

13th Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) on Disaster Management

More consultations needed on the Asia Regional Action Plan for Sendai Framework for DRR



Prof. Dr. Krasae Chanawongse (right), Chairman and Dr. Bhichit Rattakul (left), Special Advisor ADPC are talking to the media at the 13th RCC meeting in Islamabad.

ISLAMABAD - National Disaster Management Authority of Pakistan and Asian Disaster Preparedness Center organized the 13th annual RCC meeting in Islamabad from 17-19 October with more than 100 participants in attendance including 15 member countries. The participants discussed issues and options for operationalizing global frameworks for risk-resilient development in the

Asia-Pacific region. They also suggested for more consultations on the Asia Regional Action Plan for an effective implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. GIZ/ Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management, Oxfam Pakistan, and The Asia Foundation supported the RCC meeting.

In brief

ADPC becomes a member of the Global Green and Healthy Hospital community

HOPE in South Asia

BANGKOK – ADPC will enhance the mass casualty management capacity of selected public hospitals in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka through Strengthening Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies in South Asian Countries (HOPE-SA) project, which is funded by the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA).

Connecting 'Space to Village'

Funded by USAID in partnership with NASA, SERVIR-Mekong uses publicly available data from space technology to create solutions to development problems faced in the Lower Mekong Region.

Visit <https://servir.adpc.net/> to access decision support tools for agriculture, water management, ecosystem protection and land use.

Private sector reaffirms commitment to enhancing business resilience

BANGKOK – Key government ministries, the private sector, and development partners came together at the Thailand Business Forum to witness the efforts and investments by businesses in building disaster and climate resilience. Federation of Thai Industries (FTI), Chamber of Commerce, SMEs and large corporations also participated. The forum was organized by the iPrepare Business facility of ADPC in September as part of the ongoing regional project on Strengthening Disaster Resilience of SMEs in Asia supported by Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

The forum recalled the devastating impacts of 2011 floods in Thailand and reiterated the need for enhancing the resilience of SMEs to disasters.

The forum provided an opportunity to exchange



and reflect on the experience of resilient private investment under the Thailand Resilient SME Champions Program, a part of the iPrepare Business

regional project and JICA-funded pilot project on Area Business Continuity Management in Bangkok Industrial Park.

HIGHLIGHTS

Workshop on Power, vulnerability and agency in disaster risk reduction

Countries explore ways to integrate gender and GIS into DRR



BANGKOK – Eight countries from South and South East Asia explored ways to integrate gender and GIS into DRR and humanitarian action planning during a workshop organized by ADPC on ‘Power, vulnerability and agency in disaster risk reduction: A knowledge exchange for sustainable development in Asia’. Government officials and NGO representatives from Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Lao PDR, Philippines, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Nepal participated in the workshop held in September in Bangkok.

The participants discussed how to create national community of learning to facilitate gender inclusive approaches to DRR and humanitarian action linked to sustainable development. The workshop was organized with support from the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs Norway, SERVIR Mekong through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and NASA.

Countries also identified key actions and highlighted the need for enhancing capacities of government officials in using GIS for a more grounded integration of gender into DRR and humanitarian action.

Regional Workshop on Climate Inclusive Flood Impact Assessment

Appropriate methodology for estimating economic losses

COLOMBO - ADPC organized a regional workshop to discuss the methodology for estimating economic losses of flood hazard especially in the context of climate change. In collaboration with Deakin University (Melbourne, Australia), Department of Meteorology (Sri Lanka) and Small Earth Nepal (Nepal), the workshop aimed to further the agenda of ADPC’s ongoing project “Developing climate inclusive potential loss and damage assessment methodology for flood hazards” in Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

The project tends to explore science based DRR and CCA interventions to bring behavioural changes to the farming community to adapt to the changes in cropping calendar, crop varieties and other climate-smart technological packages.

Global South-South Learning

ADPC’s multi-country project contributes to strengthening DRR and response

BANGKOK - With support from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the three-year project aims to improve the humanitarian response capacity of local NGOs. The project focuses on South and South East Asia and initially covers Myanmar, Cambodia, Nepal, Philippines, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

More countries will likely become part of the project in the future. Through leadership strengthening, knowledge resources, training, mentoring and networking opportunities, these six countries will be linked with other similar networks from other parts of the globe. This initiative further promotes ADPC’s vision of safer communities and sustainable development through disaster risk reduction in the region.

Bhutan takes first step to implement SFDRR

THIMPHU - Bhutan has successfully undertaken the National Disaster Risk Management Status Review as part of its efforts to implement the Sendai Framework with clear actions and milestones. With support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway, the Department of Disaster Management (DDM) led the initiative in partnership with Asian Disaster Preparedness Center.

Good practices on gender in humanitarian action

BANGKOK - ADPC has compiled good practices on integrating gender into humanitarian action in Asia with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Norway, and on the behalf of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and Regional Network Working Group on Gender in Humanitarian Action in Asia-Pacific. Third in the series, the gender brochure highlights examples from the region that support equal treatment of all before, during and after disasters.

ADPC'S EXPERTS IN FOCUS

Advisory Committee Meeting of Associated Program on Flood Management



Mr. Aslam Perwaiz, Department Head Disaster Risk Management Systems (DRMS), represented ADPC at the Advisory Committee Meeting of Associated Program on Flood Management (APFM) facilitated by World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in Geneva during 12-15 September 2016. Since 2008, ADPC, as a Support Base Partner of WMO's APFM, has been contributing to the community based flood management from lower Mekong basin through pilot projects, capacity development tools and knowledge-sharing. During this meeting, ADPC provided inputs to finalize the Integrated Flood Management Training Manual developed in 2010 by CapNet as well as future programming of IFM.

Towards achieving the agenda of the World Summit on the Information Society



Mr. Bill Ho, Head of Information Technology and Communication, joined a gathering of experts at a two-day regional workshop on "Resilient ICT Connectivity for the Knowledge Economy, SDGs and the WSIS Goals" in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the meeting discussed ways to strengthen the national capacity of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) countries in e-resilience for the development of the knowledge economy. Experts deliberated on the prospects of enhancing e-resilience in network design to make a more efficient use of ICT for emergency communication, and reduce the impact of disasters on businesses and governments.

Gender and early warning experience-sharing at Wilton Park conference, UK



Dr. Senaka Basnayake, Department Head, Climate Change and Climate Risk Management, and Ms. Maria Holtsberg, Project Manager, Gender in Disaster Risk Reduction, shared experiences on early warning and gender at Wilton Park conference on "Flooding in the Greater Horn of Africa: building effective early warning systems" held in London from 28-30 September. While presenting about improving risk knowledge to strengthen Early Warning Systems (EWSs), Dr. Senaka advocated for carrying out risk assessment at all levels to meet the data needs for early warnings. He said data sharing is critical for transboundary river flow management and development of early warning systems.

Asia and Europe exchange DRM ideas at ASEM conference in Vietnam



Funded by the Norwegian Government, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center contributed to the success of the ASEM- High Level Conference. Ms. Anggraini Dewi, Senior GIS/Remote Sensing Specialist at ADPC shared with participants how ADPC is using historical multi-temporal satellite imagery for simplified flood hazard assessment in Colombo, Sri Lanka. She briefed participants that ADPC offers simple solutions to complex problem of natural hazards by using National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) publically available satellite-based data.



Ms. Holtsberg, on the other hand, spoke about the variety of information users need for EWSs. Sharing examples from Nepal, Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Myanmar, she stressed the importance of using gender lens while designing EWSs in anticipation of macro-level effects from natural disaster events.

PARTNERSHIPS



Dr. Jingjai Hanchanlash, ADPC's Executive Director a.i., offering a present to the Honorable Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Nitish Kumar, and Honorable Minister of Disaster Management Professor Chandrashekhar.

ADPC supports the implementation of Bihar Roadmap for Disaster Risk Reduction, India

BIHAR- ADPC will provide technical support to the Government of Indian State of Bihar during the implementation process of the Bihar Roadmap for

DRR which aims at reducing disaster-related deaths by 75 percent by 2030.

ADPC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Bihar in this regard.

ADPC will also support the establishment of an institutional disaster risk management resource center in Bihar to address the State's capacity building and knowledge management needs in disaster risk reduction.



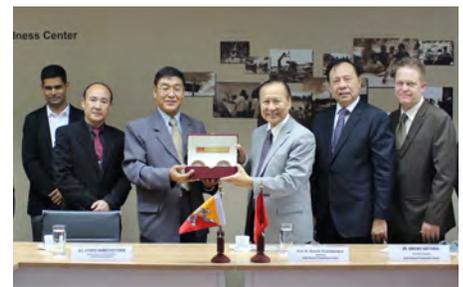
H.E. Dr. Sohail Khan, Ambassador of Pakistan to Thailand, visited ADPC and discussed how it can assist Pakistani communities and government on disaster risk management and climate change adaptation. Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, Special Advisor at ADPC hosted the meeting.



Her Excellency Ms. Saida Muna Tasneem, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Thailand, visited ADPC and discussed ADPC's ongoing activities in Bangladesh. Dr. Jingjai Hanchanlash, Executive Director presented an Atlas that contains all the information about Earthquake scenarios in six municipalities in Bangladesh.

Partnership approach for Area Business Continuity Management

THAILAND – Businesses owners and key stakeholders at Bangkadi Industrial Park, Pathum Thani province have worked together to develop integrated strategies to tackle disaster risks under a pilot "Area Business Continuity Management (BCM)" project. ADPC together with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) have facilitated collaboration and partnerships between neighboring businesses through a series of workshops, meetings and consultations at the industrial park, which is situated in a flood prone location. Through the multi-stakeholder process, the initiative aims to devise comprehensive and tailored strategies to assist enterprises in efficiently maintaining and resuming their business operations when faced by disruptive events.



H.E. Dawa Gyeltshen, Minister of Home and Cultural Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan, met with Prof. Dr. Krasae Chanawongse and Dr. Bhichit Rattakul during his visit to ADPC to discuss future partnership for technical support on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in Bhutan.



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