

Session II: Addressing challenges and gaps in regional early warning systems

Overall picture

- **Significant progress in strengthening regional early warning systems since the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, especially for tsunamis and tropical cyclones.**
- **Less progress for hazards such as transboundary river basin floods, flash floods, landslides and GLOF.**
- **Recent disasters point to gaps in reaching the most vulnerable and remote communities with timely and relevant warning information - the 'last mile'.**
- **High-risk, low-capacity countries are a particular concern.**
- **There are also concerns over the long-term sustainability of regional early warning systems.**

Session II: Sequence

- Status of early warning systems in the Asia-Pacific region and future priorities for regional cooperation, by Alf Blikberg (UN ESCAP)
- Challenges and opportunities in managing risks of water-related hazards with transboundary origins in the Asia-Pacific region, by Mr. Junichi Yoshitani (ICHARM)
- Lessons learned from establishing the Regional Flood Information System, by Ms. Mandira Singh Shrestha (ICIMOD)
- Lessons learned from implementing the Flood Management and Mitigation Programme on forecasting and early warning, by Mr. Khieu Hourt (MRC)
- Moderated discussions on good practices in regional early warning systems for transboundary river basin floods and role of ESCAP in addressing challenges and gaps
- Break
- Good practices in early warning mechanisms for tropical cyclones: experiences from the typhoon Committee and the Panel on Tropic Cyclones by Mr. Xu Trang (WMO)
- H.E. Mr. Inia Batikoto Seruiratu (Fiji)
- Moderated discussions based on good practices and lessons learnt for Early warning systems for tropical cyclones and the role of ESCAP in addressing challenges and gaps

Session II: Key questions for moderated discussion

Taking into account the current state of regional early warning systems,

- 1. What can be done to enhance regional cooperation for transboundary river basin floods, e.g. for rivers originating in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region, which are often affecting multiple countries?**
- 2. Building on the experience of Cyclone Pam, what are the needs and options closer regional cooperation for tropical cyclones in the Pacific?**

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