



2018 AMCDRR

ULAANBAATAR MONGOLIA

PREVENTING DISASTER RISK:
PROTECTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

www.unisdr.org/amcdrr2018

Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

03 - 06 JULY 2018, ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA

Concept Note

Preventing Disaster Risk

Protecting Sustainable Development

BACKGROUND

The Asia-Pacific region has witnessed remarkable socio-economic development and associated achievements over recent decades. During this time, awareness of and commitment to preventing and reducing disaster risk has increased. The region has been in the lead in many areas of disaster risk reduction, such as strengthened governance, more risk sensitive investment and better early warning and preparedness. At the international level, the adoption of the overall 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, has strengthened the region's coherence and complementarity of efforts of governments and various stakeholders.

At the same time, the region continues to experience an increasing level of risk and impact of disasters on the people and economies of the region. The Asia-Pacific region is considered the most disaster prone region globally with disasters ranging from droughts, *dzud* (harsh winter conditions) and floods to earthquakes and cyclones. In total, the Asia-Pacific region accounts for almost half of global disaster mortality in the last ten years, and over 80 percent of the total disaster-affected population¹.

It has been estimated that the region lost US\$ 1.3 trillion in assets between 1970 and 2016. In year 2017 alone, 6,543 people lost their lives resulting from over 200 disasters of a major scale affecting 66.7 million people.

Political leaders and various partners recognize that there is an urgent need to accelerate the implementation of the agreed global frameworks through better national and local level strategies and a more people-centred, inclusive approach, as the Sendai Framework advocates.

REGIONAL PLATFORMS FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 recognises the Global and Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction as key mediums for its implementation, building on the pivotal role that they have played in supporting the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction are multi-stakeholder forums that were developed incrementally after the Kobe Conference 2005. While they have varying characteristics, they all share the same traits as dynamic forums for policy-makers, partners, experts and practitioners to announce initiatives, launch products, share information, promote campaigns, monitor progress and provide evidence about disaster risk reduction.

The Sendai Framework also underscores the need for the Global Platform and Regional Platforms to function as a coherent system of mechanisms in order to fully leverage the potential of collaboration across all stakeholders and sectors to provide guidance and support in implementation.

The Global and Regional Platforms serve as instruments to²:

- Forge partnerships;
- Periodically assess progress on implementation,
- Share practice and knowledge on disaster risk-informed policies, programmes and investments, including on development and climate issues;
- Promote the integration of disaster risk management in other relevant sectors;
- Contribute to the integrated and coordinated follow-up processes to United Nations conferences and summits.

¹ EMDAT

² Ref: Sendai Framework paragraphs 28 (c) and 49

REGIONAL PLATFORMS IN ASIA-PACIFIC

The Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR), supported by the ISDR-Asia Partnership Forum, and together with the sub-regional platforms and forums in the Pacific, forms the regional platform structure of the Asia-Pacific region.

The biennial AMCDRR has established itself as an important vehicle to address the global and regional disaster challenges. It provides an opportunity to address such issues through cross-border leadership and solutions that can benefit the people and the countries of the region.

Each conference is co-organized by the host country and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). The event provides a unique opportunity for governments to reaffirm their political commitment to implement the Sendai Framework.

The AMCDRR also serves as a forum for other stakeholders to take a shared responsibility and make actionable commitments to reduce disaster risk.

The conference, true to the multi-stakeholder spirit of the Sendai Framework, enables governments and stakeholders to exchange experiences on successful practices and innovative approaches to prevent, reduce and manage disaster risk. This results in forward looking action plans based on a mutual sharing status of DRR implementation.

The outcomes of the last seven AMCDRRs have been annexed (Annex I).

AMCDRR 2018: FIVE AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY

The AMCDRR 2018 provides a unique platform for governments and stakeholders to build on past progress – and limit current and future threats to development – by prioritizing stronger disaster risk management by all sectors and at all levels.

The AMCDRR 2018 will be co-organized by the Government of Mongolia and UNISDR from 3-6 July 2018 in Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia. The Conference is being organized at a critical moment for regional efforts in the prevention, reduction and management of disaster risk and presents five areas of opportunity:

- The conference will represent a key milestone for reflection three years into the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Specifically, the conference will enable governments and stakeholders to review progress made against the commitments at the AMCDRR 2016, i.e. the New Delhi Declaration, the Asia Regional Plan, and ten stakeholder voluntary action statements³.
- The AMCDRR 2018 will take place 18 months after the UN General Assembly adopted the set of indicators to monitor progress against the seven targets of the Sendai Framework. Countries will by then be preparing for their first cycle of reporting against the Sendai Monitor, which will identify initial achievement in preventing and reducing disaster risk as well as gaps that require attention.

³ Commitments were made by the following: Children, Youth and Child-centred Organizations; Civil Society Organizations; Individuals and Organizations Concerned with Disability; Individuals and Organizations Concerned with Women and Gender Issues; Mayors and Local Government Authorities;

Media Stakeholder Group; National Societies of Red Cross and Red Crescent; Parliamentarians; Private Sector; Science, Technology and Academia Stakeholder Group

- The AMCDRR 2018 will provide a unique forum for those countries and cities that have not yet developed and/or updated their DRR strategies and thus meet target e), the most immediate deadline of the Sendai Framework.
- The AMCDRR 2018 provides the opportunity for the Government of Mongolia to take the lead in a key area of DRR for the Asia region as well as to significantly raise awareness on the issue domestically. Showcase the DRR best practices of Mongolia to the countries in the region.
- The conference has the opportunity to agree an outcome that reaffirms political and voluntary commitment to DRR in Asia and renew/revise action commitments to implement and monitor the Sendai Framework

AMCDRR 2018: THEME & OUTCOMES

The theme of the AMCDRR 2018 '*Preventing Disaster Risk: Protecting Sustainable Development*' reflects the essence of the Sendai Framework. Development that does not take risk into account, cannot be sustainable. Thus, disaster risk reduction is a key instrument to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, as highlighted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The theme of the AMCDRR 2018 is aligned with the theme of the 2018 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development⁴ that focuses on '*Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies*'.

The AMCDRR 2018 will result in the following key outcomes:

- i. Ulaanbaatar Declaration
- ii. 2018-2020 Action Plan of the Asia Regional Plan for the Implementation of the Sendai

Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction [Key focus area: Target E – National and Local Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies]

- iii. Voluntary Commitments and Updates by Stakeholders

AMCDRR 2018: AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

The AMCDRR 2018 will feature the following main substantive events:

- Ministerial and stakeholder statements
- Technical Sessions
- Featured Events
- DRR in Action
- Public Forum
- Video Contest on DRR
- Pre-Conference Events

The details of the sessions and events have been annexed (Annex II).

AMCDRR 2018: PARTICIPATION

The AMCDRR 2018 is expected to host over 3000 participants from Asian and Pacific countries, governmental and intergovernmental organisations, United Nations and international organisations, and stakeholder groups including National Societies of Red Cross and Red Crescent Organisations, Children and Youth, Civil Society and Community Practitioners, Women, Parliamentarians, Local Authorities, Science and Technology and Academia, Private Sector, Media, Disability, etc.

All the participants are required to register through the AMCDRR 2018 website

(<http://www.unisdr.org/amcdrr2018>).

The conference registration is now open.

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⁴ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2018>

Annex I: Asian Ministerial Conferences: 2005-2016

Each of the seven Asian Ministerial Conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction held since 2005 has adopted a political declaration and developed action plans that reaffirmed commitment to strengthen disaster resilience and renew regional approaches to implement first the Hyogo Framework for Action and now the Sendai Framework.

1. The Government of People's Republic of China hosted the 1st AMCDRR in Beijing, in September 2005, to facilitate the implementation of HFA and the outcome of the 2nd World Conference on Disaster Reduction, which took place earlier that year. The meeting adopted the **Beijing Action for Disaster Risk Reduction**⁵. As the first conference after the adoption of the HFA, AMCDRR 2005 set the stage for regional implementation of DRR in Asia. The Beijing event also formalized the holding of regional ministerial conferences to build and sustain political commitment to implement and monitor the HFA.
2. The Government of Republic of India hosted the 2nd AMCDRR in New Delhi, in November 2007. The conference adopted the **Delhi Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia 2007**⁶, which focused on stronger regional cooperation and partnership development towards disaster risk reduction.
3. The Government of Malaysia convened the 3rd AMCDRR in Kuala Lumpur, in December 2008. Its overarching theme was 'Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Asia and Pacific region'. There was a particular focus on Public Private Partnership for DRR and community-based disaster risk reduction. The conference adopted the **Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia 2008**⁷.
4. The Government of Republic of Korea hosted the 4th AMCDRR in Incheon, in October 2010. Its main theme was 'Disaster Risk Reduction through Climate Change Adaptation'. AMCDRR 2010 adopted the **Incheon Declaration on DRR in Asia and the Pacific 2010**⁸.
5. The Government of Republic of Indonesia convened the 5th AMCDRR in Yogyakarta, in October 2012. Its main theme was 'Strengthening Local Capacity for Disaster Risk Reduction'. **The Yogyakarta Declaration on DRR in Asia and the Pacific 2012**⁹ included for the first time statements of commitment from 10 stakeholder groups as well as regional inputs for the post-2015 framework for DRR (i.e. the Sendai Framework).
6. The Royal Thai Government hosted the 6th AMCDRR in Bangkok, in June 2014. Its main theme was 'Promoting Investments for Resilient Nations and Communities'. The conference produced the **'Bangkok Declaration'**¹⁰. It also provided an opportunity for countries and stakeholders to review their progress of implementing the HFA and determine priority actions to accelerate efforts in the final year of the framework. The 6th AMCDRR generated new commitments from the stakeholder groups. The Conference also consolidated the outcomes of extensive consultations on the post-2015 framework for DRR. This served as a reference towards the adoption of the Sendai Framework at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.
7. The Government of India hosted the 7th AMCDRR¹¹ – and the first such conference of the Sendai Framework era – in New Delhi, in November 2016. The Conference adopted three main outcomes: **the New Delhi Declaration**¹²; **the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**¹³; and ten Stakeholder Voluntary Action Statements. Collectively these outcomes provided a significant boost to national and local efforts to strengthen resilience and increase regional cooperation on disaster risk management. The conference prepared the way for governments and stakeholders to push forward with their implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework.

⁵ The Beijing Action for Disaster Risk Reduction (2005): <http://bit.ly/2BBbn8i>

⁶ The Delhi Declaration (2007): <http://bit.ly/2DK67Ff>

⁷ The Kuala Lumpur Declaration (2008): <http://bit.ly/2DO9Rpu>

⁸ The Incheon Declaration and Incheon Regional Roadmap (2010): <http://bit.ly/2DT31OG>

⁹ The Yogyakarta Declaration (2012): <http://bit.ly/2nmYKc3>

¹⁰ The Bangkok Declaration (2014): <http://bit.ly/2EiEArJ>

¹¹ AMCDRR 2016 Report: <http://bit.ly/2DJHglq>

¹² The New Delhi Declaration (2016): <http://bit.ly/2FnueG8>

¹³ The Asia Regional Plan (2016): <http://bit.ly/2Dfyxhp>

Annex II: AMCDRR 2018 Programme Highlights

- 1. Opening Ceremony**
- 2. Ministerial & Stakeholder Statements**
- 3. Asian Leaders Meeting**
- 4. Technical Sessions** [Plenary Sessions of 90 minutes each]
 - i. Sendai Priority 1: Understanding DRR
 - ii. Sendai Priority 2: DRR governance
 - iii. Sendai Priority 3: Investing in DRR for resilience
 - iv. Sendai Priority 4: Preparedness for response and 'build back better'
 - v. Sendai Monitoring: Rolling out the new indicators
 - vi. Coherence of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- 5. Featured Events** [Lead: Govt of Mongolia, 120 minutes each]
 - i. Strengthening disaster resilient infrastructure and urban resilience
 - ii. Increasing public-private partnership and investment for DRR
- 6. Thematic Events: DRR in Action** [Case studies on DRR practices and experiences from various levels; Events of 90 minutes each]
 - i. Private sector interventions
 - ii. Social protection and vulnerability reduction
 - iii. Gender and Inclusiveness
 - iv. Community/local action for resilience
 - v. Ecosystems-based disaster risk reduction
 - vi. Early Warning and Early Action
 - vii. Technology and innovations
- 7. Public Forum** [Organised by partnering and participating organisations]
 - i. Side Events
 - ii. Ignite Stage [Short presentations of 7 minutes each]
 - iii. Market Place / Exhibition
- 8. Asia Video Contest on DRR**
- 9. Pre-Conference Events** [Organised by partnering and participating organisations]
- 10. Official Reception**
- 11. Closing Ceremony**
- 12. Cultural Events**