



## Featured Event

### **Strengthening disaster resilient infrastructure and urban resilience**

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09:00 – 11:00

Thursday 05 July 2018

Ballroom 2 & 3, Shangri-La Hotel

## THE PANEL

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### CHAIR



### H.E. Kh. Badilkhan

Minister for Construction and Urban Development of Mongolia

### CO-CHAIR



### Dr. P.K. Mishra

Additional Principal Secretary to Prime Minister of India

### OPENING REMARKS



### H.E. Mr. Enkhtuvshin. U

Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia



### Ms. Mami Mizutori

Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction

### MODERATOR



### Mr. Tsogtgerel. B

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Road and Transport Development

### SPEAKERS



### 1. Dr. Serjmyadag

Science Secretary of the Disaster Research Institute, NEMA  
Mongolia



**2. Col. Uuganbayar. B**

Deputy Chief, NEMA Mongolia



**3. Dr. Bhichit Rattakul**

Former Governor of Bangkok, Special Advisor to Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre



**4. Mr. Kedar Neupane**

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Nepal



**5. Mr. Brendan Moon,**

Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Reconstruction Authority,  
Australia



**6. Dr. Kamal Kishore**

Member, National Disaster Management Authority, India

## CONCEPT NOTE

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### **Background**

Natural disasters continue to have a negative impact on people, property and infrastructure. In 2017, the two major earthquakes that impacted Mexico were estimated to cause US\$2billion in property damage, while on a larger scale, Hurricane Irma caused property damage estimated at between US\$150 and 200 billion, including up to \$30 billion in infrastructure damage, in the United States alone. The damage and loss of infrastructure is a key challenge in face of a disaster, contributing to the slowing and even reversal of economic growth.

The essential services provided by critical infrastructure, including water, power, telecommunications, transportation, educational facilities, hospitals and other health facilities, are crucial to the effective response during and recovery after, a disaster. Given this level of importance, it is imperative that new infrastructure is planned, designed and constructed to be resilient, and existing infrastructure improved to withstand future disasters. This approach is pursuant to target (d) of the Sendai Framework, to minimize the disruption of basic services, through the development of resilient infrastructure, by 2030. Build back better is often referred in the context of post disaster recovery from large scale disasters, while small scale incidents cause significant damage to the public and private entities.

Asia-Pacific is the region most affected by natural disasters. These disasters hit the poorest countries and communities hardest. If governments are to protect their most vulnerable people, they must ensure that national development strategies are firmly grounded in disaster resilience (Asia Pacific Disaster Report 2017, UNESCAP). Since 1970, the number of people killed has fluctuated considerably from year to year but has averaged 43,000 annually, principally from earthquakes, storms, and floods (Asia Pacific Disaster Report 2017, UNESCAP). Disasters also cause large-scale damage. Estimates show between 1970 and 2016, asset losses in the Asia and the Pacific region in natural disasters reach 1.3 trillion USD largely due to the earthquake and storms.

World population is expected to grow 30% higher than today of which almost 70% of the population in urban areas (UNFPA 2017). Rapid urbanization, especially driven by reduced productivity in the agriculture sector, is resulting in unplanned urban settlements and poor land use planning. Making urban settlements and cities resilient to disasters such as earthquake and floods, storms can be referred in structural and non-structural measures. Building river dams and enforcing water pipelines, building retrofitting and maintenance are hardware/structural measures while the enhancement of building codes and standards are non-structural measures.

In urban environments, governments and stakeholders must incorporate the development of resilient infrastructure into broader urban resilience frameworks and initiatives. Effective urban resilience necessitates the understanding that cities are highly complex adaptive systems, and requires the integration of responses to poverty reduction, natural hazard and climate change risks, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion, a paradigm shift from conventional urban planning approaches. Implementing urban resilience is critical to sustainable development, as half of the world's human population has lived in cities since 2008, and urbanization is expected to rise to 70% by 2050, mostly in developing nations (Population Reference Bureau). The need for resilient cities and

communities is clear, and is part of the new sustainable development agenda (Sustainable Development Goal 11).

The region needs investment in transportation, communication and critical infrastructure. Investment in resilient infrastructure should be incorporated into the large-scale investment programs.

## **Objectives**

This Featured Event is being organized by the Government of Mongolia, with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction as a collaborator. The key objectives are:

- Emphasize the impact of rapid urbanization in those countries with potential risk of urban-located disasters such as earthquake and flood.
- Deliberate on the action required to ensure sustainable development through the minimization of existing and new risks, by way of implementing disaster resilient infrastructure, and urban resilience, in the region.
- Provide a set of key recommended actions to strengthen policy, technical solutions and advocacy towards disaster resilient infrastructure development and urban resilience in the region, and globally.
- Revisit the actions agreed and implemented by the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure proposed at the AMCDRR 2016 and the "International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure" held in New Delhi in January 2018.
- Explore opportunities in optimizing large scale infrastructure development projects in the region, to ensure that critical infrastructure is risk-informed.

## **Intended Outcomes**

- A set of recommended actions to promote and implement disaster resilient infrastructure development practices in the region.
- A revised agenda, and priorities, for the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.