

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Regional Expert Group Meeting on Capacity Development for Disaster Information Management

Bangkok, Thailand
21-22 October 2014

REPORT

A. Organization of the meeting

1. The Regional Expert Group Meeting on Capacity Development for Disaster Information Management was organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) at Bangkok, Thailand, from 21 to 22 October 2014.
2. The expert group meeting was organized as part of the implementation of Commission resolution 67/4 of 25 May 2011 on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management. The resolution requested the Executive Secretary of ESCAP to support the process for the establishment of the Centre, including, inter alia, the development of the required modalities and arrangements through, among other measures, enhanced engagement under the subprogramme on information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction of ESCAP with the more vulnerable countries and subregions in the areas of disaster risk reduction and disaster information management.
3. The resolution also invited all members and associate members of ESCAP to participate actively in the process of developing the programmes of the Centre and to support its activities as appropriate. It also encouraged the United Nations and other international and regional organizations to support actively the process for the establishment of the Centre.
4. The regional expert group meeting provided a platform for the key stakeholders from ESCAP member States to understand the gaps and outline their needs in disaster information management, review the work programme of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) and discuss the benefits of APDIM in building their institutional capacity for disaster information management and recommend the way forward.
5. This meeting is part of a series of expert group meetings on capacity development for disaster information management organized by ESCAP, which focused on the more vulnerable countries with special needs of Southeast Asia, North and Northeast Asia and the Pacific. The agenda of the regional expert group meeting is attached as Appendix 1.

B. Attendance at the meeting

6. The meeting was attended by senior officials and experts from the following member States of ESCAP: Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, Islamic Republic of Iran, Mongolia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Thailand and Viet Nam. Experts from the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES) also attended the meeting. The list of participants is attached as Appendix 2.
7. The bureau of the expert group meeting comprised Filipe Petero Alifereti (Fiji) as Chairperson, and Purevnyam Baljinnyam (Mongolia) as Vice-Chairperson.
8. The Director of Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division of ESCAP delivered the opening remarks. The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Permanent Representative to ESCAP delivered a special address.

C. Major conclusions and recommendations

9. The expert group meeting provided a valuable platform for participating member States from Southeast Asia, North and Northeast Asia and the Pacific to exchange views in disaster risk reduction and management and discuss the existing gaps and critical needs in disaster information management in the region. The meeting pointed out that risk knowledge and risk assessment is essential for effective risk management and risk reduction. Information is key to effective actions – from preparedness to response and recovery.
10. The APDIM Coordinator presented the vision, mission, strategy and modalities of delivery. The vision of APDIM is to build resilience to disasters in ESCAP member countries by filling in the gaps in information, and enhancing knowledge and capacities through various ways and means including strengthening South-South and regional cooperation for disaster risk reduction. The mission of APDIM is to reduce losses and damages resulting from natural hazards by developing the capacities and capabilities to countries and organizations in the region and strengthening regional cooperation on information sharing and management for disaster risk reduction. APDIM will commence its functions and programme with a focus on the more vulnerable subregions of Asia and the Pacific region.
11. The strategy of APDIM links all the three pillars of disaster information management, namely information, knowledge and capacity development. Multi-

tier partnerships with specialized institutes in the region will be put in place to realize in a phased manner two flagship projects: (i) the information and knowledge hub and (ii) the capacity development hub. The projects will be realized through strategic partnership approach under South-South cooperation and regional cooperation framework. In regard to data and information management, APDIM will abide by the modalities of the UN Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM) and share data and information in the public domain.

12. Phase one of the flagship projects will be carried out with specialized institutes within the country such as the Building and Housing Research Centre (BHRC), the National Cartographic Centre (NCC), the National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO) of Iran and the International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIEES); phase two with other intergovernmental and regional organizations in the Asia-Pacific region; and phase three with relevant UN organizations.
13. The experts from participating member States expressed support for the vision, mission and programme of work of APDIM, which has been developed in line with the programme of work of the subprogramme on information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction of ESCAP. They recognized that the work programme of the APDIM can contribute to addressing the identified major gaps in the region.
14. The meeting agreed that APDIM should provide a platform for sharing knowledge, methodologies, tools and models as well as good practices in disaster risk information system from countries in the region. The experts noted that the region has rich experience in disaster risk management and risk reduction that could be adapted to the needs of vulnerable developing countries but more needs to be done to address integrated risk analysis and socio-economic resilience.
15. Experts from UNISDR, UNDP, ADPC and RIMES noted the importance of data and information for effective disaster risk reduction and management and welcomed the initiative and flagship projects of APDIM for building capacities of member States in disaster information management. They expressed interest in working in partnership with APDIM to develop capacities of vulnerable member States to manage risks more effectively. The meeting strongly encouraged increased partnership among UN, international and regional organizations to address the huge challenges in disaster risk reduction that countries are facing.
16. The experts also recognized the needs for up scaling efforts in developing disaster databases as part of an integrated disaster risk management system to better understand and manage risks at all levels. The meeting noted that knowledge of risks towards substantial reduction of disaster losses, economically, socially and environmentally, will continue to be a priority area in the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

17. Experts from member States expressed their respective priority needs in disaster information management. Given the substantive capacity building needs in disaster information management, the meeting recommended that APDIM promotes South-South cooperation on disaster information management in the following areas.
- Seismic hazard: the meeting appreciated the group training on seismic risk reduction organized by APDIM and called for similar training in other subregions of ESCAP, including the Pacific. Bhutan reiterated its needs for capacity building and expert assistance in seismic microzonation. In this respect, APDIM-BHRC Partnership Group is developing a proposal on seismic microzonation of Thimpu for implementation through South-South cooperation modality.
 - Standardization of organizing disaster databases: several countries agreed that standardization of organizing disaster databases is a priority. Experts highlighted the need for geospatial information management system based on UN-GGIM standards.
 - Disaster loss databases and post-disaster damage, loss and need assessment: several countries also expressed needs for capacity building in disaster loss databases and damage and loss assessment, as well as building capacities to speed up needs assessments for recovery. These activities will be carried out in collaboration with relevant partner organizations.
 - The value of the regional risk information platform for sharing data was also noted by some countries.
18. Experts from member States recommended that APDIM should utilize various cooperation modalities, such as capacity building, information sharing and knowledge networking in delivering its programme of work. The expert group meeting recommended that capacity building be a priority. It is seen as the fundamental block for building knowledge and strengthening institutions. Several countries indicated that information sharing and knowledge networking were also important as these would lead to enhanced cooperation among countries. Skilled human resources are regarded as essential in all vulnerable countries.
19. The regional expert group meeting also emphasized the critical needs in disaster information management of the Pacific island countries. In this respect, APDIM could consider a subregional approach for capacity building activities in the Pacific. Fiji expressed interest to host a subregional expert group meeting for Pacific island countries in 2015. The meeting would focus on the standardization of a Pacific disaster database and the enhancement of geospatial information system, as well as training on seismic risk reduction and earthquake resistant low cost housing in the context of the Pacific island countries.
20. The meeting discussed opportunities for capacity development in disaster

information management through regional and South-South cooperation and recommended the way forward. In view of the expressed interest of participating member States, APDIM agreed to take forward the recommendations from the regional expert group meeting to further develop the programme of work with engagements of member States and development partners, in line with the programme of work of the subprogramme on information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction of ESCAP. Priority activities in the short-term (e.g. expert group meeting and capacity development group training), medium-term (e.g. risk assessment, development of tools and techniques) and longer term partnership collaboration and joint programming will be defined in consultation with ESCAP.

21. The meeting appreciated ESCAP for providing an essential platform for relevant stakeholders to identify the gaps and critical needs in disaster information management and pave a course of action for the Asia-Pacific region.
22. The meeting also expressed appreciation for the support provided by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the expert group meetings and to the group training on seismic microzonation organized by APDIM. The meeting recommended that APDIM continue providing group training to member States in the above-mentioned priority areas.

AGENDA OF THE MEETING

Tuesday, 21 October 2014

Agenda item 1: Opening of the session

- Opening Remarks
Ms. Shamika Sirimanne, Director, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP
- Special Address
H.E. Mr. Hossein Kamalian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Bangkok

Agenda item 2: Election of officers

Agenda item 3: Adoption of the agenda

Agenda item 4: Issues and challenges

- Disaster Information Management in Asia and the Pacific region: Issues and challenges,
By Mr. Sanjay Srivastava, Chief of Disaster Risk Reduction Section, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP
- Disaster Information Management for Seismic Risk Reduction: Issues and challenges
By Prof. Mohsen Ghafory-Ashtiany, Founder of International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIEES), Islamic Republic of Iran

Agenda item 5: Introducing APDIM

- Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) – Vision, Mission, Plans and Strategic Framework
By Mr. Mohammad Hadi Daryaei, Group Head, International Affairs, Vice-Presidency for Strategic Planning and Supervision and APDIM Coordinator, Islamic Republic of Iran

Agenda item 6: Development Partners

- Remarks by development partners on issues related to disaster information management

By UNDP, UNISDR, UNOCHA, ADPC and RIMES

- Discussions

Agenda item 7: APDIM's Programme of Work

- Presentation on disaster information management hub
By Dr. Yahya Djamour, Member of Scientific Board of National Cartographic Centre Academy, Islamic Republic of Iran

Sharing national experiences and identifying the critical gaps in disaster information management

Statements from participating countries

- Presentation on knowledge management hub for seismic risk reduction
By Prof. Mohammad Shekarchizadeh, President of Road, Housing and Urban Development Research Center (BHRC), Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Islamic Republic of Iran

Sharing national experiences and identifying the critical gaps in knowledge management for seismic risk reduction

Statements from participating countries

- Q&A session

Wednesday, 22 October 2014

Agenda item 8: Outcomes of Expert Group Meetings and APDIM Group Training on Seismic Microzonation

- Outcome of EGM for North and Central Asia, 26-27 February 2014, Almaty
- Outcome of EGM for South and South-West Asia, 16-17 April 2014, New Delhi
By ESCAP secretariat
- Outcome of APDIM Capacity Development Group Training, 16 - 20 August 2014, Tehran
By Prof. Mohammad Shekarchizadeh, President of Road, Housing and Urban Development Research Center (BHRC), Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Islamic Republic of Iran

Agenda item 9: Conclusion and adoption

- Conclusions and adoption of the recommendations based on the comments and feedback from member States and key stakeholders

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

BHUTAN

Mr. Minjur Dorji, Executive Secretary, Thimphu City Corporation, Norzinlam, NPPF Building, Thimphu; Tel: 975 2 340354, Mobile: 975 17984024, Fax: 975 2 323662, Email: mdminjur@gmail.com, mdorji@thimphucity.gov.bt

CAMBODIA

Mr. Sophak Phoeun, Senior DRR Coordinator and Executive Assistant to Senior Minister and 2nd Vice President of NCDM, National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM), New Building, Street 516, Toul Sangke, Rusey Keo, Phnom Penh; Tel: 855 23 864298, Fax: 855 23 882045, Mobile: 855 17 377747, Email: sophakphoeun@ncdm.gov.kh

FIJI

Mr. Filipe Petero Alifereti, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management, Regional House, 1 Knolly Street, P.O. Box 2219, Government Building, Suva; Tel: 679 3313400, Fax: 679 3306331, Mobile: 679 9904677, Email: filipe.alifereti@govnet.gov.fj

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

H.E. Mr. Hossein Kamalian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 215 Sukhumvit 49 (Soi Klang), Klongton Nua, Wattana, Bangkok 10110; Tel: 0 2390 0871-3, Fax: 0 2390 0867

Prof. Mohammad Shekarchizadeh, President of Road, Housing and Urban Development Research Center (BHRC), Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Shaikh Ehsanollah Nasiri, Tehran; Tel/Fax: 009 21 88255040, Fax: 009 21 88250077, Email:

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_4862

