

Recommendations
Third ECO International Conference on DRM
7-8 October 2008, Tehran, Iran

The participants in the Third ECO International Conference on Disaster Risk Management (DRM) held on 7-8 October 2008 in Tehran, acknowledging the useful deliberations during two day conference, appreciating the government of Tajikistan for offering to host the 4th Conference next year, agreed on these recommendations:

- 1- To hold ECO International Conference on Disaster Risk Management annually, preferably timed with commemoration of International Day on Disaster Reduction (October) to discuss increasing regional cooperation on disaster risk management.
- 2- To establish or strengthen the National Platforms on Disaster Risk Reduction in member countries of ECO, and promote effective coordination amongst member states to exchange experiences, information, best practices and lessons learnt on disaster risk reduction.
- 3- To enhance and build further on regional cooperation by ECO Secretariat, UNISDR, ASRC and other regional and international organizations to promote disaster risk reduction in the region through knowledge management and services, holding seminars, workshops, conferences, public awareness raising, training, advocacy, and conducting model projects bringing in best practices.
- 4- To use the existing capacities of ECO Trade and Development Bank, Cultural Institute (ECI), Science Foundation, Educational Institute, College of Insurance, Regional Center on Management of Disaster Risks, ASRC, Red Crescent Societies and other national, regional and international resources to support member countries to develop effective DRM programming to achieve what is outlined in HFA within member states and regionally.
- 5- To ensure serious pursuit as to the establishment of the Regional Trust Fund for Disaster Risk Management, as advised during first meeting of the ECO Interior Ministers.
- 6- To establish regional relief storage by the ECO countries to support the needs of the countries of the region when an emergency is happened.
- 7- To increase collaboration of ECO Secretariat, Member States, UNISDR and other regional and international organizations with Asian Seismic Risk Reduction Center (ASRC), established in 2007 by the Islamic Republic of Iran and UNISDR, to reduce seismic risks in the ECO region and consider membership in the Board of Trustees of the Center.
- 8- To further support ECO and UNISDR programmes on DRM by Donor countries and regional and international agencies.
- 9- To continue the participation of ADRC, ADPC, ASRC and JAICA in ECO meetings and to develop joint programmes with ECO regional institutions.

- 10- To establish a regional disaster risk reduction data bank by ECO Secretariat linked to its website, building further on ongoing initiatives in the region.
- 11- To establish a network of DRM highest officials of ECO members.
- 12- To promote community based disaster risk management by ECO Secretariat and its members through training of civil society on issues such as risk mapping in the region, institutional development of NDM Organizations, mainstreaming of DRM into development, scientific research and innovative practices around preparedness/early warning, urban risk management with the emphasis on gender mainstreaming in all aspects of DRM.
- 13- To highlight the urgent needs of adapting to climate change and recognize that reducing risk to disasters is an essential component for adapting to climate change and encourage ECO members to use the Hyogo Framework for Action as a key instrument for adaptation to climate change.
- 14- To take necessary action to reduce seismic risks through risk assessment, mapping, developing building codes, establishing a regional forum for exchange of information on building codes in the seismic zones, retrofitting the very important building, and other risk reduction measures.
- 15- To adopt a multi-hazard, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach by member states in their disaster risk management activities and to develop necessary national and regional early warning systems for different kind of hazards, in particular, earthquake, flood, drought, cyclone, sandstorm, landslide, and cold winter as major hazards affecting the region, building on existing national and regional initiatives.
- 16- To strengthen ECO center on Disaster Risk Management in Mashhad-Iran, inaugurated on 4 September 2007 to help ECO countries on flood and drought early warning aspects.
- 17- To organize regional events and conduct joint activities on School safety by ECO Secretariat and its members , in line with UNISDR-UNESCO global campaign for school safety 2006-2007 and UNISDR – WHO global campaign on hospital safety 2008-2009.
- 18- To develop a plan of action for the region on disaster risk management by ECO Secretariat with the support of UNISDR and other relevant agencies on short as well as long term basis.
- 19- To make the website of this conference: WWW.ECO-DRM.ORG, as ECO Specialized website on DRM.
- 20- To share the recommendations of the conference with the third Asia- Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Malaysia on 2-4 December 2008 and Third ADRC Conference in Bali in November 2008.
- 21- To establish a system by ECO Secretariat with UNISDR cooperation to track implementation and monitoring and to report on the progress made on implementation of the conference recommendations, while ensuring that necessary relevant institutional arrangements are put in place.
- 22- To submit the achievements of this conference to the next ECO relevant ministerial conference by ECO Secretariat.