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**ENHANCING REGIONAL COOPERATION ON DISASTER RISK
REDUCTION IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

(Item 5 of the provisional agenda)

**PRELIMINARY LIST OF MAJOR NETWORKS ON KNOWLEDGE
SHARING AND ANALYSIS FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT
IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION**

Background information note

SUMMARY

The present information note contains a preliminary list of major national, regional and international initiatives and networks which have been assisting the ESCAP member States in knowledge sharing and analysis for disaster management. The methodology for compiling this list was online research, review of literature and informal interviews with disaster experts. The compilation of this list is an ongoing initiative and therefore its contents are not exhaustive. In order to better serve member States, the secretariat would appreciate receiving any relevant information from participants with a view to updating the list.

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I. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

Name:	Asia Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF)
Coverage:	Members
URL:	www.aprsaf.org
Location:	Japan
<p>APRSAF was established in 1993 to enhance the development of the space programmes of its members and to exchange views toward future cooperation in space activities in the region. Its members include: Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Bhutan, Canada, Cambodia, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United States of America and Viet Nam. APRSAF leads the Sentinel Asia initiative to share disaster information in the Asia-Pacific region and to make the best use of Earth observation satellites data for disaster management in the region. It is an Internet-based, information distribution backbone, distributing satellite and in situ spatial information on hazards in the region. The system draws on satellite derived products and imagery from Japan, India, Thailand and, in the future, the Republic of Korea.</p>	

Name:	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)
Coverage:	Asia
URL:	www.adpc.net
Location:	Thailand
<p>ADPC is a non-profit organization supporting the advancement of safer communities and sustainable development through the implementation of programmes and projects that reduce the impact of disasters upon countries and communities in Asia and the Pacific by: (a) developing and enhancing sustainable institutional disaster risk management capacities, frameworks and mechanisms, and supporting the development and implementation of Government policies; (b) facilitating the dissemination and exchange of disaster risk management expertise, experience and information; and (c) raising awareness of and enhancing disaster risk management knowledge and skills.</p>	

Name:	Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN)
Coverage:	Asia
URL:	www.adrrn.net
Location:	Malaysia
<p>ADRRN is a network that promotes coordination, information sharing and collaboration among non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholders for effective and efficient disaster reduction and response in the Asia-Pacific region. It was founded in 2002 when the Asia Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC) Kobe and the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Kobe, with the assistance of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Foundation, brought together NGOs from all over Asia to discuss the need for a network of NGOs for disaster reduction and response in Asia. The organization links more than 20 NGOs.</p>	

Name:	The Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP)
Coverage:	East and South-East Asia
URL:	www.ccop.or.th
Location:	Thailand
<p>CCOP is an organization whose mission is to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of applied geoscience programmes in East and South-East Asia in order to contribute to economic development and the improvement of the quality of life in the region. CCOP promotes capacity-building, technology transfer, exchange of information and institutional linkages for sustainable resource development, management of geo-information, geo-hazard mitigation and protection of the environment. Its member countries are: Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. Its cooperating countries are: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.</p>	

Name:	Duryog Nivaran , South Asian Network for Disaster Risk Reduction
Coverage:	South Asia
URL:	www.duryognivaran.org
Location:	Sri Lanka
<p>Duryog Nivaran is a research, training and advocacy network committed to promoting disaster risk reduction in South Asia at the policy and community levels. It strives to build the knowledge base of stakeholders by sharing research findings, information, experiences and insights on emerging issues of disaster management in the countries and among the communities of the region. The network links 20 non-governmental organizations.</p>	

Name:	Earthquake and Megacities Initiative (EMI)
Coverage:	Global
URL:	www.emi-megacities.org
Location:	Philippines
<p>EMI is an international, not-for-profit, scientific organization dedicated to the reduction of disaster risk in megacities and major metropolises. It was founded in 1998 in response to the urgent need to stimulate urban earthquake preparedness and mitigation in developing countries. It serves as a catalyst for the delivery of scientific and technical knowledge to local government officials, policymakers, practitioners, and disaster management technical personnel.</p>	

Name:	Group on Earth Observations (GEO)
Coverage:	Global
URL:	www.earthobservations.org
Location:	Switzerland
<p>GEO is a voluntary partnership of Governments and international organizations, providing a framework within which the partners can develop new projects and coordinate their strategies and investments. GEO coordinates international efforts to build a Global Earth Observation System of Systems, which interconnects a diverse and growing array of instruments and systems for monitoring and forecasting changes in the global environment. This system of systems supports policymakers, resource managers, science researchers and other experts and decision-makers. The members of GEO include 74 Governments and the European Commission. Additionally, 51 intergovernmental, international and regional organizations with a mandate in Earth observation or related issues have been recognized as participating organizations.</p>	

Name:	International Federation of Digital Seismograph Networks (FDSN)
Coverage:	Global
URL:	www.fdsn.org
Location:	Not available
<p>FDSN is a global organization with a membership comprised of groups responsible for the installation and maintenance of seismographs either within their geographic borders or globally. Members agree to coordinate station-sitting and provide free and open access to their data. This cooperation helps scientists all over the world to further the advancement of earth science and particularly the study of global seismic activity.</p>	

Name:	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
Coverage:	Global
URL:	www.ifrc.org
Location:	Switzerland
<p>The disaster section of IFRC deals with disaster response work, which provides assistance to refugees and victims of natural disasters. IFRC also devotes significant attention to disaster preparedness activities, aiming to make communities more aware of the risks they face, how to reduce their vulnerability, and how to cope when disaster strikes. It comprises 186 Red Cross and Red Crescent member societies and more than 60 delegations around the world.</p>	

Name:	International Charter on Space and Major Disasters
Coverage:	Global
URL:	www.disasterscharter.org
Location:	Not applicable

The **International Charter on Space and Major Disasters** is aimed at providing a unified system of space data acquisition and delivery to those affected by natural or man-made disasters. Each member agency has committed resources to support the provisions of the Charter and thus helps to mitigate the effects of disasters on human life and property. The International Charter was declared formally operational on 1 November 2000.

Name:	International Recovery Platform (IRP)
Coverage:	Global
URL:	www.recoveryplatform.org
Location:	Japan

IRP is a joint initiative by the United Nations System and partners, with the support of the Government of Japan and other countries as well as the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), aimed at supporting a more coordinated United Nations system methodology and approach to the disaster recovery process. Its goals are: (a) to translate into practice the strategic goal of integrating risk reduction into post-disaster recovery; (b) to provide a coordination framework and network for post-disaster recovery; (c) to facilitate the dissemination of lessons learned using common tools and mechanisms; (d) to provide advice and support on the formulation of post-disaster recovery planning and programming (e) to strengthen national capacities ensuring links with longer-term development programming; (f) to facilitate South-South cooperation between disaster-prone countries; and (g) to utilize the accumulated know-how of these countries.

Name:	International Seismological Centre (ISC)
Coverage:	Global
URL:	www.isc.ac.uk
Location:	United Kingdom

ISC is an NGO charged with the final collection, analysis and publication of standard earthquake information from all over the world. Earthquake readings are received from almost 3,000 seismograph stations representing every part of the globe. The Centre's main task is to determine earthquake locations making use of all available information and to search for new earthquakes previously unidentified by individual agencies.

Name:	Münchener Rück AG (MUNICH-RE)
Coverage:	Global
URL:	www.munichre.com
Location:	Germany

MUNICH-RE is a reinsurance company with operations in more than 160 countries. This company makes available to the public the NATural Hazards Assessment Network (<http://mrnathan.munichre.com>), which includes interactive natural hazard maps, country profiles and statistics on the geography, population, economy and natural-hazard situation of countries around the world.

Name:	Pacific Disaster Center (PDC)
Coverage:	Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions
URL:	www.pdc.org
Location:	Hawaii, United States
<p>PDC is an applied science, information and technology centre, working to reduce disaster risks and impacts to people's lives and property. The centre applies its expertise to integrate technologies for disaster management support in the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions and beyond. It provides informational and analytical products in times of emergencies. PDC is also engaged in capacity-building projects around the world, providing support and training regarding data and information management, decision and policy support, applications development, and information systems engineering.</p>	

Name:	Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC)
Coverage:	Global
URL:	www.prh.noaa.gov/ptwc/
Location:	Hawaii, United States
<p>PTWC is the operational headquarters for the Pacific Tsunami Warning System. It provides warnings for Pacific basin tsunamis to countries around the Pacific rim and to most of the Pacific island States. The functions of PTWC are carried out under the auspices of the UNESCO IOC International Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning System.</p>	

Name:	ProVention Consortium (ProVention)
Coverage:	Global
URL:	www.proventionconsortium.org
Location:	Switzerland
<p>ProVention is a global coalition of international organizations, Governments, the private sector, civil society organizations and academic institutions dedicated to increasing the safety of vulnerable communities and to reducing the impacts of disasters in developing countries. It provides a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on disaster risk reduction and a framework for collective action.</p>	

Name:	Tropical Storm Risk (TSR)
Coverage:	Global
URL:	www.tropicalstormrisk.com
Location:	United Kingdom

TSR is a consortium comprising experts on insurance, risk management and seasonal climate forecasting. The consortium provides information and innovative forecast products, such as an online tool for forecasting the risk from tropical storms worldwide, to benefit risk awareness and decision making in insurance, other business sectors, Government and society. The industry expertise is drawn from reinsurance and claims management companies, and the scientific expertise from climate physicists, meteorologists and statisticians from academic institutions.

II. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES

Name:	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, Task Force for Emergency Preparedness (APEC-TFEP)
Coverage:	Member countries
URL:	www.apec.org
Location:	Singapore
<p>APEC-TFEP is a task force coordinating work among members of APEC. Established after the adoption of the Strategy on Response to and Preparedness for Natural Disasters and Emergencies, it aims at building community resilience and preparedness for emergencies and natural disasters. The purpose is to promote expertise sharing and collaboration on emergency preparedness and to collectively prepare for future natural disasters. APEC was established in 1989 to facilitate economic growth, cooperation, trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region. The group has 21 members: Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Singapore; Taiwan Province of China; Thailand; United States; and Viet Nam.</p>	

Name:	Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO)
Coverage:	Member countries
URL:	www.apmcsta.org
Location:	China
<p>APSCO, established in 2005, promotes cooperation among countries in the Asia-Pacific region with capability in the field of space technology and its applications. It was established by the members of the Asia-Pacific Multilateral Cooperation in Space Technology and Applications (AP-MCSTA), which itself was established in 1992. The following countries have signed the APSCO Convention: Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mongolia, Pakistan, Peru, Thailand and Turkey. APSCO is currently developing a satellite constellation for disaster monitoring.</p>	

Name:	Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)
Coverage:	Asia
URL:	www.adrc.or.jp
Location:	Japan

ADRC was established with a mission to enhance the disaster resilience of its member countries, to build safe communities, and to create a society where sustainable development is possible. The Center works to build disaster-resilient communities and to establish networks among countries through programmes and activities in areas such as information sharing on disaster reduction, human resources development, and building community capabilities. The membership includes 27 member countries and 5 advisory countries.

Name:	Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Committee on Disaster Management (ASEAN-ACDM)
Coverage:	Member countries
URL:	www.acdm-online.net
Location:	Indonesia

ASEAN-ACDM is a committee consisting of heads of national agencies responsible for disaster management in member countries of ASEAN. It coordinates the work related to disaster management, such as that of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, the ASEAN Regional Programme on Disaster Management, and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management. ASEAN was established on 8 August 1967. The member States are: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Name:	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)
Coverage:	Member countries
URL:	www.bimstec.org
Location:	Thailand

BIMSTEC is a subregional grouping that carries out work covering various priority sectors, including environment and disaster management. It was established in 1997 and its members are: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

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