



Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2016
New Delhi, India
02-05 November 2016

Concept Note for Thematic session
 (Version 3 Nov 2016)

Event title	Regional cooperation for addressing the gaps in information and knowledge for disaster risk reduction
Date and Time	4 November 2016, 13:00-14:30
Venue/ Room no.	Hall 2 & 3, first floor, Vigyan Bhavan
Organizers	The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
Session Objectives	<p><i>The objectives of this Thematic Session are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To contribute to the enhancement of regional cooperation and coordination in disaster information management across Asia-Pacific; with an emphasis upon vulnerable countries in the region. - To increase knowledge on policy options, programmes and the various strategies for strengthening disaster information management amongst concerned stakeholders.
Background and context	<p>Asia-Pacific is the most disaster-prone region in the world. In this increasingly vulnerable region, information and knowledge management are essential for improving disaster risk management. Data and information become valuable in risk identification, risk assessment and risk prevention, as well as for improving preparedness and response in the event of disasters. Furthermore, data and information are critical for accurate damage and loss assessment and post-disaster needs assessments that need to take into account risk reduction measures in recovery and reconstruction processes for building back better. Similarly, disaster loss databases are important for accounting for the damage and losses caused by not only large-scale disasters, but also small-scale recurrent disasters.</p> <p>In this context, ESCAP member States adopted resolution 71/11 in May 2015 on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Disaster Information Management (APDIM). This is a regional institution of the Commission, hosted by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Centre aims to reduce the negative impact of natural hazards, strengthen capacities for disaster information management, and enhance regional cooperation and coordination among countries and organizations aiming at socio-economic development of nations and achieving internationally agreed development goals; particularly those related to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p> <p>The Thematic Session ‘Disaster information: regional cooperation for addressing the gaps in information and knowledge for disaster risk reduction’ to be held at the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2016 (AMCDRR) aims to understand the critical gaps in disaster information supply chains and related institutional and policy issues in the</p>

	<p>region. It intends to discuss opportunities for capacity development through regional and south-south cooperation to narrow down the existing gaps in disaster information management.</p> <p>The APDIM has put in place the programme of work related to the capacity development in disaster information management for vulnerable Asia-Pacific countries. The goal of this Thematic Session at AMCDRR 2016 is to provide the opportunity for key stakeholders from Asia-Pacific to discuss opportunities offered by APDIM and other existing and planned initiatives in building their institutional capacities for disaster information management.</p>
Session format and programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Welcome remarks</i> by Ms Tiziana Bonapace, Head of ESCAP Subregional Office for North and Central Asia and Officer-in-Charge, Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management • <i>Keynote address on disaster information management, regional cooperation and sharing of resources</i> by H.E. Mr. Pourmohammadi, Deputy Vice President for Production Affairs, Management and Planning Organization, Islamic Republic of Iran • <i>Panel discussion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms. Gulshat Kadyrova, Head of Department, Ministry of Emergency Situations of Kyrgyzstan, conveying gaps and outlining needs in disaster information management in Kyrgyzstan and countries of North and Central Asia. ○ Mr. Shushil Gyewali, Chief Executive Officer, National Reconstruction Authority of Nepal, conveying gaps and outlining needs in disaster information management in Nepal and countries of South and Southwest Asia. ○ Mr. Mohammad Shekarchizadeh, Head of Road, Housing and Urban Development Research Centre, Islamic Republic of Iran, outlining the perspectives and challenges of disaster information supply and related issues ○ Mr. Yuichi Ono, Assistant Director, International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS) Centre, Tohoku University, Japan, outlining the perspectives and challenges of disaster information supply and related issues • <i>Question and answer session</i> • <i>Closing remarks, ESCAP Secretariat</i>
Key messages	<p><i>Key messages:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The role and functions of APDIM in terms of availability and access to disaster risk information and assessments; in line with a key target of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. - Addressing disaster risk towards building resilience in the particularly vulnerable Asia-Pacific region through upcoming APDIM-related initiatives. - Identified opportunities for capacity development and collaboration, through regional and south-south cooperation, towards bridging the critical gaps in disaster information management.

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