



Risk-sensitive development in Asia

12th

Meeting of the
Regional Consultative
Committee (RCC)
on Disaster Management

Dates: 16–18 June 2015
Thimphu, Bhutan

Co-hosted by
The Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs (MoHCA) and
the Department of Disaster Management (DDM), Bhutan; and ADPC
with support from the German Government through GIZ

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Overview

Background

Established in 2000 as one of the first regional dialogue platforms to promote consultation and cooperation on reducing disaster risk, the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) on Disaster Management promotes peer advocacy and the exchange of experiences in disaster risk reduction (DRR). Its Secretariat, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), initiated the committee to bring countries in the Asian region together to achieve common goals in DRR, explore ways to transform policies into practice, and promote regional cooperation. More specifically, the RCC's role is to provide a consultative mechanism for:

- Guiding implementation of DRR in the Asian region;
- Promoting cooperative DRR programs on a regional and sub-regional basis; and
- Guiding the work of ADPC and its future directions.

The RCC played a pivotal role in supporting the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) in Asia, and will continue this role with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (SFDRR). In addition, the RCC serves as an important forum for senior government officials in preparing for and following up on the outcomes of the Asian Ministerial Conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) and other significant regional events in the field.

Since 2000, there have been eleven meetings of the RCC (refer to Annex). The 12th annual meeting will be held in Thimphu, Bhutan, following an invitation of the Royal Government of Bhutan and organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs (MoHCA) and the Department of Disaster Management (DDM).

The German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) supported the 11th RCC Meeting in Nai Pyi Taw, Myanmar in 2014 and is contributing also to this year's event through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH within the framework of the Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM) (www.gidrm.net).

Disaster risk reduction and management in Asia

Disaster management has become more complex since the first RCC meeting 15 years ago, due to factors such as climate change, population growth, and urban migration.

It is now accepted that climate change will have severe impacts globally, but particularly in Asia. Conservative climate change models predict sea levels will rise by 26–82 cm by 2100 (IPCC, 2014). As a result, Asia's numerous coastal cities, including 16 megacities, risk seeing significant urban areas flooded, causing the displacement of urban residents from their homes and the loss of assets if this threat is not addressed. Not only will the climate change cause sea levels to rise, it will also increase the magnitude and frequency of hydro-metrological hazards. Crops, forests and mineral resources, all vital to national and regional economies of Asia, will be affected. However, 60 percent of the built environment of 2030 has yet to be constructed and as such, RCC member countries have an opportunity to ensure long-term sustainable urban development by minimizing disaster risk as towns and cities grow over the next 15 years, and beyond. Within this context, the 12th RCC meeting will seek to ensure risk-sensitive development in Asia and thereby contribute to the setting of a safer and resilient development agenda for the region.

Without risk-sensitive planning and implementation, development can exacerbate existing risks and create new ones. There is a need, therefore, across Asia, to ensure that development planning and implementation at all levels considers and integrates disaster and climate change risk. This activity, commonly known as mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate change adaption into development (MDRD) should be systematic, participatory and science-based. Mainstreaming involves embedding the stages of risk management process into the relevant stages of the planning, programming, budgeting, and project management processes. This can include land-use planning, national socio-economic planning, community planning, slum upgrading and project evaluation as well as other development processes.

The RCC mechanism has enabled substantial progress to be made in mainstreaming DRR into development in a number of the RCC member countries. Across Asia, a range of agencies and donors are engaged in work related to mainstreaming DRR including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), Tearfund, Oxfam, the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), Asian Development Bank, and GIZ, among others. Understanding how disasters affect countries, not only at the national level but also within specific development sectors, has deepened regional knowledge of the best approaches to mainstreaming DRR. Aid programs by many developed countries now target specific sectors – particularly agriculture, education and health – in their assistance to countries for disaster preparation.

Certain crosscutting issues have become more apparent as priorities in disaster management. Approaching DRR with a gender lens, for example, is essential, and allows women who are too often simply seen as victims of disasters to become central and proactive actors in disaster response, recovery, and reconstruction.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

The global Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (SFDRR) has been launched following the Hyogo Framework for Action that was concluded earlier this year. The SFDRR builds on the great success of the (HFA) in galvanizing global efforts and commitment to tackling the growing losses associated with disaster events. In addition, after ten years of global, regional, national, and local activities for DRR, many lessons have been learned and good practices generated. As a result, the SFDRR is able to build a more nuanced, diversified, and target-driven policy. In particular, the SFDRR broadens the scope of DRR, aiming for a diverse, inclusive form of resilience.

The SFDRR was created in March 2015 and endorsed by 187 representatives from UN member states. It is the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda and highlights the following four priorities for action:

1. Understanding disaster risk;
2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk;
3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience;
4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Within each priority for action, the framework outlines actions necessary at both the national and local levels, as well as the global and regional levels. This ensures that all stakeholders have a clear understanding of the role each of them must play.

Unlike its predecessor, the SFDRR also sets seven global targets for DRR, to be achieved over the 2015–2030 period. The targets are:

- (a) Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower average per 100,000 global mortality between 2020–2030 compared to 2005–2015.
- (b) Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, aiming to lower the average global figure per 100,000 between 2020–2030 compared to 2005–2015.
- (c) Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030.
- (d) Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030.
- (e) Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.
- (f) Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of this framework by 2030.
- (g) Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to the people by 2030.

Being the most disaster-prone region in the world, Asia must play a leading role in order for the targets to be achieved.

The 12TH RCC Meeting

Objectives

As a follow up to the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in Sendai, Japan in 2015, and the 11th RCC meeting in Nai Pyi Taw, Myanmar in 2014, the objectives of the 12th RCC meeting are as follows:

- Build on and strengthen the work accomplished in the region under the HFA, and identify key priorities of the RCC member countries as part of implementing the SFDRR over the next five years (2015–2020);
- Discuss how the RCC's national and regional efforts in operationalizing risk-sensitive development under the SFDRR can connect with other global and regional frameworks (such as the Sustainable Development Goals); and
- Establish cross-continental linkages by inviting participants from Latin America for knowledge transfer with the RCC member countries on risk-sensitive public investment planning and management.

Thematic focus

The 12th RCC meeting takes place at a key moment in the development of disaster management. The 3rd WCDRR took place recently, and a new framework for implementing DRR has been created to guide efforts to reduce disaster risk globally over the next 15 years. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are expiring, and the new global development goals (Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs) will be decided upon in September 2015 in New York. The United Nations Climate Change Conference will be held in November–December 2015 in Paris with the objective of creating a legally binding and universal agreement on climate change. These global meetings will affect the strategy of how to prepare for disasters both within countries and regionally.

In line with the 12th RCC meeting's objective of advancing the discussions and outcomes of the 3rd WCDRR, and preparing the way for ground-level implementation of the SFDRR in Asia, the meeting will adopt the overall theme of the WCDRR, that of *'Risk-sensitive development in Asia.'* Similarly, and leading on from this overall theme, the sub-themes of the meeting will draw on the four priorities for action outlined in the SFDRR.

Introduction: Understanding the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

The 12th RCC meeting will start with an introductory session in order to learn more about the SFDRR and its different elements. The discussions will focus on the outcomes of the 3rd WCDRR in order for the RCC member countries to be able to identify key actions for implementation of the SFDRR priority areas over the next five years. An important

component of this session will be to explore linkages between the SFDRR and other global, as well as regional, frameworks that are already in place. This may include the global sustainable development agenda (e.g., the Sustainable Development Goals) as well as subregional programs being implemented by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

The expected outcome of this session will be to draft an outline of a five-year (2015–2020) road map for the implementation of the SFDRR in Asia. RCC members are expected to discuss further details through multi-stakeholders consultations in their respective countries. ADPC, as the Secretariat of the RCC, stands ready to assist member states in preparing country-specific action plans, which can be shared with donors and development partners for financial and technical support.

Sub-theme 1: Understanding disaster risk

For DRR to be effectively implemented, the risk itself needs to be clearly assessed and understood. Much progress has been made in advancing the science and practice of risk assessments in the RCC member countries. The development and distribution of empirical data on disaster risk ensures that policies and projects for disaster management are science-based, appropriate and effective. In this regard, the RCC member countries have already made substantial progress in assessing disaster risk and establishing risk-monitoring systems. Nonetheless, further work is needed.

In particular, there is a need to critically examine the successes and challenges that the RCC member countries have found while carrying out risk assessments, and to ensure future risk assessment methodologies incorporate learning from the past.

As a result, under this sub-theme:

- RCC member countries will engage in detailed discussion on how risk assessments have developed over recent years under the guidance of the HFA, and what actions are required for advancing the risk assessment agenda in Asia.
- RCC member countries and development partners will discuss the community-based DRR frameworks used for assessing local-level risk and share approaches used to address DRM needs at the community level.

Sub-theme 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk

An essential aspect of the RCC mechanism is to ensure that disaster risk governance is strengthened both nationally and regionally. Under ADPC's Core Program for application, the agency has been serving the RCC member states by implementing regional and national mainstreaming initiatives. Significant progress has been achieved through the Program on Mainstreaming DRR into Development Policy, Planning and Implementation (MDRD) facilitating the integration of DRR and climate change adaptation (CCA) into

the planning and implementation of development initiatives. ADPC's MDRD program concludes its third phase in 2015, and the fourth phase of the mainstreaming program needs to be developed.

Under this sub-theme:

- A discussion paper analyzing the RCC's MDRD program in terms of successes, challenges and learnings will be presented for further inputs.
- Preliminary findings of the regional sector-specific mainstreaming needs assessment will be shared for more discussion by the RCC members.
- A discussion will be held on creating a regional road map for mainstreaming DRR and CCA into development to be implemented over the next five years. This road map will guide the fourth phase of RCC's MDRD program.

Sub-theme 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience

Investment in DRR in both public and private sectors is necessary for sustainable growth. Already, across the RCC member countries, governments have committed significant resources in pursuit of resilience. However, the role of the private sector is especially critical and there is a need to up-scale the efforts to increase private sector investment in DRR. For this, governments need to facilitate and encourage private sector investment through policy and market-based mechanisms. Numerous analytical studies have demonstrated that investment in DRR by both private and public sectors is cost-effective over the long-term and greatly facilitates sustainable development. The RCC mechanism is pursuing analytical options for cost-benefit analysis in order to extend and encourage government and private sector investment in resilience.

Under this sub-theme:

- A draft framework with options, methods and strategies for cost-benefit analyses of DRR investment will be shared for discussion and inputs.
- An opportunity for inter-continental knowledge exchange will be created between Asia and Latin America by presenting and discussing a tangible solution from Peru. Learning from best practice, the Peruvian Ministry of Finance and Economics will present its approach to targeting the systematic integration of disaster and climate risk management information into public investment planning. Experts from GIZ will support the session.

Sub-theme 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction

Disaster preparedness is critical in order to minimize losses of life, injuries, and damages caused to property in an extreme event, and to ensure that efficient rescue and emergency management services can be provided following a disaster. Early warning systems are vital to disaster preparedness and timely response, and should be an integral component of any nation’s disaster management strategy. Recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction stages are an opportunity to build back better, meaning that the buildings, infrastructure and other systems are constructed to a higher standard so that they are better able to withstand future disaster events. In addition, it is now also understood that an effective response requires an inclusive approach that addresses the needs of women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. This enables an inclusive and equitable recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.

Under this sub-theme:

- ADPC and GIZ will share experiences from establishing early warning systems, discuss the need to harmonize alert levels, and reflect on how early warning systems contribute to enhanced preparedness at the community, local and national levels;
- Recent research will be presented demonstrating how recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction are key stages in the implementation of vulnerability reduction measures.
- Experience-sharing on disaster preparedness for effective response: This discussion may include a focus on safe schools, as well as present results from the Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER) and USAID’s Strengthening Earthquake Resilience in Bangladesh (SERB) programs as models for preparedness;
- A discussion will take place around the role of women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction stages, and options and strategies for improving the inclusion of gender considerations in post-disaster phases will be identified and explored.

Conclusion: Identifying key priorities for DRR through to 2020

The final session of the RCC meeting will allow the RCC member states and other stakeholders to explore priorities for operationalizing resilience in the RCC member countries and regionally. This process will involve reflection both on the specific needs and requirements of the RCC member countries in terms of resilience and technical assistance for DRR, as well as on the priorities and targets of the SFDRR, in order to generate combined recommendations for an RCC action plan. These recommendations will collectively form priorities for implementation and action over the next five years (2015–2020), and guide ADPC and other development partners in terms of its technical assistance to the RCC member countries.

Expected outputs

The expected outputs from the 12th RCC meeting are:

- **Output A: RCC ACTION PLAN 2015–2020.** This action plan will outline key priorities, goals, objectives and activities for operationalizing risk-sensitive development in the RCC member countries and regionally over the next five years. The action plan will draw heavily on the SFDRR and seek practical ways to implement the SFDRR at the national level and regionally. As a component of this, the action plan will develop clear linkages with sub-regional plans, frameworks and activities currently being implemented by sub-regional bodies such as ASEAN and SAARC.
- **Output B: MDRD PROGRAM PHASE IV (2015–2020).** The phase IV road map will outline key priorities and objectives for the MDRD program to be pursued over the next five years. The road map will form the basis of a more comprehensive program document to be prepared based on contributions from the RCC member countries during the meeting, as well as based on an internal review and programming.

Contributions of the 12th RCC meeting to DRR in Asia

It is expected that the 12th RCC meeting will contribute to the advancement of DRR in Asia in terms of the following:

A. Contributions to post-2015 development agenda

The action plan for operationalizing resilience (Output A), which will be generated during the 12th RCC, will provide a useful contribution to the ongoing discussions in preparation for the post-2015 development agenda. For sustainable development to be achieved, it is imperative that DRR and CCA become fully integrated into the development planning, policy-making and programming processes. In this way, the 12th RCC, which is the last RCC meeting before the post-2015 development agenda will be set, provides a unique opportunity for the RCC member countries to contribute to global discussions, and ensure that the next global development agenda supports resilience.

B. Contributions to RCC member countries

The RCC serves its member countries as a platform for dialogue and information-sharing on the subject of DRR in Asia. The 12th RCC meeting will continue this by fostering the sharing of experiences on the theme and sub-themes outlined above. The meeting will also support the member countries by building their knowledge and capacity for effective implementation of the SFDRR as part of their country's development planning and implementation processes. In addition, the road map for phase four of the MDRD (Output B), will directly reflect the mainstreaming needs in the RCC member countries. In this way, Output B is expected to contribute to the sustainable development initiatives being pursued by the RCC member countries.

Annex

Previous RCC meetings

Since 2000, there have been eleven meetings of the RCC, as follows:

RCC Meeting 1

20 –22 November, 2000

Bangkok, Thailand

Members from 17 countries endorsed RCC as a mechanism for dialogue and exchange and as a means of developing practical cooperative programs between member countries at the regional and sub-regional levels.

RCC Meeting 2

31 October – 2 November, 2001

Bangkok, Thailand

The theme of this meeting was flood preparedness and mitigation. Members from 16 countries attended and adopted the 'Bangkok Declaration' – a statement prioritizing comprehensive, multi-level DRR.

RCC Meeting 3

29 –31 October, 2002

New Delhi, India

The third meeting focused on drought risk management. It was organized in collaboration with the Government of India, and attended by the Honorable Deputy Prime Minister H.E.L.K Advani. The meeting demonstrated political will for adopting a proactive and synergetic approach towards DRR.

RCC Meeting 4

29–31 March, 2004

Dhaka, Bangladesh

The meeting's theme was urban disaster risk management. Organized with the support of the Government of Bangladesh, the meeting served as a preparatory event in Asia for the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) that took place in 2005. The meeting was graced by the presence of the Honorable President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

RCC Meeting 5

18–20 May, 2005

Hanoi, Vietnam

The 5th meeting focused on mainstreaming DRR into development. It was organized with the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and inaugurated by the Honorable Deputy President H.E. Vu Khoan. The meeting saw the adoption of the Hanoi RCC5 Statement on Mainstreaming DRR into Development in Asia.

RCC Meeting 6**9–11 November, 2006****Kunming, China**

This meeting was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Civil Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of China. The meeting was honored by a special message from the Vice Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China and Chairman of the National Commission for Disaster Reduction H.E. Hui Liang-Yu.

RCC Meeting 7**8–10 May, 2008****Colombo, Sri Lanka**

The theme for this meeting was rights-based community-led DRR. It was supported by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Government of Sri Lanka and graced by the Honorable Mahinda Samarasinghe, MP, Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights. Delegates from 19 RCC member countries attended.

RCC Meeting 8**22–24 February, 2010****Manila, Philippines**

The eighth meeting focused on community-based DRR and was attended by delegates from 17 RCC member countries. Honorable Secretary Norberto B. Gonzales, Department of National Defense, and Chairman, National Disaster Coordinating Council, Government of the Philippines, inaugurated the meeting.

RCC Meeting 9**28–30 November, 2011****Phnom Penh, Cambodia**

The ninth meeting concentrated on linking the implementation of DRR and climate change adaptation at the local level. The meeting was held in collaboration with the National Committee on Disaster Management, Government of Cambodia, and attended by delegates from 16 countries.

RCC Meeting 10**25–27 March, 2013****Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**

This meeting's theme was integrated planning and action for DRR, climate change adaptation and sustainable development at the local level. It was organized in collaboration with the Government of Mongolia through its National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), and attended by delegates from 16 RCC member countries.

RCC Meeting 11**1–3 April, 2014****Nai Pyi Taw, Myanmar**

The overarching theme of the 11th RCC was reducing disaster risk and transforming development. The theme generated concrete direction for future mainstreaming based on the experience of the RCC member countries.

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