cyclone Warning System, evacuation and cyclone risk management. But changing hazard patterns represent a new challenge. In the recent times, not only the frequency and intensity of the cyclones and floods have increased but they have also started occurring in places, where they did not occur so frequently in the past. For example, the recent Ockhi cyclone, which affected the west coast, particularly Kerala. Kerala state has not been affected by a cyclone of similar intensity in the past. Similarly, in Northern India, large number of districts, which were not usually flood-prone, particularly in Bihar state were affected by the recent floods. And finally, I would like to underscore the importance of risk transfer and insurance which is a major challenge for us.

Thank You.

[Back to table of content](#)

Japan

What are the major achievements made in year 2017? Please share any good practices and lessons.

- DRR Strategy: Japan established the first DRR Strategy in 1963 at national and all sub-national governments under the Basic Act on Disaster Management. The act stipulates that DRR Strategy should be reviewed at least once a year. According to this act, the Japanese Government review the national strategy annually, and revised it based on the experiences from the past year. The sub-national governments are also required to review their own strategy based on the revision at the national level so as to maintain coherence between the different levels of governments. Japan strongly recommend that other Member Countries to include such revision system of their DRR strategy.
- DRR Strategy at Community Level: Japan has introduced the DRR Strategy at community level which are integrated with the DRR Strategy at municipality level. This new Strategy was introduced since 2014. The Cabinet Office has been promoting this strategy by having pilot projects at 44 communities. So far, approximately 500 DRR Strategy has been established by citizens. This strategy is expected to encourage risk assessment and action planning by citizens who are the closest to the local circumstances.
- Japan Science Council hosted “International Conference on Science and Technology for Sustainability 2017” to discuss contribution of S&T for implementing Sendai Framework, together with UNISDR, ICSU and IRDR. It is a great achievement that Japan took the leadership for the role of S&T. The impact of this conference was echoed by having it back-to-back with the National Conference of Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction 2017, which is a public event of the National Platform of Japan.

[Back to table of content](#)

Malaysia

What are the major achievements made in year 2017? Please share any good practices and lessons.

Advancement of Science, Technology and Innovation for Disaster Risk Reduction:

- NADMA Malaysia is currently formulating the National Science, Technology and Innovation Plan for DRR, with support from the Scientific Expert Panel (SEP). The National STI Plan takes an integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation to ensure sustainable development. The Plan is now being finalised in consultation with multiple stakeholders and will be channeled to National Science Council for endorsement in 2018.
- NADMA in collaboration with the Academy of Sciences Malaysia and SEADPRI-UKM has also convened the first National Conference on Science, Technology and Innovation for Disaster Risk Reduction, held on 5 October 2017 this year. The purpose of the National Conference was to assess the current state of science, technology and innovation within Malaysia for addressing risk reduction in the changing climate.
- Establishment of “National DRR Research Alliance” under the aegis of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia in October 2017, which comprises all public and private universities researchers and academia. The purpose is to mobilise scientists in addressing knowledge gaps in a coordinated and systematic manner.

What are the main challenges in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Asia Regional Plan for the implementation of the Sendai Framework?

NADMA Malaysia is still adopting the National Disaster Act (*MKN Directive 20*), however this Directive need to be reviewed to accommodate recent development and in-line with the Sendai Framework. The revision is still under progress.

Please share any ongoing or upcoming main programmes/ activities/events contributing to disaster risk reduction in the region.

Side Event at AMCDRR 2018, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia & 2nd Asian Science and Technology Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction 2018, Beijing, China

- Malaysia would like to request a Side Event in both event mentioned above, on advancement of science, technology and innovation for disaster risk reduction. The main purpose is to exchange the regional experience in the science, technology and innovation advancement in disaster risk reduction.

Third Asian Science and Technology Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction

- NADMA Malaysia and SEADPRI-UKM would like to host 2020 Asian Science and Technology Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction, at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

[Back to table of content](#)

Maldives

Excellences, Distinguished Guests, ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my pleasure today to give you an update on the efforts carried out by the Government of Maldives in our commitment to become a more risk informed, prepared and resilient Nation.

The Maldives, famous for its sun, sand and sea is among the lowest lying island nations in the world. Our economy and growth depend on the unique setting of these very islands. For over 2000 years Maldivians called these islands home, we survived and thrived.

But the world is changing. The planet is changing. Storms are on the rise. Extreme weather events are increasing globally. Seas are getting warmer. Unpredictability and irregularity is observed throughout.

For the Maldives, Climate Change remains to be the most frightful disaster scenario.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

2017 has been a year of strategizing for the Maldives. We have been working on strengthening our institutional capacity and arrangements. Among the key activities carried out by the National Disaster Management Centre include the development of a National Disaster Management Plan and a National Emergency Operations Plan for the country. We are confident to have both documents approved and in practice early 2018.

These plans are in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

In October, the Maldives has held its very first National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Platform, bringing together all national stakeholders and representatives from all Atoll Councils in the country for two days of knowledge sharing and solution seeking. Themed around “Resilience for a Sustainable Future”, papers were presented on the linkages of Sustainable development and Disaster Risk Reduction; on sustainable disaster risk reduction financing; on challenges and opportunities for DRR in community and island levels.

The Platform set mood nationally by directing all actors towards the importance and need to implement DRR strategies for a broader sustainable and resilient future.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is our local communities that contributes to the overall resilience of our Nations. We have continued to work in our communities through the Community Based Disaster Risk Management Programme, where we are supporting island communities to prepare Island Level Disaster Management Plans, which includes mitigation and response plans at island levels.

Furthermore, with the support our partners we have now been able to develop a Nation-wide programme to establish Community Emergency Response Teams throughout country. Besides responding to emergencies, these teams will continue to work in their communities to increase the understanding of disasters, raise community preparedness and ensure that mitigation measures are in place to prevent escalation of any possible emergencies or disasters. Ultimately contributing to reduce the number of lives, property and assets affected by disasters.

With our partners, we are strengthening our national emergency communication mechanisms to ensure that early warning is reached timely. Ensuring coordinated, effective and efficient response.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

The Maldives is committed to the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Asia Regional Plan for the implementation of the Sendai Framework. Currently we are aligning national monitoring mechanisms to ensure that the implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as well as the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development is followed through.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

We still have much work to do. For us to continue pursuing our commitment and ambition to become resilient, we require the assistance from all our friends and partners, to continue to share resources and to help build further capacity to strengthen our institutions.

As we discuss the importance of translating our commitments to actions, it is vital to note that small island states like the Maldives, and many others like us, require support and assistance to eliminate the challenges we face due to lack of available resources, both the human and financial. To realize these commitments a collective

and collaborated initiative is essential. Further resource mobilization and allocation is compulsory.

I reaffirm our commitment to the global disaster risk reduction efforts. The Maldives does not take Disaster Risk lightly, and for us it is a matter of existence and continued survival.

Before I conclude I would like to thank UNISDR for consistently facilitating these important forums on disaster risk reduction and resilience.

Thank you.

[Back to table of content](#)

Mongolia

Major Achievements in 2017 (good practices and lessons)

The Government of Mongolia reaches out to the region for sustainable economic, social and environmental development through reducing disaster risks and impacts caused by climate change, and adapting to climate change. In addition, Mongolia emphasizes the importance of key international documents, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Sustainable Development Programme 2030, and the Paris Convention against Climate Change.

The Government of Mongolia (GoM), for its part, is implementing the policy document “Vision of Sustainable Development of Mongolia until 2030”, which was ratified by the Parliament of Mongolia in 2016. It defines our priority as “To strengthen the prevention system from climate hazards and natural disasters, and the national capacity to adapt to climate change”.

After the approval of the Sendai Framework, two laws and some policy documents on disaster risk reduction have been approved by the Great Ikh Khural (Parliament), GoM, Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) aligned with the Sendai Framework.

“Law on Fire Safety” (reformulated version) by the Great Ikh Khural (Parliament), July 2015,

“Law on Disaster Protection” (reformulated version) by the Great Ikh Khural (Parliament), Feb 2017:

Recently, three cities in Mongolia have joined the UNISDR Resilient City campaign, and senior and key staff of city agencies and provinces has received training on implementation of the campaign. The Government of Mongolia is working to enhance international cooperation for disaster risk reduction, and is collaborating with a number of organisations for the implementation of development projects, including UNDP, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency, World Vision Mongolia, Mercy Corps and Mongolian Red Cross Society.

Following the adoption of the revised Law on Disaster Protection, endorsed by the Parliament of Mongolia in February 2017, the Government of Mongolia has strengthened its legal commitment to promoting United Nations’ policies and actions on disaster risk reduction, creating favorable conditions for the country's socio-economic development. Going forward, a draft mid-term strategy and plan to be implemented in Mongolia will be discussed and approved by the Cabinet.

Main challenges

Along with the policy transition to the disaster risk management, one of the challenges we encounter is efficiency of public private partnership in both prevention and response. We hope the new structure of National Platform for DRR under the law of Disaster Protection will bring positive effects in fostering this partnership.

Also, financial barriers are preventing consistent and efficient action in disaster risk reduction and undermining any effort in planning and implementation.

Ongoing or upcoming main programmes/activities and events

The draft of the National Strategy for implementation of the SFDRR has been submitted to the Government and pending for approval.

Mongolia is hosting the next IAP in April 2018 which will be followed by the Asian Leaders Forum. The Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR will be held in July 2018.

[Back to table of content](#)

Myanmar

Mr. So Hlaing
Deputy Director
RRD, Myanmar.

ISDR ASIA PARTNERSHIP FORUM 2017.

Progress in Disaster Risk Reduction of Myanmar.

- Myanmar is one of the Asean ^{member} countries. It is situated among neighbor countries. In Northern, China, Western in India, Bangladesh and Nepal, Eastern, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand. Myanmar has ~~the~~ long rivers in the Northern and Southern. There are coastal beach long side. In the past, ~~the~~ Myanmar not occur disaster but it is a little faced seasonal disaster, Before 2008. it is not difficult. DRR.
- But, in 2008, in May-2-3, Cyclone Nargis had occurred in Myanmar, it is very effected ^{to} all round development so many people, ~~and~~ ^{animal} households and plantations. Moreover, Especially, the people are afraid emotional - physical and mental. Now social impact are not good situation - so, the people are needed social assistance and psychosocial support. Myanmar is striving to care and settlement for that people. Especially, vulnerable group, are special support and care. They were care and reservation under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. The ministry cared and supported. Then to develop ~~for~~ their future. Etc - Education, Health, --

So, Myanmar is stimulated energize for DRR. Myanmar considered how to prevention and reduction the DRR. Firstly it carry urgent- standing order to reduce DRR. And then Disaster management law - 2013, Rules and Regulation in 2015. According to the laws, Rules, Myanmar has formed (NDMC) National Disaster management Committee and Working Committee. Myanmar has 7 States and Divisions the whole country. It has formed. State DMC Disaster management committee, Division DMC, District DMC, Township DMC, and Village trip DMC.

Now Myanmar is striving to prevent and reduce for DRR. And then Myanmar set up (EOC) Emergency Operation Centre, at the Head of Office, Relief and Resettlement. According to "EWS" early Warning System, RRS set up. "Single Side Bond - SSB" National to Community. for linking and contact. to respond rapidly system.

Especially, Relief and Resettlement hard working for DRR. Therefore, basically important, ^{it worked} awareness raising to reduce DRR for community, priority issue for them. Myanmar may occur and face any disaster year by year. It declared to coordination and cooperation whenever any disaster. At that time, Government, UN agencies, INGOs, NGOs, and CSOs were very closed relationship. Moreover, Myanmar collaborates and cooperates Asean member countries, AHA centre and Sendai Frame Work.

Thank you! justinlayss @on

Nepal

Her Excellency, Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Namaskar,

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to attend this ISDR Asia Partnership Forum 2017. I am very much pleased to avail the hospitality by the UNISDR. On behalf of the Government of Nepal, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the UNISDR for organizing such an important regional event.

Let me share a few basic facts about Nepal in relation to disaster, in the last 45 years, an average of about 900 people were killed (except road accident), thousands of families were affected every year and about 500 disaster incidents occurred annually in Nepal. The Gorkha Earthquake 2015 alone led to 8,970 casualties, 22,300 injuries and destruction or damage of more than 800,000 houses and heritage sites. Almost one-third of the population was impacted, and similar proportion of GDP was lost. This year flood about 2 million people were directly affected and lost around 3 percent of national GDP.

National Reconstruction Authority established in 2015 to lead and manage the recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation of the earthquake affected infrastructures and families for five years. Government of Nepal has formulated a Post Disaster Recovery Framework (PDRF) on the basis of PDNA.

Constitution of Nepal mentioned disaster risk management for the first time and clearly articulated that DRM as a concurrent function of three-tiers of governments (the Federal, Provincial and Local) and exclusive function of local government. The Constitution directs Government to make policies related to “early warning, preparedness, rescue, relief and rehabilitation in order to mitigate risks from natural disasters.”

Similarly, Nepal has recently enacted comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, 2017 which focuses on all cycles of disaster management with the provision of National Disaster Management Authority. It has made the provision of DRRM Council headed by the Prime Minister, Executive Committee, and Disaster Management Committees in Provincial and Local level. It has clearly delineated the role and responsibility of Federal, Provincial and Local Government. Similarly, the

Local Government Operation Act, 2017 has also clearly mentioned the roles and duties of the Local Government in disaster risk management at local level.

Moreover, Nepal is developing the National DRR Policy and Strategic Action Plan with specific national targets and indicators based on the Sendai Framework and lesson learned from HFA Implementation and recent disaster events with multi-stakeholder engagement. In addition, Nepal is mainstreaming DRR into development process by formulating coherent policies with major development agendas. Government has established DRM Unit in major agencies of the Federal Government and planning to establish such unit in Provincial and Local Governments.

Nepal is regularly organizing National DRR Platform meeting and planning to establish local DRR Platform. In addition, Nepal is also drafting DRRM bye-laws, DMIS Guidelines for strengthening existing disaster management information system, and preparing organisational structure of the NDMA and Volunteer Bureau as per the provision of DRRM Act.

I am confident that this meeting will bring a huge success to materialize the Asia Regional Plan and SFDRR through collaborative and coordinated regional efforts and successful preparation of AMCDRR 2018.

Thank you.

[Back to table of content](#)

Pakistan

Honorable Chair,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I shall highlight major achievements made in year 2017.

Pakistan is developing Risk Knowledge and comprehensive database for multi-hazard vulnerability and Risk Assessments. A focused and phased approach, based on priority of vulnerable districts is being pursued in execution of the NDMP implementation Roadmap, for which comprehensive parameters have been followed. The 157 districts (39+55+63) have been divided in three phases based their risk profile and vulnerability.

- So far Micro-level MHVRA for fourteen districts has been completed.
- MHVRA for districts along CPEC routes of the country being negotiated with Chinese Authorities.
- NDMA has formulated National Insurance Mechanism Framework for vulnerable communities after detailed studies in communities of five districts. We now aim to pilot the initiatives in few districts.
- National Fire & Life Safety Codes have also been formulated with the collaboration of Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC)
- National Flood Protection Plan-IV has been approved with the total cost of Rs. 332 billion.
- Host Nation guidelines Mechanism has been developed
- Gender & Child Cells have been established at National & Provincial Level.
- Pakistan School Safety Framework (PSSF) developed Piloted in 69 schools across Pakistan.

With regard to main challenges in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Asia Regional Plan, I wish to refer to the Asia-Pacific Disaster Report, 2017 launched during the Fifth Session of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), 10-13 October 2017 suggests that Pakistan along with other south Asian countries is likely to have two to three times more losses to disasters by the year 2030. Therefore, National Disaster Management Authority, Pakistan has a renewed focus on disaster risk reduction and preparedness, for ensuring resilience building in the face of emerging multiple hazards particularly induced by climate change. However, we have faced the following challenges:

- Limited Capability – Meteorological Early Warning System.
- Weak Trans Border Rain and Flood Inflow Mechanism with India.
- Huge Quantum of Flood Protection Measures required for effective flood mitigation.
- Capacity Issues of PDMA's and DDMA's.

Ongoing main programmes/ activities/events contributing to disaster risk reduction in the region.

- We are strengthening our response capacities by establishing and strengthening National Emergency Operations Centre, which is essentially required for effective Disaster Management (DM).
- Proposed systems will enable evidence based decision making in quickest possible manner at all levels across the DM hierarchy and during all phases of DMC. Envisaged system is in line with the internationally established best practices, in addition to this raising of National Disaster Response Force enhancing the existing capacities of Urban Search and Rescue teams and logistics.
- We are reorganising the existing National Institute of Disaster Management to be able to deliver much needed capacity building trainings to government officials for preparedness through JICA.
- NDMP and National Disaster Response Plan review is being done with the assistance of JICA.

Bilateral Cooperation.

- MOU on Disaster Management with Cuba in July 2017
 - Initiation of MOU with Tajikistan
 - Finalization of MOU with China
 - Finalization of MOU with Kazakhstan
 - Consideration of MoU with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, Bangkok, Thailand.

Global Out Reach

1. **Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (May 2017).**
Chairman NDMA along with a team of officers and Pakistan's perspective was highlighted appropriately.
2. **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (August 2017)**
Pakistan became a permanent member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) during the last Summit held in Astana in June, 2017. NDMA attended 9th meeting of Heads of Departments of Emergency Situations of SCO Member States dealing with prevention and elimination of emergency situations in August 2017 in Kyrgyzstan.
3. **Fifth Session of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), 10-13 October 2017.**
This Session was attended by NDMA
ECO Regional Framework for DRR (10-13 October 2017).

NDMA Pakistan remained part of ECO Regional DRR Task Force, which was required to frame ECO Regional Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

4. **Asian Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, 2-3 October 2017, Baku Azerbaijan** was also attended by NDMA, Pakistan. NDMA, Pakistan being member of the steering committee of the Asian Centre for Disaster Reduction, Japan also attended the meeting of the steering committee of the centre.
5. **Climate Change Conference (COP 23) Bonn, Germany 06-17 November, 2017.**

NDMA participated in the World Climate Change Conference in Germany

Thank you very much.

[Back to table of content](#)

Sri Lanka

Distinguish Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good Morning,

First and foremost, I would like to appreciate and congratulate, Government of Mongolia, UNISDR and other partners for their commitment to organize the upcoming Asian Ministerial Conference in June 2018. Government of Sri Lanka would like to convey our support for the organizers in any event of the conference.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Turning to the today topic, I am very much pleased to announce that we have already completed the activities as we agreed to implement for the period of 2016-2017 under the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Ministry of Disaster Management working as the focal point for the implementation of Sendai Framework and we have already translate SFDRR document into local languages. As a country we have complete number of awareness programmes on SFDRR at national as well as local level with the participation of several stakeholder agencies.

Report on the current status of DRR has already been completed and submitted to the UNISDR. SFDRR national level indicators have been finalized and consultation is going on to enhance the coherence between the SFDRR, Paris Agreement and SFDRR and SDGs.

Sri Lanka we use Desinventar database system to report damages and losses of Disasters. Since it does not fully appropriate for Sendai Monitoring, Disaster Management Centre under my Ministry is going to upgrade the system with the support of UNDP, Tohoku University and Fujitsu. Further to that initiatives have been taken to established National Spatial Data Infrastructure which lead to the data sharing policy for the country. Under the 2018 Budget, government has taken steps to ensure the availability of Hydro-Meteorological data for public in free of charge.

National Disaster Management plan which is one of the prime documents of the country has been drafted based on the four priorities of SFDRR for the period of 2018-2030.

Government has allocated separate budget line for mainstreaming DRR into development from next year onwards and it will be highly important for the development of regulatory or policy frameworks to reinforce risk considerations and risk reduction measures into development initiatives, particularly in the infrastructure sector. In year 2018 we planned to map out all the ad-hoc and pilot work completed so far under the mainstreaming covering different sectors and to launch new systematic programme to mainstream DRR into development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are facing big challenges in the event of implementing SFDRR at local level. It is required to convert the SFDRR priorities into local interest to get their commitment. Still globally as well as nationally more interest on humanitarian aspects of disaster management rather than the disaster risk reduction. This is one of the hindrance factors to encourage people on DRR.

Further to that lack of coherence between the DRR and development is also hugely drawing back the SFDRR achievement particularly in the event of understanding underlying risk factors.

However as signatory government of SFDRR we are committed to implement the SGFDRR and other development framework and we look forward your support in the sense of budgeting, technology and capacity development.

I thank you.

[Back to table of content](#)

Thailand

Mr./Madam Chair,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Royal Thai Government, I would like to reaffirm Thailand's commitment to implement and contribute to the achievement of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction which will eventually lead us to the path of resilience society and sustainable development.

To this connection, we take global frameworks as the tool to raise risk awareness and improve our works among sectors and stakeholders. Since the adoption of the Framework, the National Master Plan for Disaster Risk Management was revised to be more aligned with the Framework. From that point, disaster risk reduction has been mainstreamed and for the first time embedded in several major national legal and policy instruments. The Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand 2017 has urged that it is Thai people's duties to cooperate in preventing and mitigating disasters. The current issue of the National Economic and Social Development Plan 2016-2021 includes disaster risk reduction as its 4th development goal. The Master Plan for Climate Change 2015-2050 also reflects disaster risk reduction in its 1st strategic area on climate change adaptation.

Besides, disaster risk reduction and risk management are also adopted in many other sectoral plans such as of Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Defence. It is also a mandate of sub-national governments to revise their action plans for disaster risk management to be in line with the National DRR Strategies.

There are three key drivers for this progression. **Firstly**, we keep the vitality of our national and sub-national platforms through various methods; including official meetings, technical meetings once a week; and study visits. **Secondly**, we appointed DRR Focal Point in 23 line Ministries and National agencies as well as at provincial level with clear and agreed Terms of Reference. These people are provided with a series of capacity building programmes that are necessary to implement the National Disaster Risk Management Plan and other related Frameworks. So far, they have been trained on Sendai Framework and how it links to other national and international frameworks; basic risk assessment concept and methods; post disaster needs assessment; DRR plan development at national and local level. And **thirdly** specifically for Sendai monitoring and reporting, we are working very closely with National Statistics Office and National Economic and Social Development Board who are National SDGs Focal Point; as well as other development partners nationally and

internationally such as ESCAP, GIZ, academia, and private sectors to establish a coordinated mechanism for this regard. We just organized three national consultation workshops in October and November this year to unpack data and capacities requirements of the country to monitor the Sendai Framework as well as disaster-related SDGs.

However, we have not yet come up with proper solutions for national and global indicators monitoring and reporting. More consultation workshops with national authorities and key stakeholder groups are required. Another priority issue is to strengthen our baseline information and loss database, especially in data disaggregation. We are now working with academia to develop a customized approach for disaster risk knowledge management where all related sectors can develop their risk knowledge and make proper decision from a systematized and user-friendly risk assessment, disaster needs and damage assessment, and post disaster needs assessment. Additional technical support from international development partners is also critical, particularly through peer review and best practices.

To begin with; we, therefore, in collaboration with Australian Government and UNOCHA will host the INSARAG Asia Pacific Multi-Hazards Response Exercise to strengthen regional disaster preparedness capabilities and our emergency coordination mechanisms. We also are going to work with UNISDR in organizing an Annual International Training Course on Health and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in compliance with the Bangkok Principles for the Implementation of the Health Aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The programme has not yet finalized and required more inputs from concerned authorities. To conclude, this resilient path is apparently requiring a lot of hard works and investments. With ongoing mutual support and collaboration of all societies and communities, we are confident that Thailand and the region will make some changes that can turn this so-called most disaster-prone region into safe and resilient nations.

Thank you.

[Back to table of content](#)

Vietnam

Distinguish guess!
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of Vietnam Disaster Management Authority, we would like to congratulate UNISDR to host the ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) Forum in Bangkok from 14-15 December 2017.

We hope the output of this Forum will be good base for member state to follow and continue to support the implementation of Sendai Framework in the region.

1. What are the major achievements made in year 2017? Please share any good practices and lessons.

We are honored to inform you that one of our new important government bodies – Vietnam Disaster Management Authority (VNDMA) has been officially began its operation since August 18th, 2017 and the Office of Central Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control is located in this new government body.

This is a great opportunity for your organisation and our new Vietnam Disaster Management Authority to set up and strengthen the cooperation in disaster management and disaster risk reduction in order to deliver important tasks and duties Vietnamese government and people expect from us.

Since the time that Sendai Framework has been issued, Vietnam has translated to Vietnamese language has hold national workshop to implement Sendai priorities in Vietnam and Sendai Framework document has been sent to province disaster management office for study and mainstream into work.

There are some main activities in 2017 that we want to report:

After the establishment of the VNDMA, Vietnam has started to conduct many activities, including:

- Giving guidelines to reconstruct the DMO at local level and continue to ask local province authorities to build and implement the Plan for Disaster Prevention and Control; develop criteria and giving guidelines on mainstreaming DRR into local and sector plan for socio-economic development.
- Review the National Strategy for Disaster Prevention and control (issued and 2007) which was updated with Sendai recommendation and submit to Prime Minister to approve for national-wide implementation;

- Revise the Government Decree on Disaster Fund which regulates more detail on establish Fund at the national level, mobilization and guidelines to utilize the disaster Fund (at national and local level).
- Promote the researches and application of science technology in DRR, especially space technology in emergency respond and safe, build back better approach in recovery stage;
- Develop National Program for flash flood evacuation, especially in mountainous area.
- Building up the National Operation Center for Disaster which will be equipped with modern technology and effective procedures to emergency respond.
- Since in 2016-2017, Vietnam has faced more disaster than usual, 18/19 types of disaster defined in Disaster Management Law has been recorded; so that, we have reviewed and develop the standard procedures to receive and allocate support for emergency respond and recovery to ensure the equality that people from the affected area can access the support from community, which focus on: food, health and water sanitation and environment.
- For communication activities: Official website of the Steering Committee and Monthly Bulletin for DRR; all Meeting of the Steering Committee to give direction to cope with extreme disaster has been public by News Agencies.
- Today morning (Dec 14th) in Vietnam, the United Nation Resident Coordinator in Vietnam and Chairman of Steering Committee to Launch the Official Ceremony on the Announcement for supporting recovery from disaster and historical Storm Damrey in 2017 to continue raise the fund and support from international community to help Vietnam to recover from extreme disaster in 2017. The total need for recovery is about 60 million USD.
- Besides, two special ODA projects with fund from Green Climate Fund (GCF) and UNICEF which related to implement Sendai recommendation has been approve, then we are we now concentrating to conduct these projects, including:
 - Project on Children-based Disaster risk management and policy improvement (UNICEF's fund);
 - Project on improving the resilience of vulnerable coastal communities to climate change related impacts in Viet Nam (Grant from GCF accredited by UNDP);

2. What are the main challenges in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Asia Regional Plan for the implementation of the Sendai Framework?

There are some major challenges in implementation of Sendai Framework, including:

- Understanding of community need to be improved; For example, in Damrey Storm in November 2017, even a lot of early warning and announcement has been

sent to community but in the time that storm landed. That's why during Damrey storm, more than 120 mortalities have been recorded.

- Lack of fund to run the regional program for DRR.

3. Please share any ongoing or upcoming main programmes/ activities/events contributing to disaster risk reduction in the region.

In 2017, Vietnam successful host APEC. In term of disaster management, Vietnam has raised initiative to hold the 11th APEC Senior Disaster Management Officials Forum (SDMOF) was held in Vinh City, Viet Nam on 21-22 September 2017. The output of the Forum is the "VINH JOINT RECOMMENDATIONS ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DRR with theme "Enhancing science technology and cooperation to facilitate DRR decision support towards an effective policy making for upgrading DRR governance"; This recommendation was noted in the APEC Leader 2017 statement, so that we are happy to share this recommendation to all of you. We thank UNISDR to send Mr. Animesh Kumar to participate and share information of Sendai Framework implementation in the region to the above Forum.

Ladies and GTM, I think this event is important to member countries to learn from each other. We encourage member countries to share best practices on Sendai implementation so that we can have better chance to share our work and learn practical lesson.

Thank you very much!

[Back to table of content](#)

Official Statements of UN and International Organisations

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

The Asia Regional Plan calls upon intergovernmental organisations, including ESCAP and APDIM to strengthen their capacity to foster the implementation of the Sendai Framework from a regional perspective. Please allow us to highlight four key achievements in this regard:

1. The Regional Roadmap for Implementing the 2030 Agenda in Asia-Pacific, which ESCAP member States adopted early this year, is a big boost to ESCAP's capacity to contribute to the implementation of Sendai. The Roadmap identifies disaster risk reduction and resilience as a priority area for regional cooperation.
2. The ESCAP Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction – the intergovernmental body which provides guidance to the development of our work programme – decided to establish the Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network (APDRN) at its fifth session in October 2017 to integrate different streams of ESCAP's work related to multi-hazard early warning systems, regional space applications for disaster risk reduction and knowledge-sharing. ESCAP has taken preliminary steps to develop regional cooperation mechanisms for combatting dust and sand storm and for improving the early warning system for transboundary floods to demonstrate how APDRN can be operationalized to support the Sendai Framework implementation.
3. The service lines of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Disaster Information Management (APDIM) have been fully operationalized. APDIM will contribute to the achievement of several Sendai targets. Its niche will be in combatting dust and sandstorms, which is expected to benefit millions of people across South and Southwest Asia, as well as in North and Central Asia. It will also focus on building technical capacity for mitigating seismic risks in high risk but low capacity countries, such as through micro-zonation and retrofitting.
4. The Strategic Plan (2017-2021) of the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee has been aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the Sendai Framework for DRR. The work of the Typhoon Committee (14 members) is therefore contributing directly to the implementation of Sendai targets related to reducing mortality and economic losses due to disasters.

[Back to table of content](#)

Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)

Major achievements made in year 2017

- At the 2017 Global Platform for DRR, FAO has highlighted the ample, yet largely untapped opportunities that the agriculture sector provides to promote the resilience of the most vulnerable on a much larger scale than at present. At the Global Platform, FAO emphasised the importance of and its commitment to the following which guide FAO actions and achievements in Asia and the Pacific.
 - **Data, analysis, information and early warning systems** as the foundation for timely and informed decision-making. In Asia-Pacific, FAO trained country office DRR/resilience focal points on FAO developed tools to monitor the implementation of the Sendai Framework indicator C2, rolled out Early Warning-Early Action systems in agriculture sector in disaster-prone countries and continued to strengthen community vulnerability and resilience analysis.
 - **Empowering local communities, men and women, as key actors in DRR** through enhanced access to agricultural technologies and practices (in crop, fisheries, livestock as well as natural resources management) for reducing vulnerability and building resilience;
 - Promoting investment in DRR by ensuring that DRR and resilience building is delivered as an integrated and essential element across our programmes and projects;
 - **DRR, CCA integration**. FAO has been supporting the development of DRR/CCA action plan in the agriculture sector, aiming for an integrated delivery at local level that addresses acute, underlying risks as well as reduce the creation of new disaster risks.
 - **Stronger coordination** between development work and humanitarian operations to address not only natural hazard induced disasters but also protracted crisis situations.
- **Lessons learned:** Evidence i.e. the recent FAO work on cost-benefit of farm level DRR will be instrumental to advocate for investments in DRR, both by Governments and development partners.

What are the main challenges in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Asia Regional Plan for the implementation of the Sendai Framework?

- More work is required for proactive role of sectors in implementing the Sendai Framework.
- The need for harmonization/standardization of tools

Upcoming main programmes/ activities/events.

Regional Conference on “Implementing the Sendai Framework in Agriculture Sectors” on **15-16 March 2017 in Hanoi, Viet Nam**, hosted by the Viet Nam Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and co-chaired by Ministry of Agriculture of Mongolia (tbc). The Regional Conference aims to:

- Raise awareness on the ample, yet largely untapped opportunities that the agriculture sector provides to reduce risks and promote resilience and reinforce commitments of the sector to implementing SFDRR and related global frameworks.
 - Strengthen the understanding of existing and emerging disaster and climate risks to food and agriculture in light of rapid urbanisation and the intertwined urban and rural risks’ context, particularly through the experiential narratives of at-risk population (primary producers, extension workers, post-production process entrepreneurs, forest dependent communities, etc.) from the region.
 - Take stock of on-going efforts in Asian countries to reduce disaster risk and strengthen resilience of food and agriculture systems and dependent livelihoods.
 - Identify, through a multi-stakeholder dialogue required policies, programmes and actions for the agriculture sector to implement the SFDRR and to strengthen its resilience against disaster and climate change.
-
- The Conference will include parallel sessions sharing DRR and resilience building in agriculture sub-sectors (crop, livestock, fisheries and forestry) and discuss more actions along the Sendai Framework Priorities for Action. It will also include parallel sessions on how innovations – in Science and Technology, in Disaster Risk Financing and in addressing emerging issues such as Food and Agriculture for resilient urbanization – will support the implementation of priorities identified by the Agriculture sectors.
 - Governments, organisations and other stakeholders are invited to contribute to shape the Conference agenda and its organisation. On-line registration and call

for contributions (in the form of background materials to support deliberations, actual participation in the Conference and other support) will be launched soon.

[Back to table of content](#)

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

I am very happy to share some updates on DRR with you, on behalf of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, JICA, organisation in charge of administrating Official Development Assistance (ODA) of Japan.

1. Major achievements made in year 2017

- Firstly, one of our major achievements is strengthening the partnership with DRR organisations of partner countries for the purpose of accelerating the implementation of Sendai Framework, especially Global Target (e) through promoting the exchange of views and sharing good practices among the partner countries.
- I would like to inform that one of the good practice of our cooperation and shared is the mid-term road map in line with basin-based approach, prepared by the Government of Sri Lanka
- Concretely, JICA held several meetings and conferences at the occasions of the international forums such as Global Platform in Cancun in May and World BOSAI Forum in Sendai in November, as well as the “Partnership Meeting with Disaster Risk Reduction Organisations of Asian Region” hosted by us, as part of co-creation program at Tokyo in November, in order to share and confirm the background and logical sequence of Sendai Framework with partner countries including Mongolia, host country of the next Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, AMCDRR.
- Through all these occasions, JICA especially emphasizes as much efforts as possible for the Global Target (e) as practitioners of international cooperation to overseas countries.
- JICA also held the World Tsunami Museum Conference in November with UNISDR and the Government of Japan, and Build Back Better Seminar in Mexico last week for the reconstruction from two big earthquakes in September of this year in collaboration with private sector, concretely with Japan BOSAI Platform.

2. Main challenges in the implementation of the Sendai Framework

- We, JICA consider that the main challenges for our agency in the implementation of the Sendai Framework are the support to the development and continuous fine-tune of local DRR plan which is stipulated in the Target (e) and its implementation including investment in disaster risk reduction, which

will contribute to sustainable development goals (SDGs) and include structural measures

Now JICA is analyzing the methodology for preparing local DRR plan, based on the division of labor and responsibility among a variety of stakeholders such as national government, local communities, research and investigation organisations private sectors and so on.

3. Ongoing/ upcoming main programmes/ activities/events contributing to DRR in the region

- Going forward, JICA continues to support the partner countries to focus on developing and updating national and local DRR plan and especially its implementation in investment in DRR, and to share the good practices with other countries.
- Concretely, JICA is ready to support to the sessions on the promotion of Global target (e) in AMCDRR and to related events with the World Tsunami Awareness Day from technical viewpoint.

4. A fin

Finally, JICA would like to reiterate one of the recommendation of the output document of our meeting of this year, which is to put as much emphasis as possible on the discussion on Global Target (e) in AMCDRR in next July, and that it is difficult to achieve the first 4 Global Targets (a) to (d), which are substantial reduction of disaster losses without developing and updating appropriately DRR plan at national and local levels. In this sense, JICA prioritizes the Global Target (e), and deepen the discussions and share the practical methodology to achieve the target (e) continuously.

[Back to table of content](#)

Regional Coordination Mechanism Thematic Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience (RCM-TWG)

The two-year action plan (2017-2018) of the Asia Regional Plan calls for the establishment of a collaborative mechanism of UNISDR, intergovernmental organisations, and the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism to support the implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in line with the SDGs.

1. The Thematic Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience of the Asia Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism has made significant progress in three key areas, namely : (i) advancing coherence in the implementation of disaster risk reduction and resilience across the 2030 Agenda and other internationally-agreed frameworks, an important guiding principle of the Sendai Framework for DRR; (ii) aligning the work of the United Nations with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on disaster management. The joint UN-ASEAN plan which resulted from this engagement provides a blueprint for a more strategic partnership for the United Nations together with other sub-regional organisations; and (iii) coordinated regional response to the 2015/2016 El Niño, working in collaboration with the UN Development Group and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Regional Network for Asia-Pacific.
2. Stronger coordination among members of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism Thematic Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience is evident through joint knowledge products, advocacy, and activities. Following recommendations from the 7th AMCDRR in New Delhi in November 2016, the TWG has organized regional learning platforms and published a joint policy briefing note on how to operationalize coherence with respect to translating global agreements into national strategies. A dedicated session on the UN “delivering as one” for DRR and resilience was organized at the Fifth Session of the ESCAP Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction in October 2017. Member States welcomed the efforts of the TWG and encouraged members to continue coordinating their interventions and programmes to support the coherent implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
3. The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) is now a fully recognized part of the 2030 Agenda follow up and review process. As an annual inclusive and intergovernmental forum, the APFSD supports the region in

preparations for the global High-level Political Forum (HLPF) through peer learning, capturing and sharing regional perspectives and supporting the review of progress. For 2018, the overarching theme for the HLPF will be “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies” with a view to facilitate an in-depth review of SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 15 along with SDG 17. The members of the Thematic Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience will ensure that DRR and resilience perspectives are highlighted during the annual APFSDs and aligned with the findings of the Sendai Monitor.

4. Moving forward, ESCAP would like to suggest a continuation in the delivery of joint knowledge products, advocacy and activities. In this regard, ESCAP proposes as the next topic, resilient infrastructure, and other topics as relevant, and looks forward to hearing from potential partners.

[Back to table of content](#)

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN)

Distinguished delegates, colleagues and friends: a very good afternoon to you all.

On behalf of UN Women, I would like to begin by congratulating the progress made by countries, intergovernmental and regional organisations, and stakeholder groups as shared earlier today. We are very proud to contribute to efforts on integrating gender quality and women's empowerment into disaster risk reduction efforts across the region.

In 2017, UN Women launched a cutting-edge research review titled **Action Not Words, which looks at policies, implementation, knowledge generation, and women's leadership in efforts to address gender equality in climate change and disaster risk reduction in Asia**. What we found is that while progress has been made on integrating gender into DRR policies, we have yet to see much of that **progress translate into implementation**. It points to the several challenges we still encounter. Firstly, we continue to **face persistent challenges in collecting SADD**, this has been a consistent issue, we also hear from several of our partners on the ground and colleagues present here. Secondly, **capacity in the region on gender mainstreaming in the DRR policies and actions is uneven** across countries and partners. This is often combined with a **weakness in institutional arrangement, where women's machineries or gender experts are not engaged in DRR decision making processes, particularly in planning, policy and budget decisions**. Subsequently, this translates into **low investment in gender equality in climate change and DRR**. For example, only 12% of the projects on DRR and climate change funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) over the past five years in Asia integrate gender equality throughout programme activities, monitoring, and budgets, despite three quarters of the GEF projects being in domains of energy, water resources, and other areas that fall within the socially constructed domains of women's activities, or directly impact the lives of women and girls.

UN Women has been **working towards closing these gaps and accelerating** the gender-responsive implementation of the Sendai Framework, including the commitments made at AMCDRR in 2016. We also believe that at the forefront of our collective work, we must **capitalize on women's real and potential leadership in DRR**, including in resilience building. I would like to highlight some of our efforts over the past year in the region in this regard.

In Viet Nam:

- We have successfully supported the Viet Nam Women's Union in increasing women's participation in DRR decision making, and have seen an increase in female members of the Committee for Disaster Prevention and Control nationwide as a result.
- We also successfully supported the development of 700 household disaster preparedness plans in the eight most vulnerable communes, including training on basic swimming and first aid for women. As we know, the lack of these skills for women is a driver of higher mortality of women in disasters.

In Nepal:

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Welfare and the UNHCT Task Team on Inter-Cluster Gender in Humanitarian Action, UN Women Nepal office supported development of national guidelines for prioritizing vulnerable and marginalized populations for humanitarian response and DRR actions in Nepal.
- In close collaboration with our government counterparts, we also supported the capacity development Women Development Officers on gender mainstreaming into disaster preparedness at the local level.

In Bangladesh:

- We were also very pleased to have launched, in collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh, UNDP, and UNOPS, the "National Resilience Programme", which will strengthen gender-responsive DRR, promote women's leadership in DRR decisions and investments, and strengthen community resilience through increased access to livelihood security and preparedness.
- We also continue to provide technical assistance to the government and relevant UN partners on gender responsive assessments and analysis related to DRR and CC.

At the regional level, we continue to co-chair of the Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group with OCHA and ADPC, and as an active member of the gender stakeholder group, we continue to provide normative and coordination support and work closely with partners to increase visibility and promote advocacy for the inclusion of the gender equality and women's empowerment agenda in disaster risk reduction, including in AMCDRR process.

In line with these achievements, and to accelerate and expand our support and commitments to implementation of Sendai commitments, we have two upcoming programmes:

- Global Programme in Support of a Gender Responsive Sendai Framework Implementation: Addressing the Gender Inequality of Risk and Promoting Community Resilience (GiR), with the IFRC and UNISDR
- Strengthening Human Rights and Gender Equality through Climate Change Action and Disaster Risk Reduction, with UN Environment, which will work to integrate gender equality and human rights into disaster risk reduction, climate change, and sustainable energy solutions across the region.

Finally, we remain **committed to actively engaging in the process leading up to AMCDRR, and to support and work closely with the Gender Stakeholder Group, the Government of Mongolia, ISDR and the key partners in ensuring that gender remains a priority agenda item at AMCDRR and beyond.** I thank you once again for your continued commitment ensure gender equality remains a focus and look forward to continued engagement and collaboration.

[Back to table of content](#)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

What are the major achievements made in year 2017? Please share any good practices and lessons.

Since Sendai, UNDP has invested an additional \$430 million in DRR and recovery, seeing growth across each of our work streams and, in particular, a 30 percent increase in projects that include a focus on disaster risk governance, which is core to sustainable, comprehensive risk reduction. Through work on risk assessment and early warning, risk governance and local action, and through to recovery, UNDP has worked with governments and other actors to comprehensively address the complexity of risk reduction, by making all of development risk-informed.

What are the main challenges in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Asia Regional Plan for the implementation of the Sendai Framework?

The need for 1.) enhanced partnerships to engage and drive forward progress, drawing on comparative advantages and avoiding duplication while filling gaps as needed.

2. More predictable financing for DRR and recovery. It is essential that development investments and budgets are disaster risk-informed, and that access to climate finance for highly synergetic DRR measures be provided.

3. Clear linkages with SDGs and the Paris climate commitments. The Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement both aim to build resilience, as do several SDG targets and indicators. A coherent approach to ensure that all DRR initiatives are complementary to and, ideally, drive action across other areas is central to success.

Please share any ongoing or upcoming main programmes/ activities/events contributing to disaster risk reduction in the region.

1. The Global Center for Disaster Statistics, which UNDP along with Fujitsu and International Research Institute for Disaster Science, Tohoku university is working in Indonesia, Cambodia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Nepal, and The Philippines to:

- Integrate DRR into development planning and policy based on sound evidence generated by using cutting-edge scientific analyses of disaster damage and loss;

- Develop national systems of disaster statistics, including disaster forensics, thematic and socio-economic impacts and risk analyses; and
- Establish baselines for monitoring, reporting and analysis of DRR-related targets and indicators for the SDGs and SFDRR.

2. The “STRENGTHENING SCHOOL PREPAREDNESS FOR TSUNAMI IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC” program which, with support from the government of Japan, has held evacuation drills in 20 schools in 7 countries with over 6,500 students, teachers and school administration participating. Going forward the project will aim to develop databases for tsunami risk information; adapt and translate education materials in local languages and develop a regional guideline on planning and conducting tsunami drills.

[Back to table of content](#)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

UNESCO has been putting its devoted efforts, in close collaboration with regional partners including members of ASEAN Safe School Initiative, Asia Pacific Coalition for School Safety and global partners of the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector, on building and enhancing resilience in education sector by 1) encouraging the Member States to integrate Disaster Risk Reduction relevant elements into education sector, including planning process and 2) promoting Comprehensive School Safety Framework which addresses safe school facilities that is one of the most important infrastructures in urban planning.

UNESCO has also been supporting Member States to build capacities to mainstream science, engineering, technology, and innovation for DRR policies and programmes by establishing and strengthening knowledge exchange and scientific cooperation as well as improving early warning systems.

DRR is also mainstreamed into culture sector, UNESCO's another mandated area, through for instance revitalization and community-based conservation of cultural heritage in Indonesia. Acknowledging the importance of raising awareness and knowledge sharing to build resilience, UNESCO also has developed a study and field research to compile historical records of tsunami events in the region that are now accessible by the general public.

Challenges of decentralisation of and bridging plans and policies from national level to local level action and involvement of local actors have also been addressed and highlighted.

Some but not exhaustive examples of UNESCO's Programmes in relation with Sendai Framework for DRR include Conflict and Disaster Risk Reduction Module of the Asia-Pacific Regional Handbook for School/Local-level Education Planning, Emergency Psychosocial Support for youth affected by Typhoon Yolanda, Green Schools Action Project, VISUS (Visual Inspection for defining Safety Upgrading Strategy in School Facilities), and Development of Mobile Applications and Tools on Tsunami and earthquake Preparedness.

UNESCO will, with regional and global partners, continue supporting Member States to build capacity around integrating Disaster Risk Reduction relevant elements into all sectors, utilising science, engineering, technology, and innovation and to enhance

awareness on importance of educational and cultural aspects, which eventually contributes to building and enhancing resilience of the country and the region.

[Back to table of content](#)

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

PUTTING WOMEN AND GIRLS AT THE CENTRE OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Thank you chair, and good afternoon everyone.

The Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction calls for the promotion and support of gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction actions at national and local level, including universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, prevention and response to gender based violence and women's leadership.

UNFPA is committed to supporting the implementation of this action and we made many strides towards this in cooperation with governments across the region this year:

- Governments that are building resilience through their health systems, and implementing inclusive policies to ensure access to primary health care services, including maternal, newborn and child health, and sexual and reproductive health.
- Governments that have incorporated the Minimum Initial Services Package for Reproductive Health in Emergencies - the MISP - in their policies and plans;
- Governments that are collecting and using sex, age and disability disaggregated data to inform their policies and ensure that everyone is counted and no one left behind;
- Governments that are investing in building capacity on gender based violence prevention and response;
- Governments that have embraced the leadership of women, of children and youth, of people with disabilities, and are championing their full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels.

UNFPA is proud to have supported these efforts and looks forward to continuing to step up work in these areas with governments across the Asia Pacific.

In 2018 the APPC midterm review, which will assess progress towards the Asia Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, is an opportunity to

ensure that governments commitments to ensuring women's and girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights also helps to strengthen the resilience of our communities and reduce disaster risk.

Gender responsive DRR will ensure that the resilience we build is not just of our infrastructure and economies, but of our people, all people and particularly women and girls.

UNFPA remains committed to the Gender Stakeholder Group and we look forward to continuing to work through them, and with the Government of Mongolia and ISDR, in this process moving forward, particularly in ensuring that the needs of women and young people are incorporated across the agenda when we meet in Mongolia next year.

Thank you.

[Back to table of content](#)

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)

Thank you all. As UN-Habitat, we gratefully recognize this partnership forum and remain committed to the UN Plan of Action on DRR and Resilience.

In 2017, the unique contribution of UN-Habitat has operated at all five levels, namely global, regional, sub-regional, national and sub-national.

Following the “Quito Declaration on Sustainable Cities & Human Settlements for All”, the New Urban Agenda (NUA) was endorsed by the General Assembly in December 2016, which we believe is the best vehicle for localizing global frameworks.

Resultantly, at the Sixth Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing & Urban Development, 69 countries agreed on a working group on the theme of Urban Development with a focus on Natural, Man-made and Climate-induced Disasters led by the Republic of Indonesia.

Since then, two multi-stakeholder regional partners meetings have been held in collaboration with the Royal Thai Government and UNESCAP respectively to further discuss implementation of the NUA and SDG 11.

In crisis situations, UN-Habitat has advocated an approach where the affected people are placed at the centre of their recovery process coupled with build back better principles, and which was applied in several countries in the region.

In Lao PDR, 189 community-level vulnerability assessments and remedial measures are underway and very soon in Fiji and Solomon Islands.

In Myanmar, we and partners assisted the development of National Building Codes and risk-sensitive land-use planning maps; prepared city resilience plan for Mandalay; an earthquake vulnerability reduction program for Yangon.

Similar initiatives have contributed to resilient communities in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Philippines and Nepal, for example, eight secondary cities in Sri Lanka now have risk-sensitive city development plans.

In galvanizing the implementation of global frameworks, UN-Habitat will be convening the Ninth World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in February 2018, featuring a High-Level Dialogue on Urban Resilience welcoming participation by all.

[Back to table of content](#)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Disasters continue to impact children now and in the longer term: In 2016, an estimated 535 million children – nearly a quarter of the world's children – lived in countries affected by armed conflict, violence, natural disaster and chronic crises.¹ It is estimated that by 2018, half of the world's poor will live in fragile situations.² Crises are becoming more frequent and more complex, lasting longer and affecting more people. The impact of conflict, natural disasters and climate change is forcing children to flee their homes, trapping them behind conflict lines, and putting them at risk of disease, violence and exploitation. Disaster risk reduction has long been a priority for UNICEF, in light of the organisation's dual humanitarian and development mandate to fulfil the rights of children. With its commitment to several global and regional frameworks including AMCDRR, UNICEF has worked with its government, UN and NGO partners to promote:

- Sound multi-hazard risk assessments, based on data that is inclusive and is disaggregated by age, gender and disability demonstrating risk and resilience assessment that is child-centred and strengthening national and sub-national risk assessment capacity. In many countries like India, Indonesia, Nepal and Philippines data collection is being advanced through student led disaster management plans where children map the hazards around their schools and in the communities influencing local planning.
- UNICEF attempts to enhance Sectors capacity including social protection, WASH, Health and education play a central role to strengthen the resilience of communities to disasters, including the compounding effects of climate change and other shocks. UNICEF's experience includes continued advocacy on comprehensive school safety and the work led by UNICEF Education Sector through the 'Education Cannot Wait' Platform.
- UNICEF has been engaging with adolescents and youth using UNICEF's new digital mapping technology to map out risk through mobile phone and use of social media to increase awareness. In Fiji, UNICEF partnered with the Ministry of Education to use a simple mobile phone application to collect data on WASH facilities and services in almost all of the affected schools, which

¹ 'Nearly a Quarter of the World's Children Live in Conflict or Disaster-Stricken Countries', UNICEF Press Release, December 2016. The figures have been calculated by using population data for countries where UNICEF has a humanitarian appeal.

https://www.unicef.org/media/media_93863.html

² *Fragile States: Domestic revenue mobilization in fragile states*, OECD, Paris, 2014, p. 95.

strengthened decisions for response prioritization and emergency fund allocation.

- UNICEF is committed to strengthening the resilience of all girls and boys to all shocks and strengthening the systems they require to flourish. Among other things, this will require better integration of humanitarian and development work, focused on the underlying drivers of risk. UNICEF will also continue to support the development of capacities for preparedness and effective response which lies at the heart of disaster risk reduction.

Last but certainly not least, as disaster risk is an intergenerational issue, UNICEF will continue to work with its partners to promote the participation and rights of all children, and women, in DRR and their vital role in strengthening resilience.

[Back to table of content](#)

United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)

What are the major achievements made in year 2017? Please share any good practices and lessons.

Being aware of the usefulness of space technology applications in disaster risk reduction, the Office for Outer Space Affairs, through UN-SPIDER and more than 20 additional partners launched during the Sendai conference the “Global Partnership using Space Technology Applications in Risk Reduction (GP-STAR).

During 2016 AMCDRR, the UN-SPIDER organized and lead the theme “Applications of Science and Technology for disaster risk reduction” by organizing a thematic session titled “Strengthening the contribution of science and technology for disaster risk reduction”. In 2017, we organized side event in 2017 Global Platform for DRR, Cancun, Mexico.

It is important to mention that the year 2018 will mark the 50th anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space - UNISPACE+50 which will be hosted in Vienna on 20-21 June 2018. Thematic priority 6 of UNISPACE+50 on ‘International cooperation towards low- emission and resilient societies’ specifically aims to contribute to the Sendai Framework.

What are the main challenges in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Asia Regional Plan for the implementation of the Sendai Framework?

UN-SPIDER considers the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as a central framework for delivering its mandate. This is achieved by a deeper engagement with Member States through technical advisory support and services and other supporting initiatives at national, regional and international level. The main challenges in the countries is the access to the space based information, policy frameworks related to the earth observation and geospatial data sharing, institutional coordination and technical capacity.

Please share any ongoing or upcoming main programmes/ activities/events contributing to disaster risk reduction in the region.

UN-SPIDER organizes international conferences to support the Sendai Framework by focusing on being a gateway to space information for disaster management support, by serving as a bridge to connect the disaster management, risk management and space communities, and by being a facilitator of capacity-building and institutional strengthening, particularly for developing countries.

At regional level, UN-SPIDER is willing to actively contribute to the AMCDRR by organizing specific thematic event. UN-SPIDER is also proposing a regional event jointly with the SAARC Disaster Management Centre to be hosted in India.

As a deeper engagement at national level, UN-SPIDER will organize technical advisory missions to Benin, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone and Cambodia. The programme will also visit Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Vietnam to review the progress on the recommendations provided during the advisory missions.

As a part of capacity building efforts, we will organize theme specific training programmes in all countries mentioned above, in addition to few international training programmes in Asia and Africa.

We welcome partnerships to contribute to these programmes.

I thank UNISDR for providing opportunity to contribute.

[Back to table of content](#)

World Health Organisation (WHO)

Mr. Chairman,

The WHO South-East Asia Region is vulnerable to disasters. The 2016 World Disasters Report shows that, over the past decade, the Region contributed to 26.8% of the global mortality due to disasters. Moreover, countries in the South-East Asia Region have also been preventing, detecting and responding to outbreaks and epidemics of emerging and re-emerging diseases such as SARS, H1N1 MERS-CoV and most recently Ebola and Zika.

Emphasis is being provided in the area of Emergency Risk Management including public health risk reduction, readiness and mobilizing stakeholders for combined emergency response in SEA Region:

a. Major achievements made in year 2017

In terms of major achievements in 2017, our works were directed in four areas - *Improving partnerships for DRR in health, Strengthening integration of managing multiple hazards, Resilient Health Systems/Safer Health Facilities, and Readiness.*

1. *Improving partnerships for DRR in health*

A regional consultation was conducted in Bangkok during 28-29 Nov 2017 wherein around 90 delegates from 56 partner organisations (Member States, UN agencies, GOARN, EMTs, Standby Partners, Regional Networks etc.) and MOH representatives from 10 countries gathered and provided inputs in enhancing the coordination and cooperation mechanisms for building and sustaining operational partnerships.

A Regional Framework on Operational Partnerships for Emergency Response/ Nov 2017” was drafted.

2. *Strengthening integration of managing multiple hazards*

A Health Emergency Risk Profile for SEA was completed in September 2017 covering the following:

- Use of the INFORM Index for risk, vulnerability and capacities are applied to understand the risk profile of the Region.
- Application of the World Bank-WHO UHC Index to assess the health profile vis-à-vis risks.

- Application of a methodology (modified Delphi and Disease Attribute Intelligence System -DAISY) to examine biological/infectious risks through specific syndromes as well as the way in which emerging diseases or certain priority pathogens may manifest.
- Overlaying these assessments with capacity assessments done in the region (self-assessments for IHR, UHC index and SEAR Benchmarks) – to give a more comprehensive picture of multiple hazards is a vis capacities
- A proposed road map of risk/vulnerability profiles for countries especially at sub-national level
- The South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund (SEARHEF) established in 2008, has been used to provide immediate financial support to nine out of 11 Member States in 31 emergency operations, with disbursements from the Fund totaling almost US\$ 5 million. At the 69th Regional Committee in 2016, Member States approved expanding the scope of **SEARHEF to include a preparedness stream that would strengthen key aspects such as disease surveillance, health emergency workforce and health emergency teams.** It is anticipated that support for basic preparedness activities may cost US\$ 200,000 per country per biennium. Thus, minimum corpus per biennium may be set at US\$ 2.2 million.
- In November-December 2016, WHE/SEARO **convened a Regional Meeting to strengthen regional capacity in emergency risk management**

3. Resilient Health Systems/Safer Health Facilities

With the IHR review recommendations, **the Joint External Evaluation was adopted as a capacity measurement methodology for IHR core capacities.** 7 of the 11 countries have completed their JEEs in SEAR. 3 countries are now in the process of developing their National Action Plans for Health Security in collaboration with Ministries of Health and various partners.

4. Readiness

A Regional HEOC meeting was conducted in October 2017 to finalize plans for improving HEOCS in countries to be implemented in the next biennium.

Support was provided for the set-up of Health Emergency Operations Centers (HEOC) in the SEAR Member States introducing the Incident Management System in organizing response operations has been ongoing work for the WHE programme in SEAR.

b. Main challenges in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Asia Regional Plan?

- **Safety and vulnerability mapping of critical health infrastructure** is multi-sectoral involving various line departments of ministries. Vulnerability mapping of the existing health facilities can happen on smooth run but addressing of the deficiencies in structural, non-structural and functional areas is hard and challenging as it requires inter-ministerial level coordination.
- **Inadequate awareness and knowledge on the recommended indicators of Sendai's indicators on DRR.**
- **Resource mobilization for public health risk reduction is not as appealing to the donors** as emergency response interventions because it does not give desired visibility to them. However, SEARO has expanded the existing SEARHEF mechanism to include a Preparedness Stream of funding.
- **Low Budget allocation from the GDPs for the MOHs for overall health system development** which is closely linked with the implementation of the Health Aspects of the Sendai Framework.
- **Limited Technical expertise in resilience building in the region.** DRR in Health is still an evolving field in the Region; especially in health and allied sectors.

c. Please share any ongoing or upcoming main programmes/ activities/events contributing to disaster risk reduction in the region.

- **Completed Joint External Review of IHR (2005):** Seven of the 11 countries have completed their JEEs in South-East Asia Region. Three countries are now in the process of developing their National Action Plans for Health Security in collaboration with Ministries of Health and various partners.
- **Health Emergency Risk Profiling and Vulnerability Mapping was completed in the South-East Asia Region 11 countries:** A Health Emergency Risk Profile for South East Asia was completed in September 2017. The publication *Roots for Resilience: A Health Emergency Risk Profile for South-East Asia Region* (available at <http://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/258766>)

- **Regional Technical Consultation Meeting on Integrating Non-Communicable Diseases Management continuity in National Health Emergency Response Plans was organized:** The regional level technical consultation was conducted by SEARO during 13-14 September 2017. Priority NCDs, indicators and monitoring framework for ensuring continuity of treatment during emergency response were finalized.
- a. **Assessment of Safety and Vulnerability Mapping of Critical Health Infrastructure was done:** Critical health infrastructures (secondary and tertiary healthcare levels) have been assessed in Nepal and Bhutan. The agenda of safer health facilities has also been taken up by the National Disaster Management Authority and MOH India with WHO technical support.
- **Emergency Medical Teams: National EMT Strengthening Workshops have been conducted in 2017 in Thailand, Indonesia, India and Bhutan. EMTs from these countries will be in the process of quality assurance and verification by WHO's EMT Initiative. Additionally, an EMT Coordination training course for the Region has been conducted. Also, civil-military coordination as part of preparedness and response mechanism has been prioritized during the recently held World Congress on Military Medicine in New Delhi in November 2017. These efforts have prepared and capacitated readily deployable emergency health workforce in the Region.**
 - SEARO will provide technical assistance to selected and prioritized countries for their national EMT strengthening and accreditation.
- **A Regional Health Emergency Operations Centre Meeting was organized:** A regional HEOC meeting was conducted during 6-8 November 2017 to finalize plans for improving HEOCS in countries to be implemented in the next biennium.
- **Regional and WHO Country Offices Emergency Readiness Training was organized:** WHO SEARO is organizing a readiness training on Business Continuity Planning and Contingency planning of WHO offices from 12-14 December 2017 for the next biennium that would also have other modules to complete organisational readiness.

[Back to table of content](#)

Official Statements of Stakeholder Groups

Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN)

We, the civil society stakeholder group led by Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN) with support from other networks, along with other civil societies from the Asian region would like to update the followings in support of the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework.

Major achievements and good practices and lessons

1. Establishment of strategic thematic hubs across the region to lead programs and advocacy works at various levels, for wider stakeholders' engagement and participation, efficient delivery and engaging meaningful, inclusive participation and action of local people. These hubs are; Localization Hub in Delhi, Innovation Hub in Tokyo, Quality and Accountability Hub in Karachi (in process of launching); and Response and Preparedness Hub in Kuala Lumpur (in process of launching).
2. Localization initiatives include:
 - The Asian Local Leaders Forum for Disaster Resilience, with activities in India, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. These initiatives are spearheaded by SEEDS India.
 - Building Resilient Communities programs with at-risk local communities in Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Cambodia, Thailand and Myanmar. Initiatives led by MERCY Malaysia.
 - Build Back Safer initiatives, led by the National Society for Earthquake Technology Nepal, which include Building Code Implementation Programs and Advanced Design Course on Seismic Safety of Buildings.
3. Innovation initiatives include:
 - Humanitarian Innovation Fund-ADRRN Strengthening Humanitarian Innovation Program in Indonesia.
 - Innovation Hub workshops for various organisations and CSOs in Asia. These include workshops in Nepal, India and Malaysia - providing customized programs to promote proactive and innovative thinking through capacity building, advocacy, networking, knowledge sharing and idea incubation. Other programs include collaboration works with universities focussing on design and innovation. Programs are led by the ADRRN Tokyo Innovation Hub.
 - Establishment of Humanitarian Development Center by MERCY Malaysia, which has been recognized through the Platform for Action, Commitments and Transformations (PACT) in transcending the humanitarian-

development divide. Activities include the running of Humanitarian Labs, focusing on issues such as refugee management, community resilience, DRR and DRM, healthcare issues and many others.

- Disasters and Emergencies Preparedness Programme (DEPP) Innovation Lab Bangladesh, led by Dhaka Community Hospital Trust, which focuses on preparedness and resilience of disaster-prone communities in Bangladesh.
4. Quality and Accountability initiatives include:
 - Promoting quality and accountability across Asia through trainings in Korea, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Thailand. These trainings include ToTs, livestock emergency guidelines and standards and SPHERE consultation sessions. Initiatives are led by Community World Service Asia.
 - Other activities include CHS Self-Assessment of various organisations.
 5. Other activities contributing to the implementation of Sendai Framework at the local level include establishing working partnership with the ASEAN Secretariat, AHA Centre, resilient health infrastructure programs, multiple working collaborations with various local government units at various countries in advancing the resilient agenda and achieving SFDRR targets through policies and political will at the local, national, regional and international levels.

Main challenges

Main challenges include:

1. Limited funding in financing DRR programs at a wider scale across the region. States should ensure that DRR activities are financed and DRR is integrated in all development programmes at local level to diminish underlying causes of risk and vulnerabilities. Public-private partnerships are also measures in overcoming this challenge.
2. Limited resources in carrying out efficient DRR programs. With CSOs networks such as ADRRN, we are working collaboratively among members and partners to have better resource sharing.
3. Mismatch of definition, capacity and expectations on partnership between Humanitarian actors and Development actors.

Ongoing or upcoming main programmes/activities/events contributing to the disaster risk reduction in the region.

Upcoming programs and activities planned include:

1. Building resilient ASEAN, through partnership with ASEAN Member States, covering all ten countries in advocating and advancing DRR initiatives and localizing DRR actions. This initiative is hoped to be scaled up to the Asian level through continuous active engagement with countries and partners.
2. Working with agencies such as JICA and Japan Conservation Engineers in streamlining data and information on DRR and risk mitigation measures in various countries such as Bangladesh, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Pakistan.
3. Localization in Action in Asia Dialogue 2017, moving forward with specific individual National/Regional Actions for 2018.
4. To lead the CSO efforts towards AMCDRR in Mongolia, 2018.
5. To host second round of Asian Local Leaders Forum for Disaster Resilience at the AMCDRR.

To reaffirm our commitment towards the implementation of SFDRR at the local level, ADRRN will continue its role as Convener/Chair of the CSO Task Force of IAP and wishes to highlight that we are planning for the CSO pre-event for next year's AMCDRR in Ulaanbaatar in continuing our efforts in reducing existing risks and preventing the creation of new risks as well as strengthening community resilience.

Thank you.

[Back to table of content](#)

Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE)

I am reporting on behalf of ARISE, the private sector alliance, which is also a UNISDR led initiative. The private sector is committed to following through on its Statement of Action at AMCDRR India 2016. The Statement comprises four commitments [with seven targets]:

1. Increase DRR awareness at enterprise level
2. Build corporate resilience
3. Contribute to building a disaster resilient community via funding mechanisms and ICT tools
4. Promote Public-Private-Partnerships (PPP) and stakeholder engagement

Since the last IAP meeting in April, additional progress on these commitments is as follows:

Just two weeks ago, we, ARISE held our Annual General Meeting in Asia for the first time. It was held in Manila, Philippines, in combination with the 6th Top Leaders Forum organized every year by ARISE Philippines. These events reach well beyond the ARISE membership and thus is a follow-through on all our commitments; especially DRR-aware private sector (1) and reaching out to other stakeholders (4).

ARISE Japan, which is a country-level network of ARISE, has been very active in the three DRR-related events in November in Japan, the World Bosai Forum, the national DRR platform event, and a DRR exhibition. ARISE members organized sessions in all three events, on SMEs and business continuity; on latest risk management; DRR innovations; and water resilience. [The government of Japan mentioned reaching out using skits, and I am happy to report that one person acting from stage was from our company.] Another ARISE member, Japan Bosai Platform (sitting right here today) have been active in knowledge-sharing on DRR innovations and private sector engagement, collaborating with JICA (also present) to reach JICA trainees and visiting government delegates. These we count as progress on commitments (1) (2) and (4).

ARISE Philippines has made landmark progress on our commitment promoting Public Private Partnerships and engaging other stakeholders (4). [As Phil govt/ sci/tech/LG have reported before me], the National Resilience Council of the Philippines, which is a PPP-and academia- partnership initiative to build a Resilient Philippines, has been launched with national government buy-in and commitment from major cities. This is really a big deal because ARISE Philippines has reached out and managed to engage multiple local private sector initiatives, not just themselves. The NRC is also proof that

Philippines on the national and local government side are actively embracing partnership with the private sector and others, and this is a clear step forward for Sendai Framework implementation.

Regarding the target to increase the number of ARISE networks (by Sep 2018), I am happy to report that FICCI [also in this room] have joined ARISE and are expected to launch ARISE India, and ARISE Mongolia is still in the works. Outside Asia, a network in the US has been launched in October.

[I will let my colleagues from FICCI report on the (3)rd commitment to 'develop a funding mechanism' in which they are making steady progress.]

That's all, thank you.

[Back to table of content](#)

The United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth

The UN Major Group for Children and Youth continues to contribute to the implementation, and follow up and review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework). The framework specifically states, “children and youth are agents of change”.

Recognizing the Sendai Framework principle of ‘an all of society engagement in DRR’ and given our continued engagement in the Asia region including through the IAP and AMCDRR, we are here to build on commitments in support of the Sendai Framework.

Children and youth, as well as children focused and youth serving organisations, networks and platform in Asia carry out several activities in DRR and take the responsibility on Sendai Framework implementation seriously.

We will be sharing achievements done across the region by the 3 major coalitions in line with the 4 commitments we made in the AMCDRR in 2017:

- 1) *The UN Major Group for Children and Youth*
- 2) *The Children in Changing Climate Coalition (CCC) (includes Plan International, Save the Children, UNICEF, World Vision and Child Fund, established in 2007)*
- 3) *The Asia Pacific Coalition for School Safety (APCSS) (includes ADPC, IFRC, Plan International, Save the Children, World Vision, UNISDR, UNESCO, and UNICEF, established in 2012).*

Commitment 1: Expanding programs and areas for implementing children and youth-centered DRR to build school and communities resilience.

• This includes activities with ASEAN such as:

- The ASEAN Safe School Initiative (ASSI) with INGOs, UN Agencies, Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies since 2013, benefited over 38,000 boys and girls together with 3,397 adults (government officials and school community) and 548 organisations (UN agencies, INGOs, government bodies).
- The ASEAN Youth Volunteer Programme (AYCP), an ASEAN regional youth volunteerism platform, October 2017 raised a theme “Disaster Risk Reduction” with 50 developed DRR projects.

• UNICEF together with the Government of Vietnam developed a Joint Vision 2030 for CCDRR to reinforce the commitments on Sendai.

- UNICEF, Plan International, Save the Children, World Vision, Child Fund is working on building the capacity of existing child forums to ensure adolescent and youth participation in DRR/CCA and related issues of child rights, health and wellbeing.

Commitment 2: Creating a space at the regional level for discussion and sharing of technical

resources, good practices/lessons learned and model policies on safe schools to minimize the impacts of disasters to children's education.

- The *Asia Pacific Coalition for School Safety* contributed to the 2nd ASEAN Conference on School Safety as an avenue to promote regional and sub-regional cooperation and increase investments on resilience for education.
- Sound practices of youth and children participation in DRR across the region includes:
 - child-friendly hazard, vulnerability and capacity assessment in Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar and Lao PDR
 - children and youth participation in developing their campaign and advocacy materials in Cambodia and Indonesia
 - participation in school disaster management committee (SDMC) in ASEAN countries, and regular drills at school.

Commitment 3: Coordinating and promoting the adoption, development and implementation of the CSSF.

- Young Peacebuilders for Climate Action (Brunei) engages young peace advocates in strengthening their capacities in CBDRRM and environment sustainability. This initiative contributes to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2016-2020.

- World Vision, UNICEF and Save the Children worked to enhance resilience and reduce risks in schools in several countries in Asia such as Mongolia, Cambodia, Thailand and Indonesia through:
 - national and city policy frameworks with the Ministry of Education
 - training on disaster awareness and climate change adaptation with moreover 30,000 beneficiaries of population including students, community members, teachers and school principals.

Commitment 4: Facilitate the participation of youth as equal stakeholders in the regions formal and informal avenues of DRR policy design, implementation, monitoring and follow up, and review.

- Supporting innovative youth led initiatives through interactive platforms such as YouKnow website, youth-led open-data and mapping, and other platforms of coordination and collaboration where technology is utilized.

In our work of building resilience and by being active citizens we have recognized a few challenges and trends in building resilience for all in the Asia region. We would like to stress this in order for all actors in this IAP to jointly find solutions for timely actions addressing these challenges.

- Insufficient resource allocations and institutionalized space in national and community level to support children and youth program and policy;
- Support in top-down approaches in national and community resilience investments and projects, instead of bottom-up;
- Existence of creation and maintenance of underlying risk factors, reducing resilience;
- More capacity building and education in DRR, and incorporation of DRR in educational programs including upper education.

A few of our upcoming activities in addition to carrying out the activities in progress is community informal capacity building workshops for and by young people, and the CCC and APCSS will continue to carry out the Safe School Initiative in communities around the region.

We are here to show that children and youth are not just vulnerable; instead we are part of the solution. Just as we hold ourselves accountable for the decisions we make today, we also hold you accountable to the same standards.

[Back to table of content](#)

Duryog Nivaran

Dear All,

It is an honour to be with those who are making Asia safer from Disaster Risk.

I represent Duryog Nivaran. Asia, oldest network of individuals and institutions committed to promoting alternative paradigm of risk reduction.

It is a joy to see what DN promoted twenty years ago is now enshrined in SFDRR.

This includes leadership of women, community-based approaches, and urban resilience.

I am very proud to report that Duryog Nivaran has worked on South Asia Disaster Report 2016.

It focuses on Build Back Better. Draws from past ten years. Sets it into SFDRR and South Asia context. Relates to SDGs. And recommends way ahead that is transformative.

The SADR 2016 was launched in soft in Nepal. Received comments from NGOs and authorities and UN system. It was revised. And is now available to all.

It is first ever bottom up South Asia related initiative that furthers the Asian Regional Plan for DRR.

It is one of the first initiatives that makes one of the important recommendations of Asian Ministers Conference in Delhi a reality.

As Kamal Kishore, member of NDMA of India and a long standing leader of DRR work in Asia says in SADR 2016 preface that this contribution is valuable to all.

The report is supported by Christian Aid and others.

The next SADR 2018 is being shaped, mostly on urban resilience, and all of you are invited to join.

I thank you on behalf of our chair Mihir Bhatt and assure that several more key activities of Duryog Nivaran are aimed at making the Asian Regional Plan a reality.

[Back to table of content](#)

Huairou Commission

Huairou Commission (HC) builds grassroots women's leadership to advance community development. Enhancing grassroots leadership in building community resilience is part of this.

HC was invited by ISDR to build a Community Practitioners Platform for Resilience (CPP) because it recognized that the leadership of community based organisations and their inclusion in decision making processes is critical to successfully delivering the local implementation of Global policy frameworks and national policies

In the lead up to Sendai we strongly advocated for the inclusion of community based organisations – whether these are urban slum-dwellers networks, farmers' cooperative, indigenous networks or grassroots women's federations – to be recognized as a stakeholder group in the Sendai framework.

Our ongoing work on bringing local DRR priorities into development programs is very much aligned to the regional commitments made at the last Asian Ministerial Conference.

1. Understanding risk

Community based groups within Asia are actively engaged in collecting local information on risk and vulnerability. This information is used to:

- build consensus within communities,
- educate and build collaborative relationships with local government
- use community data as the basis of collaborations with government

There are several examples where local community data is being validated by government, incorporated in government databases and used for effective targeting and delivery of government programs to reduce vulnerability. This is relevant to the discussions on what kind of data is needed in the Asian region for the effective implementation of SFDRR. Effective reduction of localized risk requires hyper local data which governments often do not have and recognizing this, governments are collaborating with communities to target and deliver and design programs more effectively. Indonesia, Philippines and India are examples of this.

2. Risk Governance

This ability to collect and analyze very local data is also a big part of how communities contribute to good risk governance and the effective delivery of programs. The decentralization processes underway in many countries provides many opportunities but where there are mechanisms that build capacities of communities to influence

local decision-making processes, budgets, reduce leakage and corruption, local governments are able to effectively respond to local priorities of communities and grassroots women's groups to

Eg. Vietnam – Can Tho city a group has created a multi- stakeholder forum for coordinating and planning local development and DRR priorities. This is providing both grassroots women and the women's union their first opportunity to understand and intervene in planning processes. In India and the Philippines, grassroots women are experienced in monitoring delivery of government programs – including health centers, poverty reduction programs to reduce leakage and corruption.

3. South-South Cooperation

As part of our commitment to enabling community-led transfer and scaling up of effective DRR practices: -

In 2017 we held a peer learning exchange on resilience strategies between grassroots women from Indonesia and Philippines, sponsored by Asian Development Bank.

In 2018 we are planning with ActionAid Australia to hold a peer learning exchanges linking grassroots leaders from HC (most likely India, Nepal, Indonesia and Philippines) and Actionaid Cambodia and Vanuatu, among other countries, sponsored by Ausaid. Under the same project we will be holding a Grassroots Academy convening grassroots leaders from several countries to share practical knowledge and identify advocacy priorities at Climate Change conference in Poland at the end of 2018. Closer to home we are holding a Grassroots Academy on Resilience which includes sharing of grassroots women's tools for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda at the World Urban Forum in KL, Malaysia

Conclusion:

Community based organisations are contributing to localized data on risk and vulnerability, giving the grassroots a greater voice in decision making and leading collaborative delivery of programs to reduce vulnerability, thus playing an active role in driving a bottom-up process of effective risk governance that is responsive and accountable to local community resilience priorities.

We must collectively reflect on and unpack the notion of inclusiveness – that is such a pervasive part of the 2030 Agenda- to develop operational definition for the term and then create benchmarks for engaging community based organisations in the planning, implementation and assessment of the Sendai Framework.

[Back to table of content](#)

International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC)

Chair, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) at this ISDR Asia Partnership Forum. Today we speak on behalf of our 38 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies comprising 125,000 local branches and 9 million volunteers in the Asia Pacific.

We all have a responsibility to ensure DRR initiatives and investment reach local actors and their communities. This is central to the One Billion Coalition for Resilience (1BC) that the IFRC is building with partners in Asia Pacific and around the world. To date, 10 Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies have adopted and launched the 1BC in Asia Pacific, including 4 since November last year. At the same time, one Government (Bangladesh) and 5 prominent organisations have joined the 1BC – including Prudence Foundation, Asia Football Confederation, Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre, the Association of Pacific Rims Universities and INCEIF - the Global University of Islamic Finance. This enables us to expand local solutions.

We have a deep and growing strategic commitment to DRR, as demonstrated in successive IFRC organisational strategies of 2010 and 2020. Our future strategy towards 2030 will show an even stronger commitment to DRR. The AMCDRR in November 2016 inspired the Red Cross and Red Crescent to advance on the implementation of the IFRC Framework for Community Resilience, guided by our Road Map to Community Resilience, and to advocate for the resilience strengthening across entire systems and sectors while delivering on the specific commitments in the IFRC Stakeholder Action Statement.

Some notable highlights of our progress to date include:

Priority Area One: Understanding Disaster Risk:

We continue to demonstrate global and regional leadership in Vulnerability Capacity Assessments (VCA) and to invest in local level capacity to ensure that gender and diversity dimensions and climate risk are better integrated into local assessments and plans, as well to capitalise on technology and innovation available to us. Our partnership with private sector, regional intergovernmental organisations and UN agencies have contributed in many forms to enhanced knowledge and capacities to deepen the way we analyse and address root causes associated with risks and vulnerability.

We have trained thousands of volunteers within the Red Cross Red Crescent in Asia Pacific, to carry out VCAs and also to build their knowledge through regular learning and technological innovation.

We encourage those around this table, to make use of this important local knowledge and information collated by our members. This can be done through our network as well as accessing our regularly updated VCA repository which stores vital local level information which all too often is left out of DRR decision making.

Priority Area Two: Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance to Manage Disaster Risk

We continue to work with key partners such as UNDP to support governments to strengthen disaster risk governance in the region. Over 2017, we have been actively engaged in the revision and, adoption of new Disaster Risk Management Laws in three countries – Mongolia, Nepal and Nauru. We are delighted that these new laws utilised the IFRC/UNDP Checklist on Law and DRR in their development.

We continue to support disaster law process in 9 countries in Asia Pacific (Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Fiji, Vanuatu, Philippines, Indonesia, Nepal, Tuvalu). This includes developing dissemination modules on rights, roles and responsibilities in disaster law in some Mekong countries and the Philippines.

Supporting and strengthening regional DRM governance also remains a priority for IFRC. We are currently partnering with ASEAN to assess good practice and opportunities for AADMER implementation at the national level. This is in addition to our work with ASEAN on sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response in emergency preparedness.

Priority Area Three: Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience

Over 2017, we have systematically invested in the capacity of the local branch offices and volunteers. Through our Branch Organisational Capacity Building and Peer-to-Peer Support models, our volunteers have been empowered to enhance quality and scale-up resilience strengthening actions in their local communities. Gender and Diversity is one key area where we have also invested in knowledge development based on practical experiences.

A great example of investing in DRR and local actors is from Indonesia, where Red Cross has partnered in the development of a community flood early warning early action system across Citarum River earlier this year. It covers 12 districts, and is estimated to reach over 20 million people.

Investing in youth as agents of change in DRR and climate change is key to our work. Since November 2016, hundreds of Red Cross and Red Crescent peer educators have been mobilised in Asia Pacific. They are now identifying challenges in their own communities and taking actions to address them including implementation of safer school actions through disaster drills, first aid training, and campaigns for a cleaner environment. We are also inspiring young people in number of countries to develop strategies to adapt to changing climate and advocate for action in their own communities using interactive trainings.

Enhancing Institutional resilience is a key component which has been incorporated within our plan to sustain and maximize community resilience. As part of our policy a percentage of funds is now allocated from every emergency appeal to DRR for resilience.

Priority Area Four: Enhancing Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response and to “Build Back Better”

This year, in the Philippines, Nepal, Timor-Leste, and Mongolia, Red Cross has taken deliberate steps to strengthen institutional disaster response capacity. Built on a strong foundation of evidence, we are taking a systematic approach to improving the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of response in the region.

To do this, approaches and tools have been developed to measure the enhancement of National Society capacity for Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) and to deliver emergency response. This supports National Societies to take the lead in assessing, planning, implementing, and monitoring their preparedness for response actions, ensuring a more cohesive, harmonized and systematic approach.

We all know, we must collectively start responding better to early warning information instead of responding once disaster strikes. We are making a strong call to all actors to make use of forecast information and act based on heightened risks. For this reason, many of Asia Pacific National Societies have stepped up their climate-smart risk reduction and forecast-based financing programmes.

In July 2017, Bangladesh Red Crescent acted under FbF releasing the equivalent of 54 euros to over 1,000 beneficiary households in Bora district after flooding forecasts crossed FbF danger levels on the Jamuna river. This resulted in people using the cash for buying fodder for their cows and to evacuate them, and not having to sell them. The preliminary results of the 2017 evaluation suggest that assisted people engaged in less food rationing and skipping of meals, and took out fewer predatory loans as compared to neighbouring communities. They also reported fewer symptoms

of post-disaster stress and poor mental health than neighbouring communities that did not receive early support before peak flooding occurred.

Red Cross is now working in Mongolia to act earlier for the risk of Dzud this winter, and under the FbF program is preparing to disburse cash and animal care kits for 2,000 vulnerable herder households in very high risk soums *before* the animals become weak. This action was triggered based on the recently released Government Dzud Risk Map. This is the *first* time a national level FbF system has been triggered - meaning actions can take place in the locations where we anticipate the highest risk.

Our Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) has enabled us to achieve even greater impact. Through reducing the time required for approval of DREF requests, we have strengthened readiness to respond and to further build on national capacities.

We have created the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Reference Centre based in Korea focusing on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience. This Reference Centre provides an important platform for knowledge sharing and development within the RCRC global network.

However, our best efforts are not without challenges. In order to realise our commitments and truly bring about a transformative change, we all must do more to:

- **Localise the DRR agenda and Institutionalise Forecast-based Financing –** Our goal is to reach 125,000 local RCRC branches in Asia Pacific and enhance their capacities to respond and to remain credible local actors that work with other local actors and communities. FbF is one example to highlight further - we believe that engaging with local governments to institutionalize FbF will highly contribute to reduction of risk and losses. This means, reaching and channeling *flexible* preparedness funding to at-risk communities. In order to do this at scale, we call upon governments to work with us to institutionalise FbF into existing policies, plans and programmes at all levels, matched by dedicated national funding for preparedness in addition to response.
- **Scale Up Community Voices and Leadership, particularly amongst women and diverse groups, in DRM decision making.** Internally have made a strong commitment to advance with our new approach on Protection, Access, Inclusion, Participation and Safety in recent operations and continue building capacities across our RCRC national and local network. Different voices from at-risk communities must be heard and acted on in planning and implementation of national and local frameworks. While there are some good examples of mandated involvement of diverse groups in DRM decision making in Asia Pacific, there continues to be a divide between policy and practice. We

call on actors around this table to work with us to support local actors and at-risk groups to engage and influence DRR decision making at all levels.

- **Analyse and Address Risks related to Disaster Displacement.** We must collectively better prevent, prepare for and minimize displacement, especially protracted displacement – through a number of cross-sectorial interventions aimed at enhancing resilience, and reducing vulnerability. This needs to include better risk and vulnerability assessment and mapping of displacement hotspots, while jointly we also need to continue our advocacy for funding to be less earmarked so that also our operations and programs addressing displacement can truly be based on needs and risks.
- Lastly, let us not forget that **gender inequality is killing women and girls in disasters**. The RCRC have put significant efforts internally to incorporate gender and diversity into our strategic, annual operational plans and emergency plans of action. Too often women and girls are still excluded from early warning systems and do not receive information about risk, or are prevented from taking part in preparedness activities. We have a notable partnership with UN Women and ISDR to bring greater focus on the gender inequality of risk.

The IFRC stands ready to support governments and work with partners through the active engagement of the respective RCRC National Societies to ensure implementation of these commitments in the lead up to the July 2018 AMCDRR to ensure we reach the local level, where disasters are most severely felt, and improving the safety and resilience of those most vulnerable.

[Back to table of content](#)

Science and Technology Group

Major achievements and good practices and lessons

1. A compilation of good practices on “Co-design of disaster risk reduction solutions” was published in the Global Platform in Cancun in May 2017. The document shows 40 examples of co-designing solutions from 14 Asian countries.
2. Two science technology advisory group meetings were held: one in July 2017 in Hong Kong, and the other in November 2017 in KL, Malaysia.
3. The Hong Kong meeting was followed by a capacity building program of the young researchers in multi-disciplinary science and technology, where 35 young scientists from more than 15 countries participated for a week-long training. The training program was hosted by Chinese University of Hong Kong.
4. The KL meeting was followed by a science policy dialogue where scientists, policy makers, private sectors participated and discussed the need of science-based decision-making.
5. In the private sector – science collaboration, Philippines ASTAAG member organized the ARISE meeting, and establishment of National Resilience Council of Philippines was established to promote science private sector collaboration.
6. Science technology community organized a major Global Conference on Science and Technology for Disaster Resilience, organized in Tokyo in November 2017. More than 250 participants were there from government, UN, academic, private sector and civil society, and adopted Tokyo Statement with two specific focus: 1) Development of guidelines for strengthening national platforms for DRR and coordination mechanisms through enhanced contribution of science and technology, 2) Periodic synthesis reports on the state of science and technology for reducing disaster risk.
7. Science technology community contributed to the Sendai Bosai Forum, organized in November 2017, and emphasized an demonstrated multi-stakeholder collaboration for enhancing use of science in risk reduction interventions.

Main challenges

Two key future focus areas:

- Involvement of science technology community in the national platform and engage in Sendai monitoring

- Enhance science technology research funding in the national and local level.

Any ongoing or upcoming main programmes/activities/events contributing to the disaster risk reduction in the region.

- 2nd Asia Science Technology Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (ASTCDRR) will be organized in Beijing on 17-18 April 2018.
- A compilation of implementation examples of 12 priority actions of science and technology for DRR (adopted in the 1st ASTCDRR) will be published in the 2nd ASTCDRR in Beijing.

[Back to table of content](#)

Official Statements of Intergovernmental and Regional Organisations

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)

Since the last IAP meeting in April in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, ADPC completed the support to five countries (Bhutan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Thailand and Viet Nam) to conduct their national DRM review and improve and streamline the reporting on the new global framework, particularly SFDRR, Agenda 2030 and the Paris Climate Agreement.

In support of the SFDRR, Agenda 2030, Paris Agreement and WHS, our corporate Strategy 2020, comprehensively approaches disaster risk reduction through enhancing capacity of countries by utilizing science-based information; strengthening government systems for effective risk management at all levels; and by improving grounded application of risk reduction measures in development.

Recognizing the SFDRR Monitoring mechanism, ADPC has prioritized working with and enhancing the effectiveness of the key inter-governmental regional action led by sub-regional mechanisms. In this context ADPC is following up on the Islamabad Statement of the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC) we are in the process of revitalize the RCC with greater country engagements and develop RCC work programs that will address the priorities of the 26 RCC member countries and look at the operational needs of the coherence issue at the national and sub-national level.

ADPC is continuing engagement with ASEAN Secretariat, AHA Center, SAARC Secretariat, the SAARC Disaster Management Center, the Heart of Asia, Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction. Initiated cooperation with the Economic Cooperation Organisation, and re-engaged with the Secretariat for the Pacific Community and the Mekong River Commission. In addition to address regional and transboundary cooperation issues the engagement at the regional level aims to ensure exchange of lessons learnt and best practices among the important sub regions within Asia and the Pacific and to look for ways to synergize the work of various different regional organisations.

With the funding support of the Swedish Government working with partner organisations and agencies such as the UNWOMEN, UNISDR, IFRC, Stockholm Environment Institute, IVAC and others on further advancing gender issues such as sex and age disability disaggregated data, women leadership in DRR, Gender Based violence, sexual and reproductive health, in Asia and the Pacific in alignment with the Sendai Framework. A program has been developed to further these goals in practical ways with a focus in Nepal, the Philippines, and PNG as the pilot countries at the national level.

The member countries is completing the ADPC inter-governmental Charter ratification process and we are expecting to complete the status change by the first half of 2018. With this new IGO status, we will be able to better serve the needs and priorities of the founding member countries of Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

We will support ISDR and the Government of Mongolia in preparation of for the AMCDRR 2018 with active involvement in the stakeholder groups and particularly in promoting regional cooperation on scientific innovation such risk identification, risk governance and geospatial data analysis. ADPC remains committed to the global and regional initiatives as we are steeped in operational capacity through the links to NDMOs and practical agencies at the national and local level.

With this brief overview I would like to conclude with that ADPC is fully committed to support the RCC member countries and other agencies involved in DRR in Asia and the Pacific with the implementation of the SFDRR and the preparations.

Thank you.

[Back to table of content](#)

Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)

We would first like to extend our sincere gratitude to UNISDR Regional Office Asia Pacific for organizing this important meeting. ADRC would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Government of Mongolia for your initiative to frame our discussion towards AMCDRR 2017.

Major achievements made in year 2017

Let us start with the major achievements made after the last IAP meeting.

We would first like to report to you that **the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction, ACDR 2017**, our annual meeting, was held in Baku, for the first time in the Caucasus region in October, thanks to Ministry of Emergency Situations, Azerbaijan. We would like to express our thanks to Mr. Wilcox for your participation and assistance.

In Baku, we had intensive exchanges on implementation of the Sendai Framework co-chaired by Ms. Saya, Cabinet Office, Japan, by focusing on how past lessons had been integrated in the key policies. Participants discussed effective policy coordination mechanism such as DRR plans and strategies, and reaffirmed that institutionalizing inter-ministerial relationships is a key factor to obtain proactive support from all governmental organisations. We learned also from recent experiences of strengthening DRR governance in Malaysia, NADMA and in Viet Nam, VNDMA.

We would like to invite you to visit the updated ACDR website where you will find materials on two other sessions, one for effective emergency response and education, and another for advanced technologies facilitating DRR and CCA.

Azerbaijan acknowledged that the government's capacity alone is not sufficient to cope with the emergency and recovery demands in case of mega-disaster, and expressed its commitment to actively engage international cooperation, such as the Central Asia and South Caucasus Regional Plan of Action for Implementation of the Sendai Framework.

ADRC hopes to explore greater linkages and collaboration from Asia Pacific, Central Asia, Caucasus to Eurasia by bridging country-to-country cooperation in addressing similar challenges, for example. In this regard, we expect the AMCDRR in Mongolia will be a great venue for dialogue between northern and central Asia and Asia Pacific region.

Secondly, let us come back to our **activities in the Asia- Pacific region**. This September, thanks to Viet Nam, we co-organized an APEC workshop on BBB of infrastructure. From the aspect of better linking DRR policy with development policy, stages of rehabilitation and BBB could be the key moments to upgrade resilience of infrastructure.

A core idea behind this study is that cities and regions where wide range of stakeholders had shared goals of DRR and regional development, could react immediately and effectively, once affected by natural disasters, when additional resources could be made available for recovery and reconstruction.

Indonesia, Philippines, USA and other members as well as Viet Nam, have provided many good practices of effective BBB, not only cases of large transport infrastructure, but those of small and locally managed community infrastructure, friendly to environment. With these experiences, ADRC would like to continue working for development and DRR nexus from community point of views.

Main challenges

Regarding main challenges, we have been discussing the member countries' changing DRR priorities and challenges for another 20 years. In Baku, 12 countries provided their inputs for our questionnaire survey. Many of them stresses mainstreaming of DRR as a priority, and more than half placed importance on preparation against mega disasters. By type of disasters, flood and storm, and drought are major policy interests, and climate change and climate induced disasters are key challenges for almost all the countries.

ADRC will continue reshaping the activities in the future by highlighting issues that require collaboration beyond borders, and by learning from the exchanges throughout the AMCDRR preparatory process.

Ongoing or upcoming main programmes/activities/events

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to announce that our annual conference **ACDR2018 for our 20th anniversary is scheduled at the end of October 2018**, and invite you to join us in Awaji island, Hyogo prefecture in Japan. We are planning also to organize other back to back meetings. We would be so pleased if you could use this week in Hyogo as an additional opportunity for continue exploring outcomes of AMCDRR towards the future.

Thank you very much for your attention.

[Back to table of content](#)

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

What are the major achievements made in year 2017? Please share any good practices and lessons.

ASEAN has been progressing significantly in mainstreaming DRR in its priority work / agenda, and enhanced multi-sectoral cooperation through the Joint Task Force on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR). Significant strides have been achieved through this framework in the development of disaster management tools and capacities. These include the development of the ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan (AJDRP), the ASEAN Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations (SASOP) and the ASEAN-Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ERAT),

ASEAN also reached out to non-traditional stakeholders such as the finance sector through the creation of ASEAN Disaster Risk Financing Mechanism (DRFI), to the education sector through successful implementation of the ASEAN Safe School Initiative (ASSI) program, to the academic and scientific community through the development of ASEAN Science-Based on Disaster Management Platform (ASDMP). ASEAN Member States also agreed to implement the Work-Plan on Strengthening Institutional and Policy Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) Integration, and efforts to build back better through strengthening urban resiliency and gender-sensitive approaches to disaster management.

During the year 2017, ASEAN for the first time branched out to the realm of human-induced disasters through providing humanitarian assistance to the affected communities in Marawi and Rakhine State.

What are the main challenges in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Asia Regional Plan for the implementation of the Sendai Framework?

The main and foremost challenge is the financial issues for rehabilitation and recovery. The unsustainable financing from traditional sources continues to hamper our ability in this regard. While we believe that disaster risk financial insurance scheme can be a game changer, the challenges remain in how ASEAN Member States embrace this, especially when the financial authorities are not yet fully synchronized with the National Disaster Management Organisation in respective ASEAN countries.

Another challenge lies on the alignment of National Work Plan and resource mobilization for implementation of regional and international commitment such as the Sendai Framework, Paris agreement on climate change, SDGs, etc. Further to this, alignment of sectoral priorities in terms of the impact of disasters, food security, poverty, climate change and the degradation of natural resources such as energy and water resources management also posed another challenge.

Although many milestones have been achieved in response and preparedness aspects of disaster management, equally important is the enhancement of ASEAN's capability in the areas of risk assessment, prevention and mitigation. In line with the Sendai Framework Science and Technology Road Map, ASEAN also strives to improve its understanding of current scientific research on disaster management, producing research-based contingency plans, and consequently disseminating the information to both researchers and practitioners in the region. Promoting disaster management information and communication platform is therefore a priority for ASEAN – a region which faces multiple disaster risks induced by multiple hazards.

Please share any ongoing or upcoming main programmes/ activities/events contributing to disaster risk reduction in the region.

ASEAN has set new priorities focusing on five sectors: risk assessment and awareness; preparedness and response; prevention and mitigation; recovery; and knowledge and innovation management. Regional level coordination has strengthened member state participation in terms of humanitarian assistance, capacity building, health, school safety and other areas. Partnerships have been strengthened. The Joint Task Force on Disaster Relief is a government to government approach to implement programmes such as the ASEAN Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX), and ASEAN Regional Forum Disaster Relief Exercise (DiREX) among others. Cooperation with strategic organisations, such as IFRC, ICRC, the World Bank, funding donors and private sector such as Swiss Re has strengthened.

In particular, ASEAN has also adopted the Guideline on Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, conducted joint study with the UNESCAP on slow onset of disaster (drought), developed the ASEAN Science-Based on Disaster Management Platform (ASDMP), and Guideline on ASEAN Urban Resilience. ASEAN is currently in an ongoing process to advance its cooperation on Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (DRFI), and convene a multi-sectoral workshop on the OAOR Implementation and AADMER review.

[Back to table of content](#)

Economic Commission for Organisation (ECO)

What are the major achievements made in year 2017? Please share any good practices and lessons.

- Organized 2nd Experts Group Meeting on 11-12 October in Ankara, Turkey and finalized the ECO Regional Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (ECORFDRR). The Regional Framework contains 7 sections addressing, among others, current situation of disasters in the ECO Region, the purpose, rationale, goals and objectives and timeframe of the Framework. It also is in the line with the 7 targets and 4 priorities of the Sendai Framework, taking into account the specific needs of the ECO Region, can be obtained at

www.eco.int/parameters/eco/modules/cdk/upload/content/general_content/3626/1509971244130lft0scfc2l5ac3bcbecnko1g7.pdf

- The ECO Secretariat has strengthened its' DRR capacity through recruiting an International Consultant for finalization of the ECORFDRR and facilitation support of its' first year implementation.
- In collaboration with ESCAP, ECO Secretariat organized an assessment mission to Afghanistan in February 2017. The aim of the Mission was to make needs assessment and help develop Afghanistan strategy for disaster risk reduction. During the Mission, a national consultative workshop was also conducted addressing the implementation of Sendai Framework.
- The first ECO workshop on School Safety Programme after the Sendai meeting was held on 22-24 October at ECO Secretariat headquarters in Tehran, Iran in cooperation with UNESCO.
- A project on seismic hazards mapping was initiated and almost completed, on regional analysis of earthquake hazard zones within the territories of the ECO Member States with the ultimate goal of reducing risks of future earthquakes.
- An ECO project proposal is now being developed by an international consultant on combating dust haze and sand storms in the ECO Region. ECO is also exploring cooperation with ESCAP and UNEP on this issue.
- ECO supported the initiation of UNESCO-HABITAT project on seismic hazard and risk analysis in Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Turkmenistan. The objective of this project is to make updated assessment on the seismic hazardous parts of major cities in these countries and to develop seismic risk map for the most vulnerable cities.

What are the main challenges in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Asia Regional Plan for the implementation of the Sendai Framework?

There is good number of challenges in the implementation of Sendai Framework. These are following;

- Institutional coordination with in Member State and Region;
- Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into national and local planning process;
- Limited mainstreaming of Finance and Planning Ministries officials about disaster risk reduction, hence obtaining required budget from public resources are scanty in Member States for implementation of Sendai Framework outlined activities:
- Limited understanding about science based climate services, early warning system, disaster loss, damage, and recovery and reconstruction needs assessment data:
- Absence of proper DRR related Laws, policies, guidelines, codes and templates on risk resilient practices and infrastructures, and poor monitoring on application of disaster related guideline and code (i.e. building code enforcement to protect from earthquake and other disasters)

Please share any ongoing or upcoming main programmes/ activities/events contributing to disaster risk reduction in the region.

- Support to ECO Member States on harmonising DRM policy and programme and establish networks of stakeholders
- Develop of ECO Regional Seismic Risk Atlas
- Promote Comprehensive School Safety Programme in ECO Region
- Introduce Disaster Insurance as Risk Transfer mechanism in Members States
- Develop ECO Regional Disaster Response Preparedness Programme
- Regional Peer Review on the SFDRR Implementation
- Organise awareness raising meetings on Building Disaster Risk Resilient Infrastructure Building

[Back to table of content](#)

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Distinguished Chairperson, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

I am pleased to make a statement on behalf of the International Union for Conservation of Nature at this important ISDR Asia Partnership Forum 2017.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organisation with 88 States, 125 Government agencies and over 1100 other members including non-government organisations and indigenous peoples organisations as members. This democratic union helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges.

I am honoured to be in the presence of a number of IUCN Member States as well as a number of other IUCN Members and partners including UN organisations.

Next year IUCN celebrates its 70th anniversary and with 7 decades of experiences in nature conservation, we are of the view that, investment in ecosystem-based approaches as a response to disaster risks provides a concrete way for countries to demonstrate their disaster risk reduction commitments and can also support regional policy frameworks through coherent actions. In our view, investment in ecosystem-based approaches as a response to disaster risks provides a concrete way for countries to demonstrate their disaster risk reduction commitments and can also support regional policy frameworks through coherent actions. Investments in Eco-DRR actions can not only form part of disaster risk reduction solutions but they can be used as indicators of countries' progress against the Sendai Framework for DRR.

Increasing resilience in urban areas is a priority in Asia with rising risks of urban disasters due to rapid urbanisation coupled with destruction of natural infrastructure like wetlands. Ecosystem degradation has been linked to the exacerbated impacts of widespread flooding in Chennai in India as well as the recent flooding in Southern Thailand. Ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (Eco-DRR) through protection and/or restoration of ecosystems thus has a key role to play in building socio-ecological resilience.

Some of the biggest barriers to the uptake of Eco-DRR are a lack of trust in these approaches and the need for immediate results. Eco-DRR is indeed not a solution that fits all contexts; benefits may take time to manifest and as there are multiple drivers of disaster risks, it needs to be part of a larger strategy that can consist of a combination of approaches. However, ecosystem management aspects are too easily dismissed in risk reduction strategies, even when ecosystem degradation is one of

the root causes of vulnerability. It is important to value Eco-DRR investment as an approach towards DRR and one that also provide multiple benefits

We are of the view that Eco-DRR actions need to be mobilised and scaled-up in priority areas where disaster risks and ecosystem degradation overlap. This requires promotion and strengthening of multi-sectoral engagement and collaboration to enable mainstreaming of DRR and Eco-DRR in other sectors for joint and cost-effective actions. We feel that It is important to establish and enforce mechanisms to protect healthy ecosystems that provide regulatory ecosystem services so as to avoid the creation of new disaster risks. Disaster risk reduction and management efforts including engineered grey infrastructure, recovery and reconstruction processes need be implemented without affecting the integrity of natural ecosystems

Distinguished Chairperson, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you very much for giving IUCN the opportunity to be part of this partnership forum and we look forward to collaborating with our Member States as well as other Members and partners in the effective implementation of the Asia Regional Plan for the Sendai Framework.

[Back to table of content](#)