

iPrepare Business



ANNUAL REPORT 2019



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 (DRM). The facility, established in 2014, focuses on building disaster-resilient businesses in the region through partnerships with various stakeholders to strengthen the resilience of the private sector, particularly Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs). Services provided include: providing technical assistance and capacity building on a demand-driven basis; strengthening the enabling environment for Business Resilience - policy support, institutional strengthening and multi-agency and -sector partnership; and facilitating regional cooperation, networking and knowledge management.

This annual report summarizes the initiatives undertaken by the iPrepare Business facility in 2019. The team worked with a range of partners and stakeholders across the Asia Pacific region which include governments, private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs) and development partners to implement various initiatives on business resilience. In particular, we are grateful for the support and partnership from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Swarovski U.K, the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), the Nordic Climate Facility (NCF) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

We look forward to advancing our efforts for strengthening private sector engagement for Business Resilience in the Asia Pacific region together into 2020 and beyond.

iPrepare Business Team



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2019



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A SNAPSHOT OF iPREPARE BUSINESS ACTIVITIES IN 2019



8 countries in Asia where iPrepare Business activities were implemented (Cambodia, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand)

200 participants from the private sector and governments capacitated on business continuity and business resilience topics



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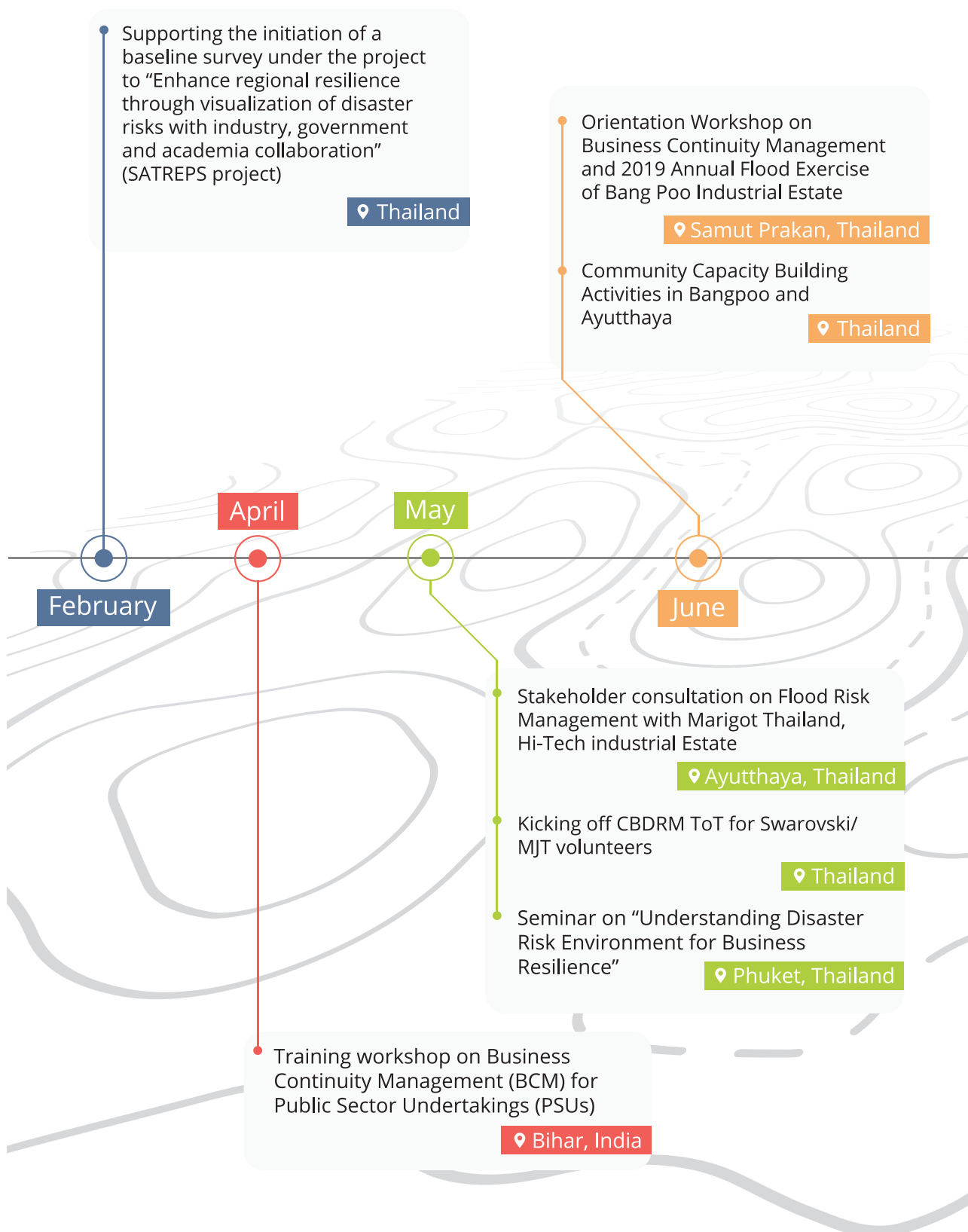
350 individuals from the private sector, governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)/civil society organizations (CSOs) attended awareness raising events, sensitization workshops and forums on disaster preparedness and business continuity

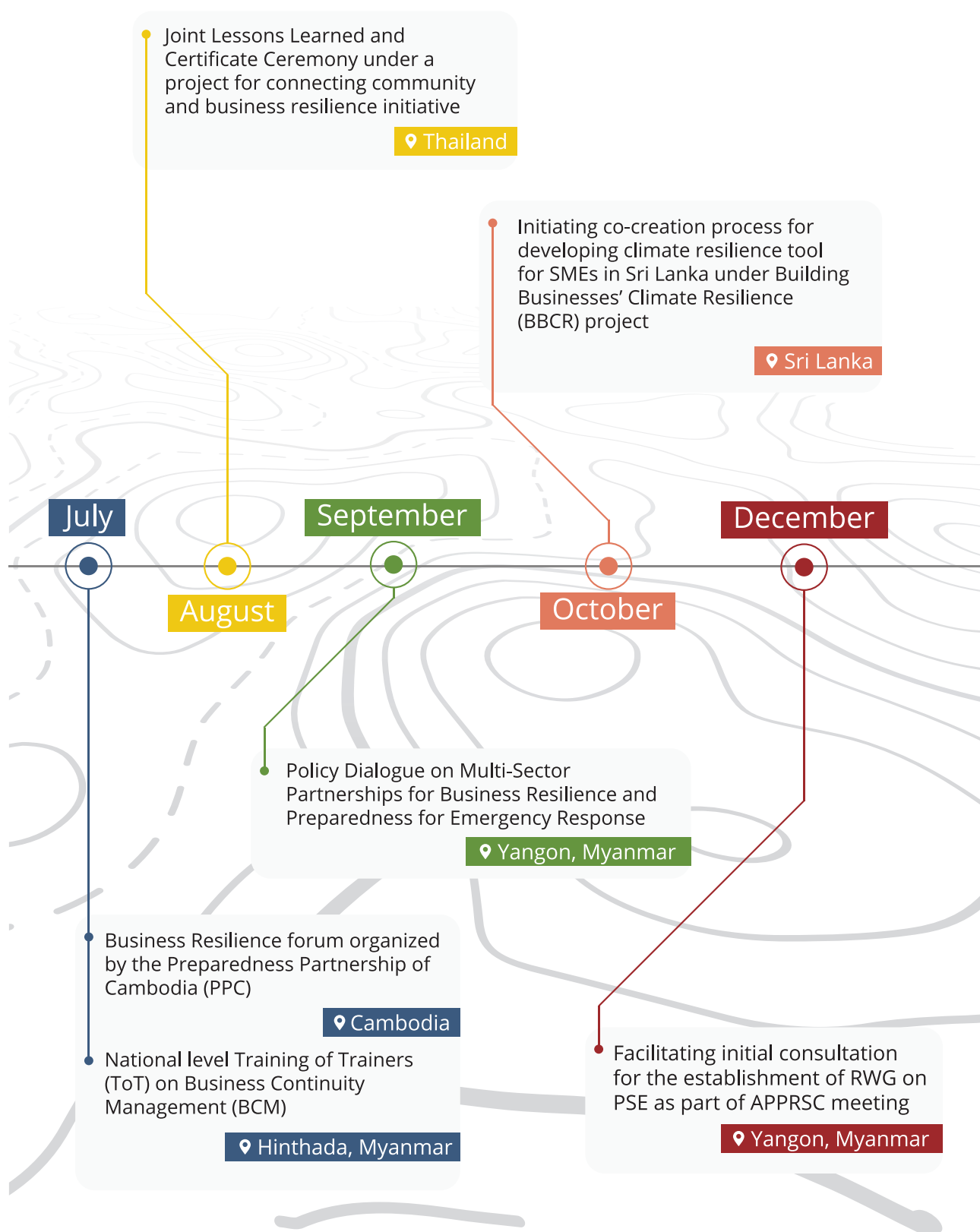
150 community members including children and elderly persons actively engaged in awareness raising and capacity building on disaster preparedness as part of corporate environmental sustainability initiatives



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TIMELINE OF KEY ACTIVITIES 2019





PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED

The iPrepare Business team directly implemented a number of projects for private sector engagement in DRM over the past year, including:

- *Partnering for a project connecting community preparedness and business resilience in industrial areas of Thailand*
- *Assisting baseline surveys and data collection under a project enhancing resilience of a wider community through establishing Area Business Continuity Management for industrial zones in Thailand*
- *Working with partners on building climate resilience of businesses as part of a project for innovative climate decision tools for enhancing SME resilience in Sri Lanka*

Connecting community preparedness and business resilience in Thailand

ADPC, in collaboration with Marigot Jewellery (Thailand) Co., Ltd. (Marigot Thailand), a company of Swarovski Group, has been implementing a project on “Connecting Community Preparedness and Business Resilience for Environmental Sustainability” from July 2018 to October 2019. The initiative placed a focus on encouraging the company to integrate disaster preparedness for its operations and the wider community into its strategies and organizational approach.

The project was implemented in industrial areas of Ayutthaya and Bangpoo (Samut Prakan), which have been inundated by flooding in recent years, and aimed to enhance the flooding preparedness of communities through improved business continuity management (BCM) and community engagement.



Stakeholder meeting with local authorities, government and technical agencies

ADPC facilitated stakeholder meetings with local authorities, government, technical agencies and other relevant organizations to identify opportunities for Marigot Thailand to strengthen its business resilience in the two locations by enhancing coordination and partnerships with a focus on addressing flood risk.

Marigot Thailand employees, with guidance from ADPC, undertook community based disaster risk management (CBDRM) with selected communities neighboring the two industrial areas. Marigot staff volunteers helped initiate risk assessments, community profiling and a series of workshops to identify the key disaster related and environmental issues facing local residents.



Marigot Thailand volunteers facilitated the community based disaster risk management activities

This initiative was part of Swarovski's "Positive Production Program" for its owned production plants with the aim to work towards sustainability excellence in its manufacturing and production locations by 2020.

In particular, the collaboration with ADPC sits under Stream 3 of the Program through which Swarovski aims to positively impact its employees, their communities and contribute to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals by addressing business relevant sustainability issues such as equality, wellbeing and environmental challenges.



Awareness raising activities for youth carried out by Marigot Thailand volunteers

The infographic displayed below, a knowledge product developed as part of the project, summarizes key outcomes and outcomes of the initiative:



A short video documenting the project activities is also available to view at the ADPC website: <http://www.adpc.net/igo/contents/Publications/publications-Details.asp?pid=1544&t=#sthash.mTYj9Prk.dpbs>

Assisting a baseline survey under a multi-stakeholder project on Area BCM for industrial zones in Thailand

From February to March 2019, ADPC assisted a baseline survey under the project to “Enhance regional resilience through visualization of disaster risks with industry, government and academia collaboration” being carried out under the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS). In close coordination and consultation with the College of Population Studies (CPS), Chulalongkorn University, the iPrepare Business team carried out baseline statistical data collection for Amphoe (districts) across Ayutthaya Province which contributed to the development of a social vulnerability index for the target geographical area.

From September 2019, ADPC also commenced a further assignment to collect statistical data concerning social, economic and demographic statistics, damage data from the 2011 flood from the Ayutthaya Province, conducted structured interviews with Tambol (sub-district) leaders in the vicinity of Rojana Industrial Park and carried out focus group interviews with community leaders to explore their disaster preparedness status and capacities as well as their experiences during the flood in 2011. This has contributed to the deeper analysis of communities regarding disasters, including development of a more detailed social vulnerability index for the surrounding communities in the Industrial Park.



ADPC and SATREPS project team meeting at National Statistics Office, Ayutthaya City Hall

Overall, the SATREPS project focuses on Thailand's key role in the global supply chain, develops an Area Business Continuity Management (BCM) tool that visualizes the impact of disaster risks on industry by region, and implements the system in industrial parks and surrounding areas to build an operational framework to help build disaster-resilient regional communities. The project aims at visualizing impacts of disaster risks on industry using a scientific method, and promoting business continuity through industry, government and academia collaboration that fit to the regional context.



ADPC and SATREPS project team meeting at National Statistics Office, Ayutthaya City Hall

SATREPS is a Japanese government program that promotes international joint research implemented by a consortium including: The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) provides development assistance (ODA), Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and research institutes and government agencies in Thailand and Japan.

Co-creation of Climate Adaptation tools under Building Businesses' Climate Resilience (BBCR) Project in Sri Lanka

With support from the Nordic Climate Facility (NCF), United Nations Environment Programme Danish Technical University (UNEP DTU) Partnership, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC) and MPEnsystems created a consortium with the objective of developing a climate adaptation and DRM product that will allow small businesses in Sri Lanka to reduce recurring losses from flooding events while formulating measures to continue business operations during such disruptive events. The project is implemented by working closely with the Ministry of Industries and Supply Chain Management who leads the Project Reference Group (PRG) comprising representatives from key government agencies and financial institutes to ensure the relevance of the product with concerned supporting/service providing organizations. The project was initially focused on the garment sector; however, the project has expected its scope to benefit other business sectors who may find the climate adaptation and disaster risk management (DRM) product developed relevant and applicable.

Between February and early April 2019, a baseline survey was carried out with the aim of gaining a better understanding of the impacts of recurrent floods on affected SMEs, their coping strategies for addressing flood risks as well as capturing the perspectives and initiatives of various actors/stakeholders supporting SMEs, including both the public and private sectors such as government agencies and financial institutions. The survey gathered more than 110 responses from SMEs affected by floods in the three districts, namely Kalutara, Gampaha and Rathnapura. A workshop on 1st October 2019 brought together SMEs and support agencies to validate and discuss the survey findings.



Interactive discussions during the Co-creation workshop

Subsequently, a Co-creation Workshop was organized on 2nd October 2019 attended by selected SMEs and key support agencies from the public and private sectors to brainstorm and discuss what kinds of solutions the project can offer to assist SMEs in adapting and reducing recurrent losses from climate related events and how the project can support the commercialization of the product in Sri Lanka. Led by the project partner, Copenhagen Institute of Interaction Design (CIID), the workshop helped in prioritizing key needs for the SME climate resilience product and to capture relevant ideas, concerns, and questions from concerned stakeholders towards its design.



Proceedings of the Project Reference Group meeting

Moreover, the first Project Reference Group (PRG) meeting was conducted on 4th October 2019 chaired by the Ministry of Industries and Supply Chain Management which is the mandated Ministry for SME sector in Sri Lanka. Bringing together key government agencies and financial institutions, the meeting reviewed the project scope and focus as well as progress made so far. Based on the key findings and ideas from the aforementioned events, the project team conceptualized and designed the preliminary versions of the Climate Resilience tool in consultation with end-users and other relevant stakeholders.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO ONGOING ADPC PROJECTS



The iPrepare Business team provided technical support for a number of ongoing ADPC programs, specifically on components relevant to private sector engagement and business resilience, including:

- *Ongoing support to the Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP) as part of multi-stakeholder efforts to enhance disaster preparedness of businesses as well as communities in six focal countries across the region*
- *Contributing to a private sector focused component of a larger program for strengthening preparedness for emergency response and recovery in India*

Technical support to the Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP) for multi-stakeholder efforts to enhance disaster preparedness of businesses and communities



The iPrepare Business team has supported key stakeholders in Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP) countries on supporting private sector engagement for disaster preparedness throughout 2019. In partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and the United States Agency for International Development's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) the APP was launched in August 2017 with representation from the Government, Local Humanitarian Networks and the Private Sector networks in Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, and Sri Lanka.

In line with the burgeoning localization agenda of the World Humanitarian Summit and SFDRR, APP strives to improve the interface and partnerships between Governments, Local Humanitarian Organizations (LHOs) and the Private Sector for enhancing locally-led DRM actions. APP builds the disaster preparedness capacities of local actors through improved coordination mechanisms, training and capacity development, knowledge resources, south-south learning and knowledge exchange. ADPC's efforts to engage the private sector via the APP platform has followed an understanding of "business resilience" comprising two broad components. Firstly, enhancing the disaster resilience of businesses themselves: ensuring enterprises can be adequately prepared for disasters events, recover quickly from disruptions and even reduce disaster risk. Secondly, contributing to disaster resilience of communities and societies: since businesses are an important part of the communities and societies, they are an important stakeholder for disaster resilience both in terms of preparedness, recovery and disaster risk reduction.

A **Business Resilience forum** conducted on 17th July 2019 organized by the Preparedness Partnership of Cambodia (PPC) in close partnership with Federation of Associations for Small and Medium Enterprises of Cambodia (FASMEC), private sector representative/lead under PPC. This served to present and validate the survey results of a study to assess disaster preparedness and resilience capacity of business owners in Cambodia. The study, "Developing indicators for resilience of Micro Small Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMES) in Asia", was carried out by Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) with support from FASMEC and analyzed responses from more than 150 SMEs in the country.



Forum participants gathered for a group photo

Presenting the findings to the 30 participants, the majority of whom were SME owners themselves, helped clarify about the key issues facing business owners in the country in view of disaster resilience including awareness, existing mitigation measures and previous experience of disaster events.

The **2019 National Summit on Strengthening MSME Disaster Resilience** took place in Metro Manila, Philippines on 18th July 2019. The summit reaffirmed public-private partnership modality for the project on Strengthening MSME Disaster Resilience in the Philippines. Among the signatories were OCD and PDRF of PHILPREP, together with ADPC.



Representatives from key agencies of the MSME Resilience Core Group (RCG)

Members of the MSME RCG, including ADPC, signed the extension of a Memorandum of Agreement originally endorsed in 2016 for another three years until 2021. The event was organized by the MSME Resilience Core Group (RCG) and the Philippine Preparedness Partnership (PHILPREP), established through the APP.

The **'Program for Strengthening Preparedness for Emergency Response through Multi-Stakeholder Cooperation in Myanmar'** with funding support from USAID/OFDA assisted the Myanmar Preparedness Partnership (MPP), the national partnership under the regional APP, in strengthening multi-stakeholder cooperation for Preparedness for Emergency Response in the country. Under the program several activities targeting the private sector including SMEs were undertaken as follows:

A **national level training of trainers (ToT) workshop on Business Continuity Management (BCM)** was conducted at Disaster Management Training Center (DMTC) in Hinthada Myanmar as part of MPP activities from 22nd – 27th July 2019. 24 Participants from government departments, civil society organizations and private sector attended the training. The aim of the training was to raise awareness and understanding of the concept of BCM including how the BCM can be an effective tool for Business Resilience as well as to build knowledge on key steps for implementing BCM to create a pool of qualified trainers to roll out BCM training at the local level in Myanmar.



Sessions of the BCM training delivered by the iPrepare Business unit

The training provided an opportunity for the participants to learn practical knowledge and tools in implementing BCM, which can be applied not only by businesses, but also any type of organizations to continue their operation at the time of a disaster.



Training participants receive certificates recognizing their successful completion of the course

A subsequent **sub-national level ToT on BCM** was conducted at Pyay District in Myanmar on 19th to 22th August 2019 with 25 participants (13 female, 12 male) comprising of representatives from the government, private and local humanitarian sectors in the district. Notably, selected participants who had been trained at the national level BCM training supported some of the training modules and imparted their experience and insights at the sub-national level.



Snapshot of training participant experiences: Mr. Chit Oo Maung attended the sub-national level training Business Continuity Management (BCM) Training at Hotel Ayeyarwaddy in Pyay, Bago Region. As an industrial relationship officer of Maximillion Group Co. Ltd, he had a strong understanding of the value of business continuity management for businesses. After the training, he shared his knowledge on BCM to his colleagues in his company. Furthermore, he continued his study on BCM online on the internet. Subsequently, he was approached by three neighboring companies to conduct training on Business Continuity Management.

Therefore, he was able to deliver a basic orientation on BCM to the senior members of the three companies. Therefore, the BCM training sparked his interest to be a facilitator to assist other companies to develop their BCP whilst exploring his options to become a licensed trainer for Business Continuity Management in Myanmar having recognized a gap in the market in Myanmar for such services.



Opening ceremony for sub-national level training on BCM at Pyay District

Furthermore, a BCM technical support workshop for SMEs was conducted in Magway and Mandalay on 29th August and 31st August 2019 respectively as a one-day intensive training to raise awareness on Business Resilience and Business Continuity topics. The presidents of the local Magway and Mandalay regions Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivered opening remarks. The workshop was attended by 28 participants from local SMEs and private sector.

A **Policy Dialogue on Multi-Sector Partnerships for Business Resilience and Preparedness for Emergency Response** was conducted in Yangon on 13th September 2019 as part of Myanmar Preparedness Partnership (MPP) activities. The dialogue provided a platform for 59 participants to discuss key thematic issues and summarize policy recommendations to enhance multi-sector partnerships for preparedness for emergency response in Myanmar.



Participants of the dialogue gathered for a group photo

The first part of the dialogue focused on the theme of Business Resilience, specifically the engagement and building capacity of the private sector, particularly SMEs to withstand disruption from disaster events which requires support and inputs from not only businesses themselves, but also relevant government agencies and other business support actors.



Participants brainstormed about potential policy interventions

Another key thematic focus of the dialogue was contingency or emergency response planning which has been highlighted as a critical means for formalizing multi-stakeholder coordination and partnerships under the MPP platform. The discussions drew on the experience of consultation meetings already conducted to develop contingency plans for the respective private sector and LNGO networks under MPP.



After the Policy Dialogue: The Policy Dialogue on Multi-Sector Partnerships for Business Resilience and Preparedness for Emergency for Response organized in Yangon was able to serve as a platform to bring the governments and businesses together while highlighting the topics to government decision makers beyond the disaster management authority and other mandated agencies in the country. The forum was formally opened by H.E. Tin Maung Tun, Speaker, Yangon Region Parliament Chairman who noted the importance of the private sector being resilient to disaster as an important cross-cutting issue which requires input from different stakeholders in supporting the economic and social development of Myanmar. Reflecting the policy recommendations compiled during the dialogue, the members of Parliament at the Yangon Region Office, National League for Democracy (NLD) who attended the dialogue, commented that until now Business Continuity to safeguard enterprises against disruptive events had not been a political priority but noted that with further awareness raising and sensitization among their colleagues and particularly the Central Executive Committee (CEC), it was a potential topic to be included in upcoming general election manifesto or commitments for the 2020 General Election.

As part of the overall APP program, the **5th Regional Meeting of the Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP)** was conducted from 2nd to 3rd December 2019 in Yangon, Myanmar. A total of 60 participants joined the meeting, including APP Regional Steering Committee members from Governments, Local Humanitarian Networks and the Private Sector from six APP countries. BMGF and observers from other international and UN organizations and development partners, notably USAID/OFDA also joined the meeting.



Proceedings of the 5th Regional Meeting of the APP

Private sector partners from all six APP countries actively participated in the meeting with representatives from Federation of Associations of Small and Medium Enterprises in Cambodia (FASMEC), Myanmar Private Disaster Preparedness Network, Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) and Ceylon Chamber of Commerce in attendance. The representatives from the respective countries joined the discussions about the APP program at the regional level, as well as the respective country level interactions concerning the National Preparedness Partnerships.

Notably, in a session on 'Synergizing and amplifying locally-led actions', it was proposed that a dedicated Regional Technical Working Group (RTWG) for Advancing the Private Sector Engagement in DRM be formed as part of the APP phase II (2019-22). There were preliminary discussions among private sector representatives how each country has engaged businesses under APP and the establishment of RWG aims to further enhance regional cooperation and knowledge sharing. Inputs from the private sector partners helped to clarify the scope and objective and draw up an initial draft of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the group.



Mol signing ceremony between FNCCI and ADPC

On this occasion, a Memorandum of Intent (MoI) was agreed and signed between Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce & Industries (FNCCI) and ADPC for cooperation and activities to be carried out under APP and beyond. The MoI was signed on behalf of the organizations by Mr. Kishore Pradhan, Vice President, FNCCI and Mr. Hans Guttman, Executive director ADPC respectively.

Business Continuity Management training workshop for Public Sector Undertakings in India

The iPrepare Business team facilitated a training workshop on Business Continuity Management (BCM) for Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) which was organized by the Disaster Management Department of Government of Bihar with technical assistance from ADPC. The workshop conducted on 23rd to 24th April 2019 in Patna, Bihar was organized under the “Program for Strengthening Preparedness for Emergency Response and Recovery in India (PROSPER-India)” supported by BMGF.

The training workshop was designed to encourage and facilitate PSUs, which are state-owned enterprises of the government, to undertake strategic business continuity management as part of overall efforts for business resilience. In order to contextualize the training contents, ADPC colleagues were supported by national experts who were able to provide inputs, add case studies and general guidance on how the BCM methodology could best translate into the Indian context and particular sectors such as power, health and logistics.



Participants from the PSUs were guided through the BCM methodology during the interactive sessions

The training workshop was attended by 30 participants from PSUs of various departments of the Government of Bihar including Energy, Roads, Bridges, Food and Consumer Protection, Education, Health, Transport. In completing the modules and facilitated sessions, the participants were able to formulate the basis of a Business Continuity Plan (BCP) for their respective PSUs. In the final session of the workshop the participants were asked to consider the action plan for preparing their BCP and next steps for when they return to their PSUs.



The Principal Secretary and Additional Secretary, Disaster Management Department of Government of Bihar and Managing Directors addressed the PSUs

PROSPER-India is a three-year project which aims to develop the institutional capacity of disaster management institutions and key sectors in Bihar state and at the national level in India to prepare for, respond to and recover from the disasters, so that resilience of at-risk communities will be enhanced. Although the interventions are specifically designed for Bihar state, it is anticipated that learning, knowledge sharing and strategic intervention will go beyond the state to other states of India and the region.

PARTICIPATION AND INPUTS TO WORKSHOPS AND PLATFORMS

The iPrepare Business team provided inputs into multiple high-profile global and regional platforms focused on DRM, Business/SME resilience and development issues and provided technical support to other ADPC initiatives and activities throughout the year.

Raising awareness of the Thai private sector on the disaster risk environment

ADPC hosted a seminar on “Understanding Disaster Risk Environment for Business Resilience” held in Phuket, Thailand on 23rd May, 2019. Around 100 participants attended the event, the majority were drawn from the private sector, particularly tourism and SMEs.

The seminar orientated participants on using a Quick Risk Estimation (QRE) tool that was developed by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) to identify and understand current as well as future risks that human and physical assets face. The tool contains hazard indicators that are aligned with the 10 Essentials for Making Cities Resilient Scorecard in the context of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030 (SFDRR) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, Special Advisor, ADPC, participated in a panel discussion on the role of businesses in reducing disaster risk in Thailand

Representatives from Isuzu Motors Co., (Thailand) Ltd., Laguna Group, Phuket; Chevron Thailand, (Nakon Sri Thammasat Base) Super Cheap Co., LTD., (Phuket Branch) also shared their experiences and perspectives on how private sector organizations of varying scales could enhance their resilience to disasters in a panel discussion.

The seminar was hosted in collaboration with the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO), the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM), Phuket, and the Thai Public Broadcasting Services (Thai PBS), with support from the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

Sri Lanka Economic Summit: Re-calibrating Sri Lanka's Economic Trajectory Toward 2025

The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce organized the Sri Lanka Economic Summit: Re-calibrating Sri Lanka's Economic Trajectory Toward 2025 from 17th to 18th September 2019 in Colombo. The summit deliberated on the key national economic issues of the country including key proposals and reforms to be implemented in the period leading up to 2025 in contributing to Sri Lanka's economic development. The summit attracted over 400 participants from business, government academia and other sectors.



Mr. Aslam Perwaiz, ADPC delivering his address at the summit

Mr. Aslam Perwaiz, Deputy Executive Director, ADPC spoke as part of a session on "A Resilient Economy" which explored the readiness of Sri Lanka's institutions and businesses to be resilient and have the necessary infrastructure and capacity in place to face risks such as natural calamities, power crises, security threats and other shocks.



Panelists from different sectors discussed approaches for a more resilient Sri Lankan economy

In his talk, Mr. Perwaiz, acknowledged that Sri Lanka has already identified the private sector as a critical partner in achieving resilience targets and overall national development goals and further highlighted the value of private sector resilience investment that incentivizes and allows businesses to integrate climate change considerations in investment decision-making that fits to the national context.

UNDRR Consultative Workshop on the Business Resilience of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

ADPC participated in a consultative workshop organized by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok on 11th December 2019. Recognizing the critical need to enhance business resilience to reduce economic losses and strengthen overall resilience of the national economies, the consultation focused on the resilience building needs of business enterprises, in particular Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).



Workshop participants gathered for a group photo

The workshop provided a platform whereby network organizations and technical experts in the Asia-Pacific region were able to share good practices as well as challenges in strengthening business resilience of the MSMEs. The workshop aimed to build on the work done in the Asia-Pacific region over the past few years to help build the resilience of MSMEs, in particular through the creation of various Business Continuity Tools. The workshop was attended by participants from various organizations, including ARISE (the Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies) network representatives, chambers of commerce and industries, academia, technical community, ASEAN Secretariat and international organizations.



Breakout group discussions at the consultative workshop

Ms. Mio Kato, Manager of Asian Disaster Preparedness Center's iPrepare Business Facility, presented in a panel discussion focused on 'Approaches to MSME Resilience' by sharing experiences on multi-stakeholder approach and localized solutions for MSME Resilience, drawing on examples from the Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP) initiative and BBCR project in Sri Lanka. Other experts included representatives from Resilience Advisors Network, Kyoto University, ESCAP Sustainable Business Network, Philippines Disaster Resilience Foundation, HCL Technology Ltd, Mitsubishi Corporation Insurance Co., Ltd and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

Breakout group discussions focused on key identified priority areas of:

1. Addressing data gaps;
2. Addressing knowledge gaps; and
3. Approaches and tools provided an opportunity to explore opportunities, challenges and ways forward in regards to these respective topics to inform future interventions to support the resilience of small enterprises in the region.



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