

Second Meeting of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistic

Sendai, Japan
17 March 2015

REPORT

I. Introduction

1. The Commission, in its resolution 70/2, established an expert group comprising statisticians and disaster risk reduction experts to work towards developing a basic range of disaster-related statistics. The Group is to report the progress of their work to the Committee on Statistics in 2014 and the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015 and to present the results for approval by the Commission.

2. The Expert Group held its first meeting in Sendai, Japan, from 27 to 29 October 2014, during which initial proposals on the scope and statistical challenges related to a basic range of disaster statistics were discussed. The Group agreed that the development of a basic range of disaster-related statistics should be guided by national policy priorities, taking into account regional and international frameworks. It was also agreed that the core of the basic range of disaster-related statistics, as a matter of priority, should comprise disaster occurrence and direct and immediate impacts of disasters. As for disaster occurrence the Group decided to complement existing guidance with more information in order to ensure the inclusion of the broadest possible types of disasters that occur in the Asia-Pacific region.

3. The Group has been working against the backdrop of the international community gearing up towards a post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction which will contain targets of progress and achievements. The underpinning statistics are crucial to measure the attainment of those goals, targets, and indicators in the framework in a consistent, systematic and comparable manner. Only thus disaster data could meaningfully inform development progress.

4. The second meeting of the Expert Group on Disaster Related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific was organized as a side event to the 3rd United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai on 17 March 2015. The programme of the meeting and the list of participants are included as Annex I and Annex II in the present report.

5. The meeting aimed to (a) ascertain the alignment of the basic range of disaster statistics with the ongoing negotiation on the post 2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals indicators; (b) achieve consensus on core components of disaster statistics including the

definition of disaster occurrence, types, and classifications of disasters and the immediate impacts; and (c) develop a plan for producing a compilation guide for disaster statistics.

6. The Expert Group reviewed a technical paper on disaster occurrences and immediate, direct impacts of disasters (see Annex III), and was also informed of a number of ongoing, complementary initiatives, including the newly published IRDR report on indicators for human and economic loss from disasters, which will form part of the basis for the Group's further work.

II. Summary decisions and recommendations

A. Decisions

7. The meeting agreed that considering the upcoming milestones for the work of the Expert Group, namely March 2015 (Committee on Statistics), October 2015 (Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction) and May 2016 (72nd session of the Commission to which the work of the Expert Group is to be reported according to resolution 70/2), efforts of the Expert Group should be particularly intensive during the coming six months leading up to the fourth session of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction.

8. The Expert Group prioritized three following three main tasks for the period leading up to the 72nd session of the Commission in 2016:

(a) Classification of hazards

9. The establishment of an agreed classification of hazards, following a bottom-up approach to ensure that all hazard-types relevant to countries in Asia and the Pacific would be covered in the classification, while also keeping in mind that the higher-level categories in the classification system should align as much as possible to existing terminology, to generally accepted groupings of hazard types, and to terminologies (such as "water-related disasters" and "vulnerable groups") used in targets and indicators of the emerging international monitoring frameworks for the post-2015 disaster risk reduction framework and the sustainable development goals. In this regard the Group noted that there may be a need to consider technological and sociological families of disaster types, which fall outside the IRDR Peril Classification. Further to the IRDR Peril Classification which is used as a reference in the working paper, the Experts put forward that while it is an acknowledge reference in the academic world, a generally accepted classification would benefit from adjustment and expansion by practitioners in the field. The Group requested Indonesia to lead the accomplishment of this task.

(b) Disaster occurrence

10. The establishment of methodology to define the temporal and geographical expanse and boundaries of disaster occurrences, and address

challenges related to trends analysis, including consideration of thresholds, sudden and slow onset disasters, concurrent as well as cascading disastrous events or phenomena, 100 years events, and the interplay of geographical and administrative units in the practical application of such definitions. The Group requested Bhutan to lead the accomplishment of this task.

(c) Immediate, direct impacts of disasters

11. The establishment of agreed terminology and classification of immediate, direct impacts of disasters. This task shall bear in mind consistency with existing internationally agreed statistical standards and classifications such as the system of national accounts and the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC), and considering the inclusion of loss of environmental assets as a criterion for the occurrence of a disaster. It was put forward that a hierarchy of immediate, direct impacts may be needed and that the impacts currently listed in Annex B of the working paper may not be sufficient to establish comprehensive definitions and classification as they relate to realities in countries of the Asian and Pacific region. The Group requested the Philippines to lead the accomplishment of this task.

B. Recommendations

12. A number of additional recommendations also emerged, including on the need to ensure that all disaster-related information is accompanied by appropriate metadata (i.e. data about the data), that the guidance to be prepared by the Group should include a list of minimum national capacity requirements for implementing the guidance, as well as recommendations for regional data sharing, and that close collaboration with complementary initiatives in the region and beyond should continue and be strengthened to involve appropriate multi-sector expertise and pave the way for the work of the Group to eventually lead to globally agreed standards and guidance.

C. Next meeting

13. The Group tentatively agreed to convene the third meeting of the Expert Group in November 2015.

Annex I: Programme

09:00 – 10:00	<p>Opening</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Shamika Sirimanne, Director, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD), ESCAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Hae Ryun Kim, Deputy Director, Research Planning Division, Statistical Research Institutes, Statistics Korea, and Chair of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific ○ Mr. Romeo S. Recide, Interim Deputy National Statistician, Philippines Statistics Authority, and representing the Chair of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics • Keynote speeches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. Nobuyoshi Hara, Executive Vice President (for Earthquake Disaster Reduction), Tohoku University ○ Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Executive Secretary, ESCAP
10:00 – 10:15	Coffee Break
10:15 – 10:45	<p>Session 1 : Introduction</p> <p>Chair: Ms. Hae Ryun Kim, Deputy Director, Research Planning Division, Statistics Korea, Chair of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decisions made at the first meeting of the Expert Group: Overview by the Chair 2. Participants’ introduction: Expected outcomes of the meeting
10:45-11:45	<p>Session 2: Post 2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, the sustainable development goals and the work of the Expert Group</p> <p><i>Expected result: Recommendations to ensure the relevance of the work of the Expert Group to the emerging international development agenda beyond 2015 and the post-2015 disaster risk reduction framework</i></p> <p>Chair: Ms. Hae Ryun Kim, Deputy Director, Research Planning Division, Statistics Korea and Chair of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Yuichi ONO, Assistant Director and Professor, International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS), Tohoku University, Japan</p> <p>Brief introduction to relevant aspects of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the post-2015 Framework for disaster risk reduction (Ms Rikke Munk Hansen, Chief, Economic and Environment Statistics (EES), Statistics Division (SD) ESCAP) b. the proposed SDG targets (Mr Sanny Ramos Jegillos, Regional Practice Coordinator, Crisis Prevention and Recovery, UNDP)

11:45 – 12:30	<p>Session 3: Towards a basic range of disaster statistics in Asia Pacific</p> <p><i>Expected result: Consensus on working definitions for disaster occurrences and immediate direct impacts for the development of regional guidelines</i></p> <p>Chair: Mr Romeo Recide, Interim Deputy National Statistician, Philippines</p> <p>Moderator: Ms Rikke Munk Hansen, Chief, EES, SD, ESCAP</p> <p>Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the working paper on statistics for disaster occurrences and immediate direct impacts; including feed-back received <p>Discussion: Questions and answers</p> <p>Introduction to group discussions</p>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	<p>Session 3 (continued): Towards a basic range of disaster statistics in Asia Pacific</p> <p>Group discussion & presentations: Feedback on the working draft discussion paper on statistics for disaster occurrences and immediate impacts; issues for future work</p>
15:00 – 15:15	Coffee Break
15:15 – 16:15	<p>Session 4: Development of regional guidelines for disaster-related statistics</p> <p><i>Expected result: Outline of issues to be covered in regional guidelines on disaster-related statistics, and agreement on the process for their development</i></p> <p>Chair: Dr. Hae Ryun Kim, Deputy Director, Research Planning Division, Statistical Research Institutes, Statistics Korea and Chair of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific</p> <p>Moderator: Mr Puji Pujiono, Regional Adviser, IDD, ESCAP</p> <p>Interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key considerations in developing a compilation guide - Good practices from countries and similar statistical systems
16:15 – 17:00	<p>Session 5: Way forward and work plan</p> <p><u><i>Expected results: the Expert Group agrees on its work plan April 2015-March 2016.</i></u></p> <p>Chair: Dr. Hae Ryun Kim, Deputy Director, Research Planning Division, Statistical Research Institutes, Statistics Korea and Chair of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific</p> <p>Moderator: Secretariat</p> <p>Plenary discussion on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work plan (outputs, roles, schedule, etc.) • Communication opportunities for the work of the group <p>Closing</p>

Annex II: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

AZERBAIJAN

Mr. Rashad GASIMZADE, Chief Officer, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of the Emergency Situation, AZ1073, Mikhail Mushvig street, Block 501, Baku city, Republic of Azerbaijan

BHUTAN

Mr. Pema THINLEY, ICT/GIS Officer, Department of Disaster Management, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Near Motithang BOD, PO Box: 1493, Thimphu, Bhutan

FIJI

Mr. Poasa, NAIMILA, Assistant Statistician-GIS, Fiji Bureau of Statistics, Box 2221, Government Buildings, Suva, Fiji

INDONESIA

Mr. Agus WIBOWO, Head, Data Division, National Disaster Management Authority (BNPB), Grha BNPB 12 Floor, Jl. Pramuka Kav. 38, Jakarta 13120, Indonesia

JAPAN

Mr. Yuichi ONO, Assistant Director and Professor, International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS), Tohoku University, Aoba 6-6-70-102, Aramaki, Aoba-ku, Sendai 980-8579, Japan

MONGOLIA

Ms. Ariunaa CHADRAABAL, Lieutenant Colonel, Senior Specialist, Strategic Policy and Planning Division, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Partizan's street, Sukhbaatar district, Ulaanbaatar 210644, Mongolia

PHILIPPINES

Mr. Relan Jay ASUNCION, Officer-in-charge, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) Operations Center, Office of Civil Defense, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Philippines

Mr. Romeo Soon RECIDE, Interim Deputy National Statistician, Philippines Statistics Authority, representing the Chair of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics, BENLOR Building, 1184 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, Philippines

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Ms. Hae Ryun KIM, Deputy Director, Research Planning Division, Statistical Research Institutes, Statistics Korea, Statistical Centre (8th floor), 713 Hanbatdaero, Seo-gu, Daejeon, 302-280, Republic of Korea

SRI LANKA

Mr. W.P.S. SISILARATHNE, Statistician, Department of Census and Statistics, Polduwa Road, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka

UNITED NATIONS BODIES, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. Rajesh SHARMA, Programme Specialist, UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub, 3F, UN Service Building, Rajdamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand

Mr. Sanny Ramos JEGILLOS, Regional Practice Coordinator, Crisis Prevention and Recovery, UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub, 3F, UN Service Building, Rajdamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand

Mr. Ridwan YUNUS, Information Management Officer, UNDP Indonesia

Mr. Sujit Kumar MOHANTY, Programme Officer, UNISDR Asia Pacific, Rajdamnernnok Avenue Bangkok, 10200, Thailand

Mr. Daniele EHRlich, Senior Scientist, European Commission – Joint Research Centre, Via Enrico Fermi 2749, I-21027 Ispra (VA), Italy

Dr. Peeranan TOWASHIRAPORN, Director, Asia Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), 979/69 24th Fl Paholyothin Rd., Phayathai, Bangkok 10400 Thailand

Mr. M. ARAKIDA, Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), 1-5-2 Wakinohamakaigan-dori, Chuo-ku, Kobe, Japan

Mr. Satoru NISHIKAWA, Vice-President, Japan Water Agency, 11-2, Shintoshin, Chuo-ku, Saitama, 330-6008 Japan

Ms. Catherine GAMPER, Economist, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 2 Rue Andre-Pascal 75775 Paris CEDEX 16, France

Ms. Michelle YONETANI, Senior Advisor, Disaster-Induced Displacement, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Chemin de Balxert, 7-9, 1219 Chatelaine, Geneva, Switzerland

TOHOKU UNIVERSITY

Mr. Nobuyoshi HARA, Executive Vice President, Tohoku University, 2-1-1, Katahira, Aoba-ku, Sendai 980-8577, Japan

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP)

Dr. Shamshad AKHTAR, Executive Secretary of ESCAP and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, United Nations Building, Rajadamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand

Ms. Shamika SIRIMANNE, Director, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Section (IDD), ESCAP, United Nations Building, Rajadamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand

Mr. Kilaparti RAMAKRISHNA, Head of Office, East and North-East Asia Office, ESCAP, 175 Art Center-daero, Songdo-dong, Incheon, Republic of Korea

Ms. Rikke Munk HANSEN, Chief, Economic and Environment Statistics Section, Statistics Division (SD), ESCAP, United Nations Building, Rajadamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand

Mr. Puji PUJIONO, Regional Advisor, Disaster Risk Reduction Section, IDD, United Nations Building, Rajadamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand

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