

Meeting Report



ISDR-ASIA PARTNERSHIP FORUM

11- 12 December 2018

Bangkok, Thailand



UNISDR

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Despite being the most disaster prone region globally, the Asia-Pacific region leads the advancement of the disaster risk reduction agenda. The Ulaanbaatar Declaration¹, adopted at the 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR)², puts the focus on “underlying, interconnected and evolving disaster risk factors” and commits to “translating coherence of global frameworks into policy and practice.”

The Action Plan 2018-2020³, a key outcome of the AMCDRR 2018, puts the focus on local action, gender and inclusiveness, and coherence as key policy directions. As the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda move into the fourth year of implementation, it is imperative that these cross-cutting elements are strengthened and advanced. This will result in a “resilience dividend,” i.e. the long term social, environmental and economic benefits that will be gained from reducing disaster risk.

The ISDR-Asia Partnership (IAP) Forum, organised by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) from 11-12 December 2018 at the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok focused on these key themes and identified emerging themes in the region. The meeting was attended by over 100 delegates from 20 governments, intergovernmental organizations, stakeholder groups, the United Nations and international organizations.

The State of Play

The overall status of disaster risk reduction in the Asia-Pacific region is mixed, with progress being made in the development of national strategies, mainstreaming DRR into development in some countries, and strengthening of governance and institutional capacity, especially in the areas of risk analysis, and early warning. Year 2018 in particular demonstrated the shifting narrative from high frequency low impact to high frequency high impact events, making ‘extreme risk’ the new normal, further exacerbated by increasing unpredictability of disasters and their impact in a changing climate.

These uncertainties get compounded by the changing nature of risk where, despite scientific advancements, the capability to accurately measure the disaster-induced economic losses and the aggregated impact of localised disasters, understanding the systemic nature of disaster risk and its cascading impact and dynamic interactions with social, ecological, economic and political systems, remain a challenge.

Emerging DRR Themes and Advancing them in Asia-Pacific

The stage for the IAP Forum was set with three key themes that define the changing dynamics of risk in the region – local action, inclusiveness and displacement. The Forum identified an additional set of themes and proposed means to advance these themes in the region. These can be summarised as below.

¹ <https://bit.ly/2zcsKk7>

² www.unisdr.org/amcdr2018

³ <https://bit.ly/2KK4D0y>

1. **Localisation of the Sendai Framework:** Communities remain at the forefront, both in terms of proactive actors and the first responders against disasters. The local authorities and communities recognise the wisdom in the global frameworks but often lack the tools and capacity to implement them at the local levels. Localisation of the SDGs serves as the bridge to promote local action for DRR, including through local platforms that enable turning coherence into practice. Target E of the Sendai Framework, aligned with SDG Targets on national and local DRR strategies, offers a critical opportunity to enhance local implementation of the global frameworks.

Simplified language for DRR communication, promotion of local leadership, including through recognition of local champions, and innovations driven by local social entrepreneurs are some key means to enhance local action for DRR. End-to-end early warning systems, including collection and dissemination of good practices on decentralised early warning systems, and integration of traditional and indigenous knowledge offer some key opportunities to advance localisation.

2. **Inclusiveness:** Disasters don't discriminate but prevailing social and economic inequalities do, determining how disasters impact people, their levels of preparedness, capacities and ability to cope and recover. Disasters further magnify social inequalities resulting in a vicious cycle of disaster risk, poverty and inequality. Such inequalities need to be addressed through inclusion of at-risk populations in governance and their empowerment to make them active agents of change, wherein the focus needs to shift from vulnerability and servicing to empowerment and capacity development and from addressing of immediate needs to addressing underlying and root causes of vulnerability.

Collection and analysis of sex, age and disability disaggregated data is a basic requirement to ensure this. Development of an 'Inclusion Index' to inform SDG and Sendai Framework Monitoring should be explored. Institutional mechanisms and platforms need to be established and/or strengthened that enable women and groups at-risk to participate. Incorporation of gender equality, social inclusion and rights-based approaches in developing national and local DRR strategies and early warning systems should be considered critical.

3. **Displacement:** Over half of the global new disaster-induced displacements during 2015-2017 were recorded in Asia-Pacific. Disaster-induced displacement is triggered by both sudden-onset disasters (mostly cyclones and floods) as well as slow-onset disasters and processes like drought, sea level rise, environmental degradation. This gives several opportunities for this issue to be integrated in national and local DRR strategies.

Safe return of displaced persons, migration tracking, impact on children and youth, analysis of repeated cycles of migration and interventions at the source of migration to prevent displacement risk are areas of further analysis and action. The informal working group on disaster-induced displacement in the region is expected to advance the agenda.

4. **Climate Action:** While climate change and disaster risk have conceptual interfaces the two communities and institutions have evolved largely parallel to each other. DRR not only provides a key entry point for climate action but also the co-benefits of integrated DRR and climate change adaptation offer several no-regret options, e.g. ecosystem-based adaptation and DRR and sustainable consumption and production.

The COPs provide a good opportunity for national cooperation between the DRM and climate change institutions, building upon several good examples in the Pacific. Key areas of further work include joint analysis of climate and disaster data to enhance the robustness of projections, attributed impact of climate change on disasters and extreme events and estimating the costs and benefits of mainstreaming DRR and climate change into sector policies.

5. **Disaster Risk Financing:** While DRR financing presents several gaps there are a number of funding tools that are yet to be explored, including some relevant climate financing sources. Social protection and forecast-based financing are viable vehicles for several risk transfer instruments like insurance. Formation of a working group on disaster risk financing should be explored including the private sector and financing institutions.
6. **Resilient Infrastructure:** Disaster resilient infrastructure is an emerging strategic area of work awareness on which needs to be enhanced, including through knowledge products and guidelines. Local governments should be supported with technical guidance on development and enforcement of building codes. Participation of ministries of planning and finance should be encouraged at the APMCDRRs. Further, platforms like the upcoming Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure should be leveraged to promote peer learning and capacity development.
7. **Risk Knowledge and Data:** Enhanced knowledge of risk is the common basis for all planning and implementation wherein data, disaggregated to the extent possible, is a key requirement. Analysis of economic losses, cascading impact of disasters and systemic risk analysis are key gaps that need to be addressed. Data gaps, including sex, age and disability disaggregated data, should be filled through technology as well as citizen participation.

Such risk knowledge needs to be both standardized as well as contextualized for coherent messaging and understanding. Knowledge hubs should be created, wherein IAP can leverage its role for effective knowledge sharing.
8. **Technological and NATECH Hazards:** The Sendai Framework enhances the scope of DRR through inclusion of technological risks. However, the awareness level on technological hazards and Natural Hazard Triggering Technological Disasters (NATECH) is limited. Apart from the Words-into-Action Guideline on this theme, specific case studies should be developed to enhance understanding for different stakeholders.
9. **Communication and Advocacy:** It was recommended that the way DRR is communicated needs to be reviewed and embedded in the development discourse. Social media campaigns play a huge role, where community leaders play a key role to communicate better with the policy makers. IAP should facilitate development of advocacy kits and good practice documentation that can be tailored to national and local needs. Partnership with the private sector and youth is key to achieve this. Education is a key sector that has vital interfaces with DRR – the concept and practice of Comprehensive School Safety needs to be strengthened and promoted.
10. **Leadership:** DRR leadership underlies all themes and action and needs to be strengthened at various levels, through inter-ministerial coordination as well as community leadership. DRR champions should be leveraged to become regional ‘opinion leaders’ while the capacities of the

finance ministries be enhanced to have a better understanding of DRR, including through relevant tools and markers.

The role of the IAP in advancing these ten themes have been outlined, including through a series of cross-cutting issues. There was a concrete demand for more **knowledge products** across the board: technical guides, case studies, good practices and illustrative examples that can help simplify complex concepts and practices. **Capacity development** for governments and stakeholders was cited as a critical support area. This includes training on how to use risk information for planning and decision making in areas such as displacement risk, outreach to vulnerable groups, and supporting local DRR efforts – while ensuring that such efforts create sustainability and not dependencies. Finally, the role of **partnerships** was recurrently cited as common cross-cutting theme and a critical role for the IAP to bring the knowledge acquired from AMCDRRs through its national and subnational mechanisms for effective implementation of Asia Regional Plan.



Webpage: <https://www.preventionweb.net/go/61009>

Web-Story: <https://www.unisdr.org/archive/62615>

Presentations: <https://bit.ly/2LrjP0H>

Photos: <https://bit.ly/2JSPdbi>

INTRODUCTION



In October, a report launched by UNISDR and the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED)⁴ highlighted that in the last 20 years, disasters killed over 5,400 people per month and affected over 0.6 million per day. Around USD 3 trillion has been lost during this period, which at best, is a very conservative estimate⁵. The Asia-Pacific region continues to be the most disaster-prone region globally. Recent disasters, both seismic (Lombok and Sulawesi, Indonesia) and hydro-meteorological (Kerala, India), have demonstrated the devastating impact on people and economy.

Nonetheless, the region leads the advancement of the disaster risk reduction agenda globally. The Ulaanbaatar Declaration⁶, adopted at the 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR)⁷, puts the focus on “underlying, interconnected and evolving disaster risk factors” and commits to “translating coherence of global frameworks into policy and practice.”

⁴ UNISDR and CRED (2018) ‘Economic Losses, Poverty and Disasters, 1998-2017’ <https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/61119>

⁵ Only 37 percent of international disaster database (EMDAT) contains economic loss data.

⁶ <https://bit.ly/2zcsKk7>

⁷ www.unisdr.org/amcdr2018

The Action Plan 2018-2020⁸, a key outcome of the AMCDRR 2018, puts the focus on local action, gender and inclusiveness, and coherence as key policy directions. As the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda move into the fourth year of implementation, it is imperative that these cross-cutting elements are strengthened and advanced. This will result in a “resilience dividend,” which is the long term social, environmental and economic benefits that will be gained from reducing disaster risk.

The graphic features a dark blue background. At the top, there is a horizontal bar divided into four colored segments: red, purple, orange, and teal. Below this bar, the text "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030" is centered in white, bold, sans-serif font.

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030

ISDR-ASIA PARTNERSHIP

To facilitate this, the ISDR-Asia Partnership (IAP) was created as is a multi-stakeholder forum for achieving disaster risk reduction through the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Asia Regional Plan. The forum includes governments, inter-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, the UN, international organizations, and bilateral and multilateral donors. Collectively, the IAP and Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) form the regional platforms for disaster risk reduction in the Asia-Pacific region.

⁸ <https://bit.ly/2KK4D0y>



Objectives of the December 2018 IAP Forum

This IAP was convened by UNISDR to achieve the following objectives:

- Share and review progress in disaster risk reduction and implementation of the Asia Regional Plan.
- Identify key and emerging DRR thematic topics in the region.
- Assess the needs of national governments in implementing the Sendai Framework, and the potential contribution of stakeholders and international organizations in meeting them.

The two-day meeting was structured around four parts; an initial ground setting; a focused discussion of three priority themes identified in the 2018 AMCDRR, which are localisation, inclusiveness, and displacement; discussions of other relevant themes identified by participants; and updates on upcoming events, namely the launch 2019 Global Platform and 2020 AMCDRR in Australia.

SUMMARY OF SESSIONS



Session 1: Setting the stage

UNISDR, UNFCCC, and the Government of Indonesia presented on key regional disaster trends and DRR progress, including AMCDRR outcomes. Despite progress in enhancing preparedness and a decrease in disaster mortality rates, Asia-Pacific remains the **most disaster-impacted** region in the world.

As a result of climate change, weather-related disasters are becoming more **unpredictable** and it is projected that an **increase of 1.5°C** in global warming is likely to cause an increase in the frequency of extreme weather events.

While our understanding of disaster risk has improved, there are a number of areas where we lack a full understanding:

- **Economic losses** – while increasing, we don't have accurate figures.

- Impact of localized, **high frequency and low impact events**.
- Impact of technological, biological and other **unconventional hazards**.
- **Systems risk** – cascading impact of disaster risk and its interactions with social, ecological, economic and political systems.
- **Behavior** – better understanding of behavior modification as it relates to disaster risk.

The recent disasters in Lombok and Palu, Indonesia demonstrated that **preparedness alone is not enough**. Reducing disaster risk should be done **comprehensively** to include social and economic factors, and the mitigation of structural and non-structural risks must be done effectively. Moreover, **livelihoods** and public and private assets should be protected through disaster risk financing and risk transfer.



Session 2: Key priorities and emerging DRR themes in the region

This session featured a panel discussion by delegates from the Government of Pakistan, Government of Mongolia, and stakeholder representatives from the IFRC and ASTAAG. The discussion was moderated by a representative from the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union. Participants were asked to identify their priorities and what they view as emerging themes.

Key DRR priorities:

Mongolia highlighted as a priority **coherence between the three global frameworks**: Sendai Framework, Sustainable Development Agenda, and the Paris Climate Agreement. A second related priority is the promotion of a **whole-of-society holistic** approach to DRR, which includes a cross-sectoral mechanism and the involvement of civil society and the private sector. This is especially important in the case of developing countries which may lack the finances to implement comprehensive DRR on their own.

Pakistan noted increasing **risk knowledge** as a priority since it is critical to planning, noting that it should be science-based and detailed to the village level. A second national priority is **risk financing**, particularly risk insurance at the local level to restart businesses and support livelihoods in the aftermath of disasters.

IFRC said integrating DRR into **law and regulations** remains their top priority, noting that laws need to be made stronger with better linkages between the national and local levels. A second priority is the collection of Sex-Age-Disability **disaggregated data**, and a better understanding of the role **behavior** plays in both reducing and increasing disaster risk. The third is **women empowerment** and women leadership at the community level, which can strengthen their involvement in decision making and address issues of vulnerability. The fourth is developing **financing** mechanisms, such as the incorporation of forecast-based financing, which is an important tool for early action in response to early warnings. Lastly, investing in **youth engagement** - not only because the youth population is growing, but because youth can be transformative in influencing their families and shaping the future.

ASTAAG's current priority is on making the case for why DRR is important in the response to climate change. According to the latest IPCC report, despite all mitigation efforts, **climate adaptation** efforts need to be strengthened and DRR can play a big role in this.

Emerging DRR issues:

In terms of emerging trends, ASTAAG reported that there is currently a lot of new research on strengthening **urban-rural linkages** and collective resilience, which will be the focus of the next IPCC report. There is also a need to better understand new and **complex hazards**.

Beyond 2030, new **technologies** will have an important role to play in DRR, especially artificial intelligence and drones. A related issue is the availability of data, and increasingly open source data.

IFRC summarized what it views as emerging trends as the “three eyes”:

- **Invisibility:** vulnerabilities increase when data is not available.
- **Inclusiveness:** need to engage all groups; including women, youth, persons with disability, indigenous people, academia, and private sector.
- **Investment:** investing in livelihoods’ protection and institutional preparedness.

Mongolia views the “people-centered” approach to DRR as an emerging issue, where societies are encouraged and empowered to engage in **self-preparedness**. This includes having societies well-informed of risk and be able to analyse risk data on their own.

Pakistan said it was important that we start mainstreaming DRR in **schools**, noting that youth can be DRR champions within their families. Another emerging issue is the need to re-examine how we build habitats to minimize risk in light of the rapid growth of cities.

Coherence was also mentioned by the floor as a priority issue. Coherence within the Sendai Framework, between national and local levels, and with the other global frameworks, including the **New Urban Agenda**.

Session 3: Localising the Sendai Framework

This session focused on how to accelerate implementation of the Sendai Framework at the local level. It featured presentations by UCLG Asia-Pacific, ADRRN, and the Government of Mongolia, and was moderated by the National Resilience Council of the Philippines.

UCLG highlighted why investing in local DRR is important by noting that disasters are **most felt at the local level**, and it is also the level where governments and communities can best work together and where governance delivery functions are concentrated.

Some of the challenges UCLG has faced in localizing DRR include:

- Lack of **DRR committees** in local governments.
- Local governments often **lack capacity and authorities**, which hinders implementation of plans.
- **Lack of finance** – though this can be overcome if local governments are given enough authority to **generate their own funds**.

UCLG shared some recommendations on how to improve DRR at the local level:

- Provide an **enabling environment** for local governments.
- **Boost financial resources** and capacity of local governments to meet local targets.
- Enhance people **participation** via participatory budgeting and promote role of women.
- **Institutionalize DRR** in planning to mainstream it beyond a leader's term in office.
- Amplify and sustain **partnerships** between local authorities and their associations.
- Focus on achieving **Target E** of the Sendai Framework through strong advocacy.



Speaking on behalf of civil society stakeholders, ADRRN continued the discussion on Target E by noting that we must “**leapfrog**” in order to meet the 2020 deadline. To mobilize local action, ADRRN noted the importance of making DRR **relevant to people’s** everyday lives. A

recent survey showed that only 0.5% of parents worry about earthquakes, compared to 58% who worried about road accidents. Recommendations for action include:

- **Simplify the DRR language** - most people's attention span is 8 seconds.
- Utilize and recognize **local leaders**.
- Promote **innovation**, which includes new ways of thinking to solve old problems.

Mongolia shared its process for encouraging local DRR, which is part of a larger effort to **decentralize** and empower local governments. Key actions include:

- Decentralizing emergency management system, including decision making powers.
- Translating the national strategy to local strategies via **training** of local authorities.
 - Goal is to have 22 major cities develop **local strategies** by 2020.
- Engaging civil society and other stakeholders through **local DRR platforms**.
- New **law** that all institutions allocate no less than 1% of budget to preparedness.



Session 4: Gender and inclusiveness

This session focused on discussing methods to improve the integration of gender issues and inclusivity within DRR. Australia moderated the session, which featured a keynote presentation from the Gender Stakeholder Group and a case study from Nepal.

The Gender Stakeholder Group highlighted a number of “red flag” that have limited the integration of gender in DRR. These include a lack of understanding of the social inclusion agenda; inadequate capacities for collection and use of Sex-Age-Disability disaggregated data for effective planning; lack of coordination among ongoing interventions for gender and social inclusion; and limited efforts to build coherence between disaster risk reduction, SDGs and climate change planning and implementation.

In line with Sendai’s four priorities, the Group’s recommendations are:

- Priority 1: Develop methodologies for the **collection**, and personnel for the **analysis**, of **sex, age and disability disaggregated data**.
- Priority 2: Increase support to governments to **incorporate gender equality** and social inclusion in DRR strategies, and increase the participation of women’s organizations in DRR coordination bodies.
- Priority 3: Increase investments to build the **capacities of women’s organizations** and other at-risk groups, and use ongoing project interventions to address the root causes and structural barriers that limit women’s participation.
- Priority 4: Use post-disaster response operations to engage and empower women groups and give priority to the **specific needs of women and girls**.

Sharing their experience since 2015, Nepal has developed a National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Strategic Action Plan that includes priority actions for gender equality in line with some of the SDGs and the Sendai Framework. Disaggregated data is collected, analysed and utilized to inform efforts. Moreover, Nepal is developing social inclusion work plans at all levels and implementing special programmes to ensure such inclusion.

A point that was emphasized during floor discussions is that while it is important to identify vulnerabilities, it is more important to empower women and at-risk groups and build their

capacity. Another point is to consider vulnerabilities from perspectives other than from the stakeholder group.



Session 5: Displacement

In 2017, half of the displacement that occurred globally occurred in Asia and the Pacific. This session focused on discussing how we can prevent disaster-caused displacement and reducing the time people are displaced. Moderated by UN OCHA, the session featured presentations and remarks from PDD, IOM, and IFRC.

PDD spoke about displacement from a DRR planning perspective, presenting an overview of the “Words into Action Disaster Displacement” guideline. The document includes priorities for action and examples of regional practice and a checklist for DRR strategies. The guide offers key recommendations aligned with the Sendai priorities:

- Priority 1: Understand displacement risk through assessments and collection of data (historical and during response and recovery).

- Priority 2: Strengthen integration of displacement in governance through coordination, including of laws and public policies (e.g., create focal point). Include policies to deter high-risk settlements and planned relocation, as an option of last resort.
- Priority 3: Formally recognize informal or marginalized settlements in DRR strategies, and ensure DRR messages communicated in languages of displaced people through channels they can access.
- Priority 4: Communicate with displaced, assess when it is safe to return, and identify sites for services such as replacing lost documents.

IOM highlighted its support to Vanuatu as an example of how it is supporting member states deal with disaster induced displacement. The aim is to **minimize the drivers** of displacement, minimize its negative impacts, and work towards durable solutions. These efforts resulted in Vanuatu developing a national policy on climate change and disaster-induced displacement in 2018. The process begins by reviewing the triggers to displacement, such as sudden-onset and slow-onset disasters and other crises, which have similar displacement impacts. The policy is implemented through system and sectoral level interventions, and is operationalized through displacement management.

IFRC provided practical examples from national societies on how they have tackled disaster and climate induced displacement. In the area of **preventing and preparing for displacement**, the Mongolia Red Cross Society sought to prevent the displacement of nomadic herders by better preparing them for the winter and helping them diversify their livelihoods, which resulted in reduction of displacement. In Bangladesh, the national society put the IFRC moto of “early warning, early action” in practice through **forecast based financing**. IFRC is developing a disaster law toolkit, which will be launched next year, to help governments shape their legislation and better address displacement. The IFRC has also started deploying **displacement advisors** as part of their disaster responses, which the first being sent to Indonesia. It was highlighted that it is important to take a nuanced approach in displacement, and do more in preparedness phase to address displacement risk.

Another important issue is the role of the NDMA, which is not always clear in regards to displacement and migration. The panel recommended that there be a focal point or committee, and that **NDMAs play a coordinating role** since displacement affects various line ministries and is much larger than simply providing temporary shelters.

Session 6: Key emerging themes in the region



This session was moderated by UNISDR to stimulate ideas from participants on additional themes that could be unpacked in the smaller group discussions on Day 2. Before discussion was opened to the floor, ADPC briefed on the outcomes of the recent 14th meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) on Disaster Management, which was focused on operationalizing coherence among the global frameworks. In addition **to localisation, inclusiveness, and coherence**, other emerging themes from the RCC meeting were:

1. **Innovation**, which does not necessarily mean new technology.
2. **Resilient infrastructure** - new infrastructure should not create new risks.
3. **Gender, pro-poor, rights-based** approaches – should not be lumped together.
4. **Linkages across sectors** and line ministries for efficient implementation.
5. **Data** and information management systems.
6. Return on investment - strengthen tools and processes for **measuring impact** of DRR and CCA investments.

Themes suggested by participants:

- Better engagement with **the private sector**.
- **Leadership**, at all levels, for implementation.
- **Innovation**: policy, process and product.
- **Two-way communication** with disaster threatened communities.
- **Subnational partnerships** between governments and stakeholders.
- Communication and **advocacy**: how to reach out to local levels and first-responders.
- **Financing**: how to promote investments in DRR and prevention.
- **Early warning**, early action.
- Shock-responsive **social protection**.
- Community **mobilization** in urban settings.
- Cross-boundary **capacity building**.
- **Open-data** and crowd-sourcing through youth.
- Setting **standards** for DRR and CCA integration.
- **Digital readiness** – how to utilize AI and cloud computing to enhance preparedness.
- **Equal System** based approaches to DRR.
- Inter-ministerial **coordination** for implementation of framework.

Session 7: Advancing the identified themes in the region

UNISDR presented the list of 10 themes that would be the focus of the small group discussions. Each group would tackle two themes:

Group	Theme 1	Theme 2
1	Localisation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End-to-end early warning systems • Indigenous knowledge • Sub-national partnerships 	Leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership for resilience • Inter-ministerial cooperation
2	Inclusiveness and Gender	Communication & Advocacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing visibility of DRR • Partnerships (Private sector and Youth)

3	Displacement	Climate Action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DRR as an entry point • Ecosystems-based DRR
4	Risk Knowledge & Data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of economic losses • Citizen participation and data sharing 	Technological and NATECH Hazards
5	Financing Instruments [e.g. Risk financing; Social protection and Forecast-based financing]	Resilient Infrastructure

Session 8: Reports back from the breakout groups



Following the small group discussions, each group presented their recommendations on how to advance their designated themes in the region:

Localisation

- Establish a dissemination mechanism for early warning at the community level.
- Share good practices.
- Develop case studies on how to address early warning in slow onset disasters.
- Encourage thematic partnerships.
- Encourage central governments to provide authority to the sub-national level.
- Encourage IAP members to share their knowledge through subnational mechanisms for effective implementation of Asia Regional Plan.

Leadership

- Encourage and recognize community leadership.
- Invest in the capacity of local government leadership on DRR.
- Advocate for inter-ministerial cooperation and coherence.
- Cultivate DRR champions from among opinion leaders.
- Enhance capacity of finance ministries to support DRR.
- Seek the support of the private sector through engagement with leadership of chambers of commerce.

Inclusiveness and Gender

- Ensure better representation of diverse at-risk groups at local level committees.
- Support development of an inclusion Index and connect /align it to national indicators and the Sendai Framework Monitor.
- Provide technical guidance for inclusive EWS and promote best practices in EWS



Communication & Advocacy

- Launch a social media campaign using victims from recent disasters to demand that policy makers act on DRR.
- Develop campaign material on DRR with PowerPoint presentations and FAQs for IAP members, which can then be tailored for local needs.

Partnerships

- Organize private sector workshops on margins of next IAP (e.g., invite representatives from the Philippines and Australia to present the models they developed).
- Replicate CEO Business Roundtables in four pilot countries in the sub-regions. These business roundtables would be made up of major firms and convened by a national body such as the Red Cross Society or the national chamber of commerce.
- Invite youth delegates from each country to attend the AMCDRR and hold a pre-AMCDRR workshop in 2020, organised by the youth stakeholder group, to create a youth declaration to be presented at AMCDRR.

Displacement

- Plan for anticipated displacement based on disaster risk information.
- Share lessons and good practices from different countries to help national governments and other stakeholders improve their approaches and planning.
- Conduct research to expand on existing lessons and practices.

Climate Action

- Bring NDMA and CCA units together in the COP process.
- Integrate assessment and planning to assess what works and calibrate measures.
- Identify and share good practices CCA and DRR collaboration in the region.
- Produce knowledge products the DRR implications of climate change in the region.



Risk knowledge & Data

- Need more discussion of risk knowledge to create common understanding.
- Standardise risk knowledge among different stakeholders (e.g., disaster or risk management).
- Create knowledge hub for data sharing at the regional level.

NATECH hazards

- Create knowledge products on specific cases studies about dealing with NATECH.
- Enhance understanding by simple/illustrative documents for different stakeholders.

Financing instruments

- Establish working group on disaster-risk financing.
- Involve private sector and financing institutions in the relevant discussions.

Resilient Infrastructure

- Promote partnerships with universities (e.g. engineering and architecture schools) to raise awareness on resilient infrastructure.
- Encourage more research on traditional knowledge and traditional construction materials and techniques.
- Adapt ideas of business continuity planning to public utility management systems.
- Reach out to ministries of finance and the private sector to coordinate better.
- Explore the role of new technologies and AI in the field of resilient infrastructure.
- Develop standard resilience indicators for a country – what needs to be done to reach a minimum level of resilience?
- Develop knowledge products (guidelines on resilient infrastructure).



Session 9: Plenary discussion on the reports from the breakout groups

Oxfam, UN-MGCY, and Government of Sri Lanka, plus several voices from the floor, provided their reflections on the group presentations. A number of cross-cutting themes emerged in the course of the discussions. One is the importance of **communicating** in simpler terms and improving outreach efforts to reach those who are not DRR specialists. Specifically, messages need to be local and easy to understand, this is particularly important when sending out early warnings and alerts.

A related theme was the demand for more **knowledge products** across the board: technical guides, cases studies, best practices and illustrative examples that can help simplify complex hazards and ambiguous concepts.

Another cross-cutting theme was the need for more **capacity building** for governments and stakeholders. This includes training on how to use risk information for planning and decision making in areas such as anticipated displacement, reaching vulnerable groups, and supporting local DRR efforts.

Lastly, **partnerships** emerged as a common theme when discussing challenges, such as financing and resilient infrastructure. Partnerships could help infuse outside knowledge and expertise to solve protracted problems.

In terms of government and stakeholder coordination, UNISDR suggested it might look at ways to strengthen or revitalize the **national platforms**, which have reportedly withered in some countries. UNISDR will examine how it might seek to elevate the status of stakeholders to help them better engage with governments. As it relates to capacity building, UNISDR could help flag **training opportunities** around the region through linking the PreventionWeb calendar to the UNISDR website. Another issue UNISDR could support is the **mapping** of the DRR landscape to identify which organizations are working on what issues and in what countries.

Session 10: AMCDRR 2020 Australia

This session was a presentation from the Government of Australia on the upcoming AMCDRR 2020, which it will be hosting. Australia emphasized its commitment to helping its neighbours build resilience to disasters and climate change in the Indo-Pacific. At the conference, Australia will **share its knowledge**, and showcase the achievements of its National Resilience Taskforce. Moreover, it wants to highlight the challenges faced by the **Pacific** and other small island states in the region.

The main themes will likely be around “**inclusive and local**” DRR, with sub-themes on resilience and applied science and technology. The host city will be announced soon, and a draft Concept Note will be published in first quarter 2019. Suggestions on sessions and speakers are welcome!

Session 11a: Update on voluntary commitments online platform



UNISDR presented an update the Sendai Framework **Voluntary Commitments (SFVC)** online platform, which is a website that stakeholders can use to upload and share information about the work they are doing. UNISDR will use the information submitted to develop an **analysis report**, that will be shared at the Global Platforms.

The SFVC will launch on 31 December 2018 and submission received by **15 February 2019** will be included in the first analysis report which will be presented at the 2019 Global Platform in Geneva. Organizations that complete the publication of a voluntary commitment will be able to use an exclusive badge. The platform can be accessed at:

<https://sendaicommitments.unisdr.org>

Session 11b: Update on global Science and Technology Roadmap

ASTAAG gave an overview of the Asia Science and Technology Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (ASTCDRR), which occur every two years, and their role in the launch of the Science and Technology Roadmap in January 2016.

The roadmap has **seven expected outcomes**; four tied to Sendai Priority 1, and three aligned with the remaining three priorities. It is currently being “contextualized” to ensure coherence with the current global conditions, and to identify **specific commitments** and partners for implementation. The roadmap will be linked to the SFVC and will be adopted at the Science Technology Policy Forum at the 2019 Global Platform.

Session 12: Update on the 2019 Global Platform for DRR



UNISDR gave an update on the status of preparations for the 2019 Global Platform. The overall theme will be “**Resilience Dividend: Towards sustainable and inclusive societies.**” The main meetings of the GP will be from 15-17 May in Geneva. Preparatory days will be 13-14 May and will feature a number of conferences and meetings:

- The 4th World Reconstruction Conference (WRC4), hosted by the World Bank.
- Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference, hosted by WMO.
- Stakeholder Summit.
- Regional and Sub-regional Consultations.
- Small Island Developing States meeting.
- Sendai Focal points, IGOs and other prep meetings.

To date, 573 registration applications have been received from 59 national governments. The side events application window has closed, but proposals for the Innovation Platform are open till 15 January. Registration for Ignite stage will begin in January 2019, Learning Labs in early 2019, and Official Statements registration starts in March 2019.

Session 13a: Parallel session with government representatives

UNISDR presented to governments its review of Sendai reporting to date. Key points were:

- Approximately **50% of countries** reported some data.
- Highest reported target was **Target A** on mortality.

- The data readiness review of 2017 predicated the reporting trends in 2018.
- A good practice was the involvement of insurance firms and the private sector to collect damage to productive assets, which is not an easy task.
- Countries with damage loss **databases** reported on more indicators.
- Same is true for countries that established **committees** and working groups since they are able to coordinate with ministries to collect the relevant data.
- Every country that had a UNSIDR **national workshop, reported.**
- **Disaggregation** of data remains weak; hazard and geography disaggregation was the most, and gender was the least.



Session 13b: Parallel session with stakeholders

The session carried on the discussion that started in Session 9 on the role of stakeholders in supporting governments. The discussion was structured around six areas: advocacy,

knowledge products, capacity development, technical support, partnerships, and coordination. Reporting on the outcomes of the discussion, UNSIDR noted a need to help **stakeholders get increased recognition** for their national work, while clarifying their role in DRR implementation, which will be the focus of an upcoming “Words into Action” on stakeholder engagement.

In regard to coordination at the national level, there is a need to **strengthen national platforms**. One potential recommendation is to replace or align them with the national SDG platforms which are being set up in a number of countries, and to bring in other ministries besides the NDMAs. It was suggested that it might be worthwhile to conduct an analysis of how the national platforms are functioning.

In terms of technical support, it was found to be a good practice to have the focal point be the **coordination point** for international assistance agencies and stakeholders. Search engines such as PreventionWeb can play a similar role in connecting parties to training and support opportunities. Lastly, in terms of producing knowledge products, it was recommended that they be prioritized and planned in coordination with other technical organizations.



ANNEX 1: ACRONYMS

ADRRN	Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network
AMCDRR	Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
ASTAAG	Asia Science, Technology, and Academia Advisory Group
ASTCDRR	Asia Science & Technology Conference on DRR
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
COP	Conference of the Parties to the to the UNFCCC
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EWS	Early Warning System
GP	Global Platform on DRR
IAP	ISDR-Asia Partnership
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IGO	Intergovernmental Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
NATECH	Natural Hazard Triggering Technological Disasters
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PDD	Platform on Disaster Displacement
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SFVC	Sendai Framework Voluntary Commitments
UCLG	United Cities and Local Governments
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNISDR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UN-MGCY	United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

ANNEX 2: IAP AGENDA

Day 1	
08:00 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:30	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening Remarks: UNISDR • Introduction of the Agenda
09:30 – 10:30	Setting the Stage Presentation: UNISDR with the Government of Indonesia and UNFCCC
10:30 – 11:00	Group Photo <i>Tea/Coffee Break</i>
11:00 – 12:15	Panel Discussion Key priorities and emerging DRR themes in the region Moderator: Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union Panel: Pakistan, Mongolia, IFRC, ASTAAG
12:15 – 13:15	Plenary Discussion: Localising the Sendai Framework Moderator: National Resilience Council, the Philippines Keynote Presentation: UCLG and ADRRN Discussant: Mongolia Discussion
13:15 – 14:15	<i>Lunch</i>
14:15 – 15:15	Plenary Discussion: Gender and Inclusiveness Moderator: Australia Keynote Presentation: Gender Working Group / UN Women Discussant: Nepal Discussion
15:15 – 15:30	<i>Tea/Coffee Break</i>
15:30 – 16:30	Plenary Discussion: Displacement Moderator: UN-OCHA (TBC) Keynote Presentation: PDD, IOM and IFRC Discussion
16:30 – 17:30	Plenary Discussion: Key emerging themes in the region Moderator: UNISDR Discussant: ADPC Discussion
18:00 – 19:30	Reception Venue: UNCC Public Foyer

Day 2

08:45 – 09:00	Recap of Day 1 UNISDR	
09:00 – 10:30	Group Discussion: Advancing the identified themes in the region	
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Tea/Coffee Break</i>	
10:45 – 11:45	Roadmap 2020: Report back from the breakout groups Each group gets 10 minutes for the presentation	
11:45 – 12:45	Plenary Discussion Discussants: Sri Lanka, Oxfam, and UN-MGCY	
12:45 – 13:45	<i>Lunch</i>	
13:45 – 14:30	AMCDRR 2020: Initial reflections Presentation: Australia <i>Discussion</i>	
14:30 – 15:00	Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on Sendai Framework Voluntary Commitments Online Platform • Presentation on global Science and Technology Roadmap 	
15:00 – 15:15	Update on the 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction UNISDR	
15:15 – 15:30	<i>Tea/Coffee Break</i>	
15:30 – 16:30	Parallel Sessions	
	Government representatives <i>Conference Room 4</i> <i>Sendai Framework Monitor:</i> <i>Results from Round 1 and Updates</i>	All other participants <i>Meeting Room H</i> <i>Meeting demand and assessing supply: Strengthening implementation capacity</i>
16:30 – 17:00	Summary of discussion and Way Forward Closing Remarks	

ANNEX 3: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Country	Name	Title	Department
Afghanistan	Mr. Mohammad Omer Mohammadi	Director of International Relations	ANDMA
Australia	Ms. Julie Edwards	Assistant Director	Infrastructure, Transport Security and Customs Group Department of Home Affairs
Australia	Ms. Georgina Harley-Cavanough	Assistant Director	Humanitarian Response, Risk & Recovery Branch, Humanitarian, NGOs and Partnerships Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Bangladesh	Mr. Ali Reza Mazid	Joint Secretary	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
Bhutan	Mr. Japchu	Program Officer	Risk Prevention and Reduction Division, Department of Disaster Management, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs
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China	Ms. Yanping SHI	Division Director	Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Emergency Management (MEM)
China	Mr. Xin XIAO	Consultant	Department of Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction, Ministry of Emergency Management (MEM)
China	Mr. Hongjian ZHOU	Deputy Director/Associate researcher	Department of Disaster Assessment and Emergency Response, National Disaster Reduction Center of China (NDRCC), MEM
India	Mr. Pradeep Kumar	Additional Secretary and Project Director (NCRMP)	National Disaster Management Authority
Indonesia	Mr. Raditya Jati	Director of DRR	National Disaster Management Authority (BNPB)
Indonesia	Mr. Dicky Fabrian	Director for Legal and Cooperation Bureau	National Disaster Management Authority (BNPB)
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Malaysia	Mr. Khairul Zain Ismail		NADMA
Mongolia	Colonel Ganzorig Tsogtbaatar	Deputy Chief	National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)
Mongolia	Ms. Sayanaa Lkhagvasuren	Deputy Prime Minister's Advisor for Emergency Management	
Myanmar	Mr. Win Htein Kyaw	Director	Department of Disaster Management(Myanmar) Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
Nepal	Ms. Indu Ghimire	Joint Secretary	Disaster and Conflict Management Division, Ministry of Home Affairs
Pakistan	Mr. Muhammad Idrees Mahsud	Member (DRR)	NDMA
Philippines	Ms. Cheryl Loise T. Leal	Civil Defense Officer III	Office of Civil Defense
Philippines	Ms. Jael Joy Asor-Nunez	Civil Defense Officer I	Office of Civil Defense
Republic of Korea	Ms. Kim Sun Kyung	Disaster Management Policy Division	Ministry of Interior and Safety
Republic of Korea	Mr. Park Young Jin	Recovery Support Division	Ministry of Interior and Safety
Republic of Korea	Ms. Kang Jung Hyo	International Cooperation Division	Ministry of Interior and Safety
Republic of Korea	Ms. Cho Se Hui	International Cooperation Division	Ministry of Interior and Safety
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ADPC	Mr. Aslam Perwaiz	Deputy Executive Director	
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IPPF	Ms. Maria Holtsberg	Senior Gender and Inclusion Adviser	
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Plan International	Nghia Trong Trinh	Regional Safe Schools Program Coordinator	Plan International Asia / APCSS Secretariat
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