

Building a Community of Practices (COP) for Information sharing in DRR and Disaster Management.



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# Second Key Objective of the project.

A regional level network is established which will link Communities of Practices (COP) for Geographical Information Systems (GIS), Statistics and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) applications



# What is a Community of Practices.

"A virtual Community of Practice (CoP) is a network of individuals who share a domain of interest about which they communicate online. The practitioners share resources (for example experiences, problems and solutions, tools, methodologies). Such communication results in the improvement of the knowledge of each participant in the community and contributes to the development of the knowledge within the domain". (Gannon-Leary PM & Fontainha E)

CoPs are <u>voluntary</u>, <u>non-hierarchical</u>, <u>supported but not managed</u>, more than a network, more than a community

# What are the key components of a Community of Practices.

§ <u>Domain of interest</u>: focus on developing a defined domain with a core area of collective competence

§Community: members share an interest in the core domain. May not have same backgrounds, roles etc, but share interest in key area of practice and share knowledge to improve their domain of expertise.

§<u>Practice</u>: CoP is more than a community of interest, members are practitioners. They develop shared resources, tools, knowledge and frameworks for action in a conscious way



# What do we (the network) hope to achieve

Aims to increase the awareness on the importance of GEO-REF information sharing for DM by encouraging the key stakeholders to actively participate in the network activities.

The network envisages to increase the interaction of regional policy makers, practitioners and experts with special reference to LDCs, LLDCs and SIDs



## What is our Strategy?

# In the next two years: Information sharing

§ The network shall attempt to share high quality analytical GEO-REF information for effective disaster risk reduction

§Network shall develop a close collaboration of policy makers and experts with special reference to LDCs, LLDCs and SIDs

§ The EGM will be the launching pad for deciding on priority issues based on the needs of developing countries



#### Dissemination

§ The main platform for information sharing will be through an on-line web-portal. The "Gateway for Disaster Management and Development" (the disaster management portal of IDD) shall host the GEO-REF community of practices

§Other methods such as newsletters and policy briefs may also be used depending on demand and availability of resources



#### Capacity Building

§ As many countries in the region lack the capacity for geo-referencing of disaster information, the project will attempts to build capacity of institutions/organisation dealing with disaster management.

§ The network shall be the platform for information and knowledge sharing on such capacity building activities

§EGM will suggest the best and the most appropriate approach for capacity building within the limits of project.



## Structure of the Network

Initially the GEO-REF network shall be an informal open network. Government agencies, ministries, technical /scientific institutions and academia with a strong interest to contribute/use/share GIS based information for DRR and development shall be the members

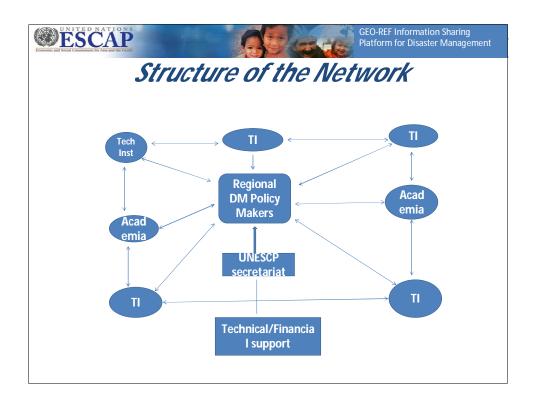
The network shall subsequently have partners and donors as deemed appropriate.



## Structure of the Network

UNESCAP shall function as the secretariat for the network linking the policy makers and experts in sharing vital information for disaster risk reduction and development.

It is proposed that the network will have a multi-disciplinary steering committee for advise and guidance





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