

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE  
PACIFIC

**Expert Group Meeting on Regional Strategies towards Building Resilience to Disasters  
in Asia and the Pacific**

26-28 October 2015  
Bangkok

**SUMMARY REPORT**

**A. Organization of the meeting**

1. The Expert Group Meeting on Regional Strategies towards Building Resilience to Disasters in Asia and the Pacific was organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok, Thailand, from 26 to 28 October 2015.
2. The main objectives of the Expert Group Meeting were to provide a platform for policymakers and experts from member States to share knowledge, methods, principles and good practices in disaster risk reduction and building resilience to disasters through regional cooperation, and discuss how to operationalize aspects of resolution 71/12 on strengthening regional mechanisms for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Asia and the Pacific, which was adopted by member States at the 71st Session of the Commission on 29 May 2015.
3. ESCAP resolution 71/12 requested ESCAP to support regional strategies to address disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience to disasters in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. This is to be achieved by, among others, enhancing linkages with regional platforms, strategies and mechanisms on disaster risk reduction in order to strengthen the capacity of member States in building resilience within a framework of regional cooperation. Key outcomes and recommendations from the Expert Group Meeting were brought to the attention of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction at its fourth session during a series of panel discussions.
4. The agenda of the Expert Group Meeting is attached as Appendix 1.

**B. Attendance at the meeting**

5. The Expert Group Meeting was attended by senior policy makers and experts working on disaster risk reduction and resilience building, including risk sensitive development policies and strategies, and on multi-hazard early warning systems from the following member States: Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Palau, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam.
6. Representatives and experts of the following United Nations entities attended the Expert Group Meeting: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Representatives and experts from the following

intergovernmental organizations also attended: Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Committee on Disaster Management, Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Mekong River Commission (MRC), and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). In addition, experts from the following entities also attended: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM), and Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES).

7. The sessions of the Expert Group Meeting were moderated by H.E. Mr. Inia Seruiratu, Minister of Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management of Fiji and Major General Asghar Nawaz, Chairman of National Disaster Management Authority of Pakistan.
8. The list of participants is attached as Appendix 2.

### **C. Major outcomes and recommendations**

9. The Expert Group Meeting provided a platform for experts from ESCAP member States, regional and international organizations to share their experience in disaster risk reduction and management, exchange views and assess the existing gaps and critical needs in disaster risk reduction and management in Asia and the Pacific.
10. The Asia-Pacific region continues to be severely impacted by natural disasters, including those which are transboundary in nature. The region has also been regularly subject to multiple disasters occurring in several countries at the same time. In this context, the Expert Group Meeting acknowledged that managing and reducing disaster risk is a task that often goes beyond the confines and capability of an individual country and requires regional cooperation.
11. The Expert Group Meeting shared good practices and lessons learned in disaster risk reduction, risk-sensitive development, post-disaster needs assessment and approaches that promote collaboration and mutual assistance that benefitted government officials and experts from countries in Asia and the Pacific.
12. Experts shared regional issues and challenges in building resilience to disasters within a framework of regional cooperation and discussed challenges and remaining gaps in regional early warning systems and post disaster needs assessment for resilient recovery and reconstruction in Asia and the Pacific. The Expert Group Meeting recognized the role of ESCAP in supporting regional cooperation mechanisms for effective implementation of disaster risk reduction in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.
13. Experts deliberated on regional principles and norms that will inform and better equip policymakers in risk sensitive development and building resilience to disaster in their respective countries. Experts also shared lessons learnt from post disaster needs assessment practices in the region and identified priority areas for ESCAP engagement, in particular for promoting the sharing of experience and knowledge through regional cooperation.

14. Experts identified challenges and gaps in regional early warning systems and good practices of regional cooperative mechanisms to address disaster risks, particularly those that are transboundary. They also explored existing regional cooperation mechanisms with a focus on multi-hazard early warning systems, shared good practices in regional early warning systems for transboundary river basin floods and discussed the role of ESCAP in addressing challenges and gaps in this field.
15. The Expert Group Meeting also identified regional strategies to address shared risks, including continuing to improve regional multi-hazard early warning systems, working towards the establishment of a regional cooperative mechanism for early warning for transboundary river floods, and extending collaboration in multi-hazard early warning to the South Pacific.
16. Experts brought the recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting to the attention of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction on its fourth session through a series of panel discussions held on 27-28 October 2015, namely on regional mechanisms for disaster risk reduction in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, regional multi-hazard early warning systems, and risk sensitive development.
17. The above-mentioned outcomes and recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting were considered and supported by the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction.

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**PROGRAMME**

<b>Monday, 26 October 2015</b>	
09:00-09:45	<p><b>Opening session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcoming remarks by Ms. Shamika Sirimanne, Chief of Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP</li> <li>• Objectives, format and outcomes of the meeting by Mr. Sanjay Srivastava, Chief, Disaster Risk Reduction Section, ESCAP</li> </ul>
09:45-12:00	<p><b><i>Session 1: Regional cooperation mechanisms for disaster risk reduction in Asia-Pacific: achieving resilience in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction</i></b> <i>Moderated by Mr. Pujiono, ESCAP</i></p>
09:45-10:00	<p>Disaster risk reduction and the Pacific Community by Mr. Titimanu Alain Simi, Senior Disaster Risk Reduction Officer, Ministry of Natural Resources &amp; Environment – Disaster Management Office, MNRE, Apia, Samoa</p>
10:00-10:15	<p>Disaster risk reduction and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations by H.E. Mr. Ross Sovann, Chair, Association of Southeast Asian Nations Committee on Disaster Management</p>
10:15-10:30	<i>Break</i>
10:30-10:45	<p>Disaster risk reduction and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation by Mr. Singye Dorjee, SAARC Disaster Management Centre</p>
10:45-11:00	<p>Economic Cooperation Organization by Mr. Ugur Kilicarslan, Economic Cooperation Organization</p>
11:00-11:15	<p>Regional Cooperation for disaster risk reduction in North and Central Asia by Mr. Alimbekov Davletbek, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy Situations, Kyrgyzstan</p>
11:00 - 12:00	<p>Moderated discussion on the role of ESCAP in supporting regional cooperation mechanisms for effective implementation of disaster risk reduction in the post 2015 Sustainable Development Agenda</p>
12:00 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>

13:30 - 17:00	<b><i>Session 2: Addressing challenges and gaps in regional early warning systems for disaster risk reduction</i></b> <i>Moderated by Major General Asghar Nawaz, Pakistan</i>
13:30 - 13:45	Status of early warning systems in the Asia-Pacific region and future priorities for regional cooperation, by ESCAP
13:45 - 14:00	Challenges and opportunities in managing risks of water-related hazards with transboundary origins in the Asia-Pacific region, by International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management by Mr. Junichi Yoshitani, Deputy Director of ICHARM
14:00 - 14:15	Lessons learned from establishing the Regional Flood Information System, by International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) by Ms. Mandira Singh Shrestha, Programme Coordinator
14:15 - 14:30	Lessons learned from implementing the Flood Management and Mitigation Programme on forecasting and early warning, by Mekong River Commission (MRC) by Mr. Khieu Hourt, Operations Manager of the Flood Management and Mitigation Programme
14:30 - 15:00	Moderated discussions on good practices in regional early warning systems for transboundary river basin floods and the role of ESCAP in addressing challenges and gaps
15:00 – 15:15	<i>Break</i>
15:15-17:00	<b><i>Session 2 (continued): Addressing challenges and gaps in regional early warning systems for disaster risk reduction</i></b> <i>Moderated by Major General Asghar Nawaz, Pakistan</i>
15:15 - 15:30	Good practices in early warning mechanisms for tropical cyclones: experiences from the Typhoon Committee and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones by Mr. Xu Tang, World Meteorological Organization
15:30 - 15:45	H.E. Mr. Inia Batikoto Seruiratu, Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management, Government of Fiji
15:45 - 16:45	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
<b>Tuesday, 27 October 2015</b>	
09:00 - 10:30	<b><i>Session 3: Post disaster needs assessment for resilient recovery and reconstruction in Asia-Pacific</i></b> <i>Moderated by Mr. Inia Seruiratu, Minister of Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management, Government of Fiji</i>

09:00 -09:15	Post Disaster Needs Assessment in Asia-Pacific: a regional overview by Ms. Shairi Mathur, Programme Specialist, Recovery/Crisis Response and Re-DRP,UNDP, Bangkok Regional Hub
09:15 - 09:30	2015 Nepal Earthquake: the post disaster needs assessment process by Mr. Govind Raj Pokharel, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal
09:30 - 09:45	Generating results from post disaster needs assessments in the Philippines: lessons learned by Ms. Lenie Duran Alegre, Chief, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service (NDRRMS), Government of Philippines
09:45 - 10:00	Rapid assessment for resilient recovery: A PDNA tool for the South Asia Recovery Framework by Mr. Santosh Kumar, Director, SAARC Disaster Management Centre
10:00 - 10:30	Moderated discussions on lessons learnt from post disaster needs assessment practices in the region and identifying priority areas for ESCAP engagement
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Break</i>
11:00 – 12:00	Launch of Asia Pacific Disaster Report 2015
12:00 - 13:40	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 17:00	The participants will attend the following high-level panel discussions that will be held at the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-level panel discussion on regional mechanisms for DRR in the context of post-2015 development agenda</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday, 28 October 2015</b>	
09:00 – 17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-level panel discussion on regional multi-hazard early warning systems</li> <li>• High-level panel discussion on risk-sensitive development in Asia and the Pacific</li> </ul>

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### AZERBAIJAN

Mr. Igbal Safarov, Official, Ministry of Communications and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Baku

### BANGLADESH

Mr. Md. Shahid Ulla Mia, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Dhaka

Mr. G.M. Saleh Uddin, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Dhaka

Mr. Jashim Uddin Ahmed, Director General (Additional Secretary, Government of Bangladesh), Department of ICT, Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications & Information Technology, Dhaka

Mr. Md. Rafiqul Islam, Deputy Director, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), Dhaka

Mr. Abu Saeed Khan, Senior Policy Fellow, Dhaka

### BHUTAN

Mr. Pema Wangyel, Chief Program Officer, Department of Disaster Management, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Thimphu

Mr. Sonam Yarphe, Program Officer, Gross National Happiness Commission, Royal Government of Bhutan, Thimphu

Mr. Karma Jamyang, ICT Officer, Department of Information Technology and Telecom, Ministry of Information and Communication, Thimphu

### CAMBODIA

Mr. Korm Ribaun, Deputy Secretary General, National Committee for Disaster Management, Phnom Penh

Mr. Ky Leng, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, Phnom Penh

Mr. Akhteruzzaman Sano, Advisor to the Government of Cambodia, Phnom Penh

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

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