

ISDR ASIA PARTNERSHIP FORUM 2017

| 14-15 December 2017 | Bangkok, Thailand |

Concept Note (Draft)

BACKGROUND

Asia-Pacific is among the most disaster-prone regions in the world. In the last ten years, the region faced over 2,600 disasters causing around 385,000 deaths and affecting over 1.7 billion people cumulatively¹. These figures do not consider the small-scale recurrent events that affect the communities, making it impossible to achieve sustained, let alone sustainable, growth. For example, Myanmar's Average Annual Loss (AAL) represents 30 per cent of its annual capital investment, and in the Philippines and Cambodia 14 per cent and 10 per cent respectively². Further, during 1970-2016, Asia and Pacific lost USD 1.3 trillion in assets and the region could account for 40 percent of the global economic losses resulting from disasters in near future³.

While an increasing spate of disasters, particularly those characterised by localised high frequency low impact events, is being witnessed, the disaster risk reduction agenda has advanced at various levels in the region. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030⁴ provides the global blueprint to take the disaster risk reduction agenda forward looking at risk from the development lens. The Asia Regional Plan for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework⁵, adopted at the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2016⁶ (AMCDRR 2016) provides the regional road map and action plan to implement the global framework at the regional level.

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The Asia Regional Plan provides a broad policy direction to guide the implementation of the Sendai Framework in context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region and highlights the role of the ISDR-Asia Partnership (IAP) Forum as an instrumental means to ensure its achievement and monitor its progress. The Plan underscores the importance of strengthening the biennial AMCDRR and the biannual IAP meetings as the principal means of regional disaster risk reduction governance mechanisms to ensure its effective follow-up and implementation. The IAP thus forms a key regional governance and technical support mechanism to facilitate a periodic review of the Asia Regional Plan.

The IAP is an informal multi-stakeholder forum for disaster risk reduction through the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Asia Regional Plan. The forum includes governments, regional inter-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, UN and international organizations, and bilateral and multilateral donors.

The forum meets twice a year and serves as the main consultation forum for the Asian Ministerial Conferences. Collectively, the IAP and AMCDRR form the regional platform for disaster risk reduction in the Asia-Pacific region.

¹ EMDAT

² Global Assessment Reports

³ Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2017

⁴ <http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/43291>

⁵ <http://preventionweb.net/go/50922>

⁶ <http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/events/46721>

OBJECTIVES OF THE IAP FORUM DECEMBER 2017

The next IAP forum is being convened on 14-15 December 2017 in Bangkok. The Forum will build on the outcomes of the last IAP Forum (5-7 April 2017, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia⁷) with the following key objectives:

- Share global and regional updates in disaster risk reduction;
- Assess progress made in the implementation of the Asia Regional Plan and stakeholder commitments;
- Update on the plans and status of preparations for the AMCDRR 2018 in Mongolia;
- Firm up and define the agenda of the AMCDRR 2018; and
- Enhance understanding of the Sendai Framework Monitor.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The IAP Forum will be held in Pullman Bangkok King Power Hotel (www.pullmanbangkokkingpower.com). More administrative details will be shared in due course.

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The IAP began in 2004 as an informal multi-stakeholder forum to facilitate the implementation of disaster risk reduction and subsequently the Hyogo Framework for Action in Asia. It expanded in 2007 to include regional inter-governmental organizations, governments, civil society organizations, UN and international organizations, bilateral and multilateral donors. From 2007, the IAP evolved into the support mechanism for the biennial AMCDRRs. Over recent years, the IAP has increased in importance as the key forum for agreement and decision-making to ensure the successful preparation and outcome of the AMCDRR.

Key functions of the IAP include:

- (a) Facilitate regional coordination, policy building and experience sharing to support the implementation of the Asia Regional Plan;
- (b) Mobilize political commitment and technical support for the implementation of the Asia Regional Plan;
- (c) Act as a forum for exchange of information and good practices among member and participating organisations;
- (d) Monitor and review the progress in the implementation of the Asia Regional Plan;
- (e) Advocate for coherence between disaster risk reduction and other global and regional agendas in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and
- (f) Support the AMCDRR host government and regional political leadership to prepare for and deliver a successful AMCDRR.

⁷ <https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/events/52508>