

iPrepare Business

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



Dear Readers,

The iPrepare Business facility at Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) is a dedicated unit for engaging the private sector in Disaster Risk Management. Established in 2014, the facility focuses on building disaster-resilient businesses in the region through partnerships to strengthen the resilience of the private sector, particularly small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs); providing technical assistance in strengthening resilience on a demand-driven basis; supporting governments in strengthening the enabling environment that promotes risk sensitive and informed investments by private sector; and facilitating knowledge sharing at regional and national levels.



Key stakeholders engaged by iPrepare Business

The private sector has been increasingly acknowledged as a key stakeholder for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in key relevant policy frameworks and guidance at global and regional levels including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (notably the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Agreement of Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Comprehensive Framework on Disaster Management.

In 2017, the iPrepare Business continued our work with relevant government partners to foster enabling environments for private sector engagement in DRR, as well initiatives for the provision of direct technical support to private enterprises to enhance their Business Resilience, including through supply chain

networks. Notably, over the past year through our activities we also sought to facilitate private sector networks to engage in preparedness for response, explored the potential for linkages between DRR with corporate social responsibility (CSR)/environmental sustainability programs and further facilitated platforms for identifying the leaders and champions for business resilience in the region.

This annual report summarizes the initiatives undertaken by the iPrepare Business facility over the past year. The iPrepare Business team worked with a range of partners and stakeholders across the Asia Pacific region, including from government, the private sector as well as development partners to implement various initiatives on business resilience. In particular, we are grateful for support and guidance from Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH within the framework of the Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Isuzu Motors Company Thailand Ltd (IMCT) in delivering these achievements.

We look forward to advancing our efforts for strengthening private sector engagement for DRR and Business Resilience in the Asia Pacific region together.

iPrepare Business Team



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2017

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PROJECT RELATED ACTIVITIES

The iPrepare Business team implemented a number of projects and activities related to private sector engagement in disaster risk reduction (DRR) over the past year. A regional project on SME resilience as well as a pilot initiative on Area Business Continuity Management in Thailand were both completed in 2017. Technical support was also provided for private sector activities under a comprehensive flood risk reduction program in Thailand. Ongoing activities include a pilot project on providing technical support on BCM to suppliers of Isuzu Motors Company Thailand (IMCT) and inputs into private sector related components of a multi-country project on strengthening preparedness for response and recovery at local levels in Asia.

Completing regional project on Strengthening Disaster Resilience of Small and Medium Enterprises in Asia

The regional project on 'Strengthening the Disaster Resilience of Small and Medium Enterprises in Asia' was completed in 2017. The initiative, undertaken in Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam since 2014 has been implemented in partnership with Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH within the framework of the Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) through the Integrated Disaster Risk Management (IDRM) Fund.

The overall objective of the project was to build disaster-resilient capacities of SMEs in the focus countries by undertaking the following activities: 1) Identifying actions to strengthen resilience of SMEs; 2) Providing technical assistance in strengthening resilience to selected SMEs on a demand-driven basis; 3) Supporting governments in strengthening the enabling environment that promotes risk sensitive and informed investments by SMEs; 4) Facilitating knowledge sharing; 5) Up-scaling, leveraging and formalizing business resilience tools, platforms and initiatives.

Activities in 2017 focused on the project output 5 for 'Up-scaling, leveraging and formalizing business resilience tools, platforms and initiatives', with activities for this component undertaken in the Philippines and Thailand. This phase of the project was carried out with funding support from GIZ.



Primary project activities undertaken in 2017 under Output 5 of the regional SME Resilience project

	Selected Activities	Key Activity Achievements
Output 5: Up-scaling leveraging and formalizing business resilience tools, platform and initiatives	5.1 Standardization of business resilience tools e.g. BCM/BCP with disaster and climate elements.	'Train for Business Resilience' (T4BR) courses developed for government and private sector.
	5.2 Replication of BCP/BCM for supply chain resilience through conducting business resilience training in partnership with large corporation(s).	8 suppliers of ISUZU Motors Co., (Thailand) Ltd. (IMCT) completed business continuity management training with written BCP.
	5.3 Strengthening public private partnership (PPP) for community resilience through institutionalizing collaborative mechanism (e.g. services, networks) and applying for innovative approach.	Enhancement of PPP for SME Resilience in the Philippines working with local partners within the National MSME Resiliency Core Group (MSME-RCG).

Under the activity 5.1 Standardization of business resilience tools e.g. BCM/BCP with disaster and climate elements and aligned with international standards serving country specific conditions and sectors, "Train for Business Resilience (T4BR)" courses were developed in order to standardize business resilience and capacity development tools. The courses were formulated by the iPrepare Business team with guidance from GIDRM after suggestions and inputs gathered from a range of relevant stakeholders via a series of consultative workshops hosted in Bangkok, namely a "Training Needs Assessment" workshop organized in January 2017; a Course Developers Workshop in May 2017 as well as a Peer Review Workshop in August 2017.

The courses formulated were as follows:

- **T4BR1:** Embedding Climate and Disaster Risk Management in Your Business (targeting executives of larger enterprises)
- **T4BR2:** Risk Reduction Methodology for Your Company (targeting mid-management level and operational level of enterprises)
- **T4BR3:** Government in Action for Strengthened SME Resilience (targeting government officials of agencies responsible for SME development, DRM & Climate Change Adaptation (CCA))



Participants of the Course Developers Workshop and the conducting of the Peer Review Workshop

To finalize the T4BR3 training package developed to target trainees from government agencies, the iPrepare Business facility partnered with the Philippines Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) to pilot test and validate the courses. A training validation workshop was conducted on 5 December 2017 in Makati, Manila for which members of the multi-agency Philippines National MSME Resiliency Core Group (MSME-RCG) were engaged in the workshop in order to gain feedback towards refining and finalizing the course package.

For the activity 5.2 - Replication of BCP/BCM for supply chain resilience through conducting business resilience trainings in partnership with large corporation(s), the iPrepare Business team partnered with Isuzu Motor Company in Thailand to provide technical support to the company's suppliers for disaster resilience on a demand driven basis. This sub-project is described in detail in the following section of this annual report.



T4BR3 course materials were utilized at the pilot workshop delivered in the Philippines



For activity 5.3 - Strengthening public private partnership for community resilience through institutionalizing collaborative mechanism (e.g. services, networks) and applying for innovative approach, a public private partnership MSME Resiliency Core Group (MSME-RCG) was further strengthened in the Philippines. The regional forum organized under the project in April 2016 provided a platform where key stakeholders from public and private sectors in the Philippines identified that they could collaborate with each other for strengthened SME resilience in the country. Subsequently, these key actors joined together under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreed at the National Business Forum in July 2016 and ultimately formed an MSME-RCG.

Significantly, different agencies within the MSME-RCG have agreed to take the lead for the implementation of a National Roadmap on SME Resilience which was developed under the project. Agencies will be responsible for themes relevant to their ongoing work in line with their institutional mandates and capacities. Furthermore, with guidance from PDRF, the roll out of the T4BR3 courses for government will take place in line with the PPP Roadmap and Action Plan (2018-2020).

SME Resilience Survey Results, Assessment Reports and Roadmaps were developed in the target countries



Knowledge products developed over the course of the regional project were also completed and disseminated. These included SME Resilience Survey Results, Assessment Reports and Roadmaps developed together with national partners in the four target countries. Furthermore, a Regional Synthesis Report was published summarizing the background, key findings from the survey and policy and institutional analysis and recommendations for SME resilience roadmap process in the four countries. The products are available for download at: <http://www.adpc.net/sme-resilience-asia>

Building resilient supply chains through direct technical support to Tier-1 suppliers of Isuzu in Thailand

Recognizing the importance of enhancing the resilience of businesses and their wider supply chains, iPrepare Business partnered with Isuzu Motors Company Thailand (IMCT) and GIZ to provide direct technical support on Business Continuity Management (BCM) to automotive suppliers in disaster risk prone areas of Thailand. This partnership was harnessed under the project on “Conduct of Business Continuity Awareness and Capacity-Building Activities for Suppliers of Isuzu Motors (Thailand)” which was launched in 2016. The project was aimed at enhancing the awareness of Isuzu suppliers on the value of BCM as well as enhancing their ability to implement such strategies to better safeguard their business processes against the potentially disruptive impacts of disaster events.

The technical support was provided over two phases (eight suppliers in each phases). Suppliers were selected for participation based on the criteria as ‘Tier One’ i.e. primary suppliers of Isuzu based in Thailand; located in areas vulnerable or prone to disaster risk; demonstrable commitment and support from top management to engage in the initiative; and availability of core responsible working group of the participating companies.



In-house training for Isuzu suppliers facilitated by the iPrepare Business team

The direct technical support delivered to the Isuzu suppliers consists of four in-house training workshops based on BCM training modules developed by the iPrepare Business facility. The workshops are facilitated by ADPC with inputs provided by Isuzu on technical and sector specific content. The topics for the four workshops are as follows: 1. Setting up Business Continuity Planning framework and project team; 2. Business Impact Analysis and Risk Assessment; 3. Business Continuity Management Strategy; and 4. Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) cycle.

The total number of trained participants during the first phase undertaken from December 2016 - January 2017 was 172 (of which 74 were females and 98 were males). The outputs of the project phase were the Business Continuity Plans (BCPs) for each individual company. According to the results from Risk Assessment and Business Impact Analysis, each of the 8 suppliers engaged under Phase One developed their own business continuity strategies.

A closing ceremony event for Phase One and program orientation for Phase Two was held on 16 October 2017 at the main conference room of Isuzu Motors (Thailand). This featured presentations on key outcomes and achievements of the project, a certificate award ceremony as well as the knowledge and experience sharing session.



Experience sharing session hosted at Isuzu Headquarters following the completion of Phase One

During the knowledge and experience sharing session, all eight suppliers from the first phase of the project discussed the key challenges encountered while developing BCPs and implementing disaster risk management activities such as lack of knowledge on the subject, manpower, budget and challenges of cross-department coordination.

In addition, they also discussed plans for each company to further improve the respective BCPs developed under this project as well as plans for implementing particular measures identified under their business continuity strategies, and developing policy to integrate the plans into their corporate strategy. After the discussion, the orientation for the eight participating suppliers under the second phase of the project was conducted with the second phase which commenced in early November 2017.

The pilot project represents a pertinent example of a private sector organization investing in its own resilience by taking steps to ensure that individual enterprises within its supply chain are better prepared to cope with potential disruptions to business operations brought about by natural hazards.

Completing project on Area Business Continuity Management in Thailand

The pilot project on “Promotion of Area Business Continuity Management (Area BCM) and Formulation of Area Business Continuity Plan (Area BCP) for Thailand” was completed in early 2017. The project was funded by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). ADPC, together with the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) of the Royal Thailand Government supported Bangkadi Industrial Park in Pathum Thani province, situated in a flood prone location, in developing area-wide strategies to tackle disaster risks.

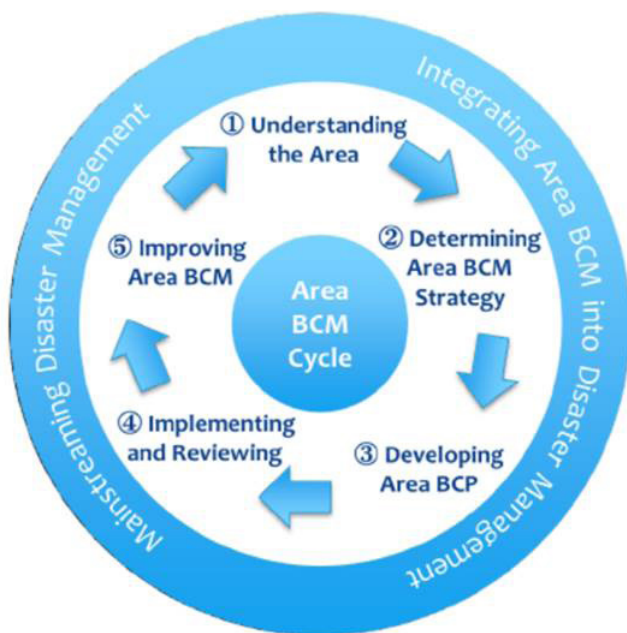
The iPrepare Business team facilitated collaboration between neighboring businesses, local authorities, technical agencies and communities through a series of consultative workshops. With JICA technical support, ADPC led the Area BCM Cycle, comprising of five phases (1. Understanding the Area, 2. Determining Area BCM Strategy, 3. Developing Area BCP, 4. Implementing and Reviewing and 5. Improving Area BCM), whilst supporting NESDB to establish a model for replicating the Area BCM cycle to efficiently maintain and resume business operations at the time of disruptive events in other industrial areas in the country.



Stakeholders from Bangkadi Industrial Park gather for final Area BCM workshop


The iPrepare Business team presented the outcomes of the aforementioned project to the Provincial Area BCM Board of Committee on 6 February 2017. The meeting was chaired by the vice governor of Pathum Thani province, Mr. Nirat Phongsittithaworn with representation from various agencies including the NESDB, BIP administrator and Pathum Thani Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM). The meeting discussed the revised action plans developed under the project as well as future implementation modality of the Area BCM including its owner and primary implementing agency as successors of the initiative.

On 15 February 2017, the iPrepare Business team attended the Area BCM Steering Committee meeting at the NESDB office to report back the revisions made to the project report by incorporating feedback and comments provided by NESDB and the Provincial Area BCM Board of Committee.




*Area BCM workshop cycle
Source: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).*


Significantly, this was the first project in Southeast Asia to complete every step of the Area BCM cycle conceptualized by JICA. The project facilitated collaboration between neighboring businesses, local authorities, technical agencies and communities to develop holistic strategies for addressing flood risks. The initiative represents a model strategy for maintaining and resuming business operations in cooperation with various stakeholders at the time of disruptive events for other industrial areas in the country.



**NATURAL DISASTER RISK ASSESSMENT AND
AREA BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLAN FORMULATION**

BANGKADI INDUSTRIAL PARK AREA
PATHUMTHANI PROVINCE, THAILAND





Facilitated by
Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
For
National Economic and Social Development Board
Supported By
Japan International Cooperation Agency (Thailand Office)

December 2016

The final project report and Area BCM plan are available for download in English and Thai:

English language -

https://www.adpc.net/igo/category/ID1163/doc/2017-kpg6jv-ADPC-01_AreaBCP_English_Final_Report_20170220.pdf

Thai language -

https://www.adpc.net/igo/category/ID1165/doc/2017-x16Fw3-ADPC-03_AreaBCP_Thai_Final_Report_20170220.pdf

Technical support for private sector activities under Thailand flood risk reduction program

The iPrepare Business provided technical assistance for the “Reduction of Vulnerability to Floods in Thailand” program funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA). The five year program (2012-2017) was implemented by ADPC in Ayutthaya, Singburi and Ang Thong provinces in central Thailand. The intervention involved training and capacity building, demonstration activities and information and networking support communities in flood risk prone areas including schools, religious centers and the private sector.

The iPrepare Business team provided inputs to a DRR Network Analysis Workshop conducted in Ayutthaya Province, Thailand in March 2017. The workshop purpose was to conduct social network analysis (SNA) of various stakeholders involving in DRR in Ayutthaya and to understand and identify the roles of the stakeholders, particularly private sector in addressing disaster risk at the local context. The workshop was led by a Social Network Analysis expert and the iPrepare Business team assisted in facilitating discussion and experience sharing.



Participants of the DRR Network Analysis Workshop take part in a mapping exercise

The workshop was attended by 50 participants, including representatives from Ministry of Industry, provincial and local government including the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Hi-Tech Industrial Estate, The Federation of Thai Industries Ayutthaya Chapter, The Ayutthaya Chamber of Commerce, private companies in the estate as well as community representatives in the program target areas.

Furthermore, the iPrepare Business team assisted in convening a Forum on “Public-Private Partnership for Flood Risk Reduction in Thailand” in May 2017. Attended by more than 90 participants from the public and private sectors and development partners, the forum showcased and discussed strategies and initiatives which help to channel private sector’s views and expertise into DRR. The ongoing and previous work of iPrepare Business were featured as case studies and examples of implementing Business Resilience in the forum technical sessions.



Left to right: Mr. Teerasak Padoongtantrakul (The Federation of Thai Industries), Dr. Peeranan Towashiraporn (ADPC), Mr.Chotnarin Kerdson (DDPM), Dr. Soontorn Koonchaimang (Rangsit University), Dr. Ammarin Daranpob (Loxley Public Co., Ltd), and Mr. Monai Yenboot (True 24 TV channel)

A Policy Dialogue, exchanged initiatives and experiences on private sector engagement in DRM from different organisation's perspectives ranging from public and private sectors, development agency to academia. Panelists from ADPC, The Federation of Thai Industries, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Rangsit University and Loxley Public Co., Ltd, discussed current trends, policies and applications to integrate DRR approaches into private sector strategies.

Overall, the forum focused on the need to build an effective 'business case' for the private sector to engage in efforts for strengthened disaster resilience in Thailand, particularly the pertinent challenge of flooding.

Asian Preparedness Partnership: working with Private Sector Networks to enhance private sector engagement in disaster preparedness in Asia



In August 2017, ADPC launched the Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP), an inter-agency platform of National Disaster Management Organizations, civil society organization networks, and the private sector from six disaster-prone Asian countries, namely Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The APP aims to promote partnerships and regional cooperation and to strengthen preparedness for response and recovery at local levels. Since the private sector is regarded as an important stakeholder in the humanitarian ecosystem both at the national and local levels, business associations and entrepreneurs are now engaged under the APP initiative. In this connection, representatives of all the sectors i.e. governments, civil society networks and private sector organizations came together in Bangkok for a regional meeting to launch the initiative as well as to discuss the governance structure of APP and planning of potential activities to be undertaken under the initiative at the first steering committee meeting. The iPrepare Business facility also attended the events to contribute on the private sector related components of the program.

Attended by representatives from the Chambers of Commerce and other private sector organizations, the events created good momentum for involving the private sector in the initiatives while observing an interest of engaging the private sector by private sector themselves and other stakeholders.

Funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and USAID OFDA, the APP is being launched under the ADPC's flagship project 'Strengthening Emergency Response Capacity of Local Humanitarian Actors in Asia'. The goal of the program is to improve disaster preparedness for response and recovery in Asia by strengthening the interface and partnership between government, local humanitarian organizations and the private sector.

Planned activities relevant to private sector in the focus countries include awareness raising forums on private sector engagement in DRR, technical support on BCM and Business Resilience topics for private sector and representatives from relevant government departments as well as facilitation of knowledge exchange between different private sector networks and other government and development partners on Business Resilience.



Private sector stakeholders participated in the APP launch and inaugural steering committee meeting in August 2017

Leaders from public and private sectors convene to participate in Asia Leadership Forum on Business Resilience

Supported by the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), and the Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM) managed by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) the Asian Leadership Forum on Business Resilience in Bangkok was organized by ADPC on 18-19 December 2017. The iPrepare Business team took the lead in organizing the forum. The two-day leadership forum aimed to increase understanding and knowledge of business resilience among executive leadership from public and private sectors.



Participants of the Asia Leadership Forum for Business Resilience

The forum was attended by over 70 participants from private sector, governments and development partners from ASEAN countries, South Asia and beyond. Senior executive leaders from ASEAN and SAARC regions discussed challenges that the private sector and governments face due to changing climate and disaster risk and possible approaches and tools to increase business resilience. They explored how to support business resilience by involving public and the private sectors and enhancing partnerships by multi-stakeholders. Participants included representatives from Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP) focus countries of Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, and Sri Lanka. Representatives from Brunei, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Singapore and Thailand also attended the forum.

The first day of the event focused on Leadership Seminars for Business Resilience with Government and Private Sector attending parallel sessions to enhance their knowledge of topics relevant to engaging the private sector in building disaster resilience. Representatives from the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF), Siam Cement Group (Thailand) Co. Ltd. together with colleagues from the iPrepare Business facility provided insights on topics including key policy frameworks and strengthening enabling environments for Business Resilience as well as Business Continuity Management (BCM) and Supply Chain Resilience.

The second day was comprised of an Asia Policy Dialogue for Business Resilience. This featured a panel discussion on leadership visions for enhancing business resilience informed by perspectives of senior representatives from government, business and development sectors partners from ASEAN, South Asia and Africa. The following technical sessions featured case study examples demonstrating the value of multi-stakeholder partnerships for Business Resilience focusing on Area Business Continuity Management initiatives in Thailand and Public-Private working MSME Resilience Core Group (MSME-RCG) in the Philippines. The second day was concluded with breakout sessions where the participants discussed on specific Business Resilience topics on Enabling Environments and Government Roles in Business Resilience, Integrating DRR into Corporate Sustainability Programs, Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Resilience, Risk Financing and Insurance and South-South Learning, Knowledge Management & Regional Cooperation.

Following the event, and in line with the forum objectives, it was expected that the participants would be better informed to play a leading role in building business resilience in their respective institutions, countries, and regions.

Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP) Private Sector Engagement Planning Meeting

Representatives from Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP) countries (Nepal, Philippines, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Pakistan) attended a Private Sector Engagement Planning Meeting in Bangkok on 20 December. This was a follow up to the Asia Leadership Forum for Business Resilience (18-19 December 2017) to determine how key learnings could be integrated into the Country Roadmaps.



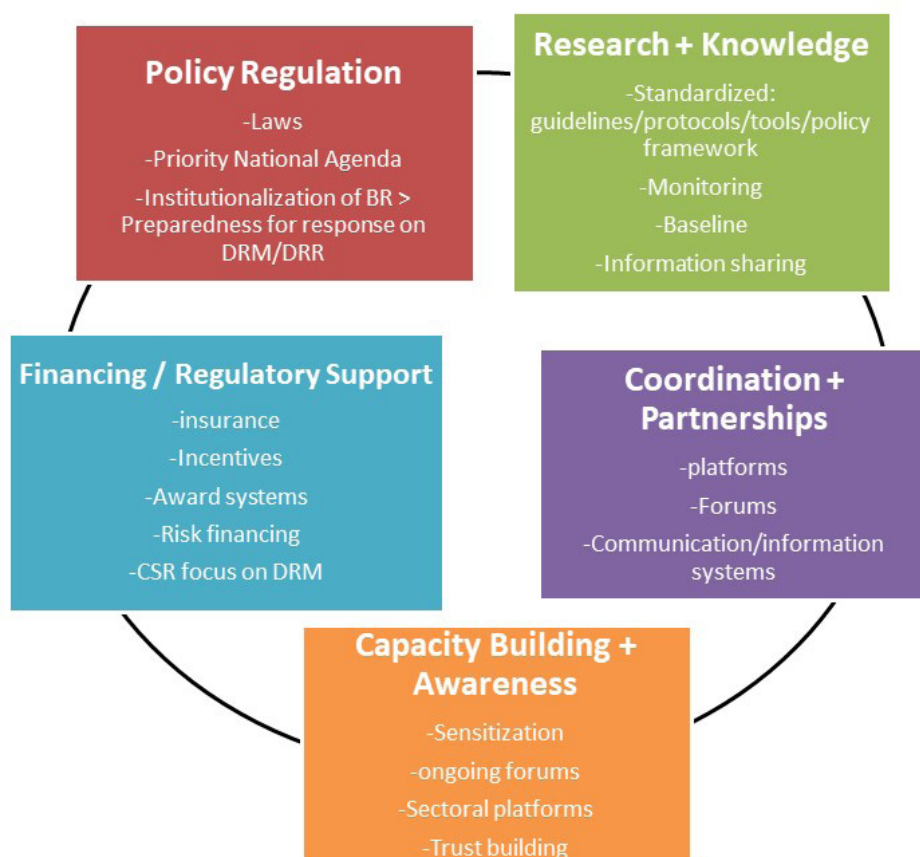
Private sector network and government participants contribute to interactive sessions of the workshop

The objectives of the planning meeting were to clarify ways of: (1) Engaging the private sector network in the planning of national and regional level activities for APP; and (2) Incorporating the inputs and recommendations by the private sector into the strategic roadmaps developed for countries.

By the end of the half day meeting the respective country working groups, comprised of representatives from government, private sector and ADPC colleagues were able to identify approaches and entry points for integrating private sector into APP Country Roadmaps through the areas shown in the following figure.



Participants of the private sector engagement meeting



Key areas for private sector engagement in disaster preparedness in APP countries

GLOBAL & REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

The iPrepare Business also contributed and provided inputs into a number of global and regional platforms focused on disaster management and development issues. Furthermore, the team provided technical support to other ADPC initiatives and activities throughout the year.

iPrepare Business contributions to Global platforms

Presenting iPrepare Business's SME resilience work at 2017 Global Platform for DRR. On 24 May 2017, ADPC participated in the side event on Resilient Businesses: Approaches and Strategies for Integrating Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) into Private Sector Investments held at the Global Platform for DRR in Cancun, Mexico.

The side activity highlighted the importance of protecting private sector investments against the impacts of natural hazards and climate change as a key challenge in supporting sustainable development. In order to increase the understanding of 'how to' strengthen the resilience of private sector operations, the session discussed efforts of private companies and business networks in DRR and CCA while exchanging successful approaches taken by various organisations for embedding disaster and climate risk management elements in business models and operations.

The side event was organized by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and (GIZ). Mr. Hans Guttman, Executive Director of ADPC shared iPrepare Business's experiences in working with private sector in resilience building, particularly the SME resilient Champion Program as well as supply chain resilience work with ISUZU in Thailand.

Showcasing iPrepare Business initiatives at the Global Forum on Science and Technology for Disaster Resilience 2017. The work of iPrepare Business was presented as part of a poster session at the Global Forum on Science and Technology for Disaster Resilience in Tokyo, Japan (23 to 25 November 2017). The forum was co-organized by the United Nations Office for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), the International Council for Science (ICSU), Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) and the Science Council of Japan (SCJ).



The poster presented to summarize iPrepare Business activities

This included regional perspectives on the theme “Science-Technology and Enterprise Cooperation” relevant to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 Priority Area 3 of Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience (by both public and private sectors). In line with this theme, the iPrepare Business contribution presented evidences from South East Asia that promotes risk sensitive and informed investments by the private sector.

Business Resilience side event at the 7th International Conference on Building Resilience. The iPrepare Business team provided inputs into a special themed discussion on the resilience of businesses and economies in the face of natural hazards at the 7th International Conference on Building Resilience. The theme of this year's conference, hosted in Bangkok, was “Using scientific knowledge to inform policy and practice in disaster risk reduction”. The conference was organized by Global Disaster Resilience Centre, University of Huddersfield, (United Kingdom), Naresuan University (Thailand), Chiang Mai University, (Thailand) and ADPC.



Private sector side event facilitated by the iPrepare Business team

For the side event, Mr. Aslam Perwaiz, from the iPrepare Business team provided Keynote Remarks and an overview of the concept of Business Resilience. The session facilitator, Prof. Bingunath Ingrige, Global Disaster Resilience Centre, University of Huddersfield provided insights on “the rationale for engaging SME businesses to improve resilience: some perspectives from UK”. Ranit Chatterjee, Monbukagakusho Doctoral Scholar, Kyoto University presented his findings on “Developing indicators for resilience SMEs in Asia”.

Further insights on the work undertaken by the iPrepare Business facility were given by Ms. Napaporn Yuberk, Senior Program Specialist of GIZ through a presentation on “the importance of SME resiliency in the Thai context”. This provided an overview of activities undertaken as part of the regional ‘Strengthening Disaster Resilience of Small and Medium Enterprises in Asia’ project as well as the ongoing initiative for training suppliers of Isuzu on Business Continuity Management.

iPrepare Business contributions to Regional platforms

Workshop to encourage private sector engagement in disaster resilience building in Mongolia.

The iPrepare Business team participated in the workshop organized by International Labour Organization and the Mongolian Employer's Federation on 30 March 2017. The main objective of the conference was to understand and assess the needs of SMEs in Mongolia. The conference was part of a wider effort to develop a set of tools that can be deployed specifically for SMEs in DRR efforts and strategies.

Asia Risk & Resilience Conference 2017, Singapore. The iPrepare Business facility contributed to the Asia Risk & Resilience Conference (ARRC) 2017 in Singapore from 24-25 August 2017. This year's specific theme was Corporate Governance, Risk & Resilience from Strategy to Reality. The event brought together practitioners from various fields such as Enterprise Risk Management, Business Continuity Management, Supply Chain, ICT Resilience and Disaster Risk Management. Mr. Aslam Perwaiz presented on "Supply Chain Risk & Resilience: Practical Approach for SMEs", drawing on the experience of lessons learned from the initiatives undertaken by iPrepare Business in Thailand.

Technical inputs to the CSR Asia Summit 2017, Bangkok. The iPrepare Business facility contributed to the CSR Asia Summit 2017 held in Bangkok on 26 to 27 September. The theme was "Future Proofing Sustainable Business". Attended by approximately 500 participants, the majority of which were senior business executives and managers working on sustainability issues along with public sector and development partners, the event discussed pressing challenges, emerging trends and explore opportunities in the CSR sector. A need for businesses to move from reactive to proactive engagement with global challenges associated with sustainable development was also highlighted. The event witnessed how the business sector now recognizes that there are measurable benefits of having a sound sustainability strategy in line with their core business activities.

The iPrepare Business facility attended the two day conference and supported the breakout-session of "Climate Resilience – Future Proofing Your Business" to help organisations to integrate climate considerations into their business processes and operations. On behalf of the facility, Mr. Aslam Perwaiz contributed to the panel presentation. While emphasizing that natural hazards are increasingly recognized by the business sector as one of the high risk factors, he introduced the initiatives for building business resilience undertaken by the iPrepare Business facility in the private sector, particularly for SMEs over the past three years. The session was followed by a group exercise where the iPrepare Business team also contributed to the discussions of how to develop risk management strategies in the apparel industry which is exposed to flood risk.

Provision of technical support to ADPC initiatives and other events

Contribution to ASEAN Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance events. The iPrepare Business facility assisted two workshops organized in Thailand under ADPC's program on the ASEAN Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (DRFI) funded by ASEAN Secretariat. On 24 April, the sub-national workshop on Disaster Risk Financing and Budgeting for Effective Disaster Risk Management was organized in Ayutthaya, in partnership with Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) and Ayutthaya Provincial Authority, to reflect upon key issues and ways forward on disaster risk financing policy and operationalization from the perspective of sub-national agencies with DRM and planning related functions. During the workshop, an iPrepare Business representative gave an overview presentation on the importance of Disaster Risk Financing.

On 25-26 April, the iPrepare Business facility also assisted the two-day ASEAN Disaster Risk Insurance Stakeholders Consultation and Workshop, which was organized at the Royal Princess Hotel in Bangkok, in collaboration with DDPM and Office of Insurance Commission, to gather issues and recommendations on risk insurance from government agencies and stakeholders. The consultation-cum-workshop provided a venue for the concerned agencies to share information of the up-to-date interventions and initiatives on disaster risk management and risk insurance and explore crucial policy issues and ways forwards to enhance coherent efforts on risk insurance with policy framework responsive to disaster risk management context. The workshop also discussed emerging needs for effective risk transfer mechanism to assist government coping with post-disaster financial burden, while promoting commercial competitiveness of the insurance sector.

Following the workshops, the ASEAN High Level Dialogue on DRFI National Priority and Policy Recommendations in Thailand was organized on 15-16 May 2017 at Bangkok Marriott Marquis Queen's Park Hotel to discuss financial impacts of disaster, policy framework, regulations, and current practices on DRFI as well as to reflect upon lesson-learned on disaster risk insurance, verify priority issues and recommendations towards developing effective risk insurance system.

This forum offered a venue for sharing gaps and challenges on disaster risk financing for DRM operationalization and suggesting disaster risk financing options. A representative from the iPrepare Business facility participated in the forum to share views from a perspective of the private sector. The forum aimed to encourage agencies and stakeholders engaged in disaster risk management in Thailand to have a common understanding on gaps and challenges of disaster risk financing.

Assisting the Hospital Emergency Preparedness and Response Course. The iPrepare Business facility supported the Hospital Emergency Preparedness and Response (HEPR) Course which was an international course organized by ADPC in Bangkok in August 2017. The HEPR Course was designed to develop the knowledge and skills of administrative and medical personnel to prepare health care facilities to respond effectively, to ensure continuous operations during or even after disasters, and to recover effectively from the impacts of disasters. On behalf of the facility, Ms. Mio Kato delivered a session on BCM, presenting on the concept of BCM, key steps for developing a BCP and sharing iPrepare Business experiences. Since many of the participants came from private hospitals, they were very keen on learning BCM and developing a BCP to ensure operations can be maintained at the time of a disaster.

Due to the increased demand for medical assistance in the aftermath of a disaster, it is important that hospitals can remain functional during and following disruptive events. Therefore, the methodologies the iPrepare Business facility developed need to be adjusted to suit the context of medical institutions. The session intended to raise awareness and knowledge of BCM, particularly the steps for developing a BCP which can serve as a roadmap to enable medical personnel to identify and prioritize key activities at the time of emergencies during which hospitals usually encounter various resource constraints, but are still required to provide a swift response to address medical demands.

Student campaign on disaster preparedness in Myanmar highlights role of private sector. The iPrepare Business team contributed to ADPC's "iPrepare Campaign" which was designed to raise awareness among students about disaster risk mitigation methods in their communities. The third such campaign to be conducted by ADPC in different Asian countries since 2014, the initiative took place in Myanmar at Hinthada University, Patheingyi University, and University of Yangon throughout September to October.



Group photo of the iPrepare Campaign activities hosted at Hinthada University, Myanmar

The campaign aimed to encourage students to explore the importance of disaster preparedness by convening seminars about how the private sector, communities, and science & technology can contribute to disaster risk management in Myanmar. For the session on private sector, students were encouraged to think about the important role of businesses in their community in regards to disaster issues. This included the challenges faced by local shops and restaurants when natural hazards occur, how such businesses can adapt themselves in order to improve their ability to cope with disruption as well as the role of the private sector in supporting government and emergency services to prepare and respond effectively for disasters.

Consultative meeting on new Area BCM initiative in Thailand. Senior representatives at ADPC and iPrepare Business team members met key stakeholders of an Area BCM initiative envisioned for Thailand. The initiative by the Nagoya Institute of Technology, Japan and Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, aims at a new project on "Integrated Research on Resilience Enhancement of Industry Complexes Through Establishment of Area-BCM Operations and Development Toolkits for Disaster Risk Analysis and Information Sharing for the Wellbeing of Population at Risk" in Thailand under the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS), a Japanese government program to promote international joint research.

SATREPS program team including National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience (NIED) representative and Consultant, visited ADPC office. The meeting began with introduction of the SATREPS by Program Manager, Mr. Kenji Watanabe, Professor, the Nagoya Institute of Technology. This was followed by short introduction of ADPC and its key strategic focus, iPrepare Business's experience of facilitating a pilot Area BCM project in Bangkadi Industrial Park, Pathum Thani province in Thailand funded by JICA was presented.



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