



18<sup>th</sup>

Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee  
of Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)



THAILAND  
2025



Sustainable  
Anticipatory Actions for  
**Resilient**  
Development Goals

# 25 Years of Regional Collaboration on Disaster Management

Proceedings of the ADPC  
18th Regional Consultative Committee Meeting  
2025



## Contributions to the Proceedings

### **Key Contributors:**

Rishiraj Dutta, Apitsada Wetchakit, Ekapol Sirichaovanichkarn, Khun San Aung, Kilian Murphy, Momota Hena, Nguyen Hanh Quyen, Niladri Gupta, Ogulgerek Annayeva, Prakriti Singh Shaktawat, Shivani Gupta



### **Citation:** © 2025 ADPC

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center  
Sustainable Anticipatory Actions for Resilient  
Development Goals, Proceedings of the 18th  
Regional Consultative Committee Meeting,  
2025.

**Book Design:** Mr. Thanes Donparadorn

# ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AA</b>	Anticipatory Action
<b>AADMER</b>	ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response
<b>ACDM</b>	ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management
<b>ADPC</b>	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
<b>ASEAN</b>	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
<b>APMCDRR</b>	Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>APP</b>	Asian Preparedness Partnership
<b>BIMSTEC</b>	Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
<b>BPP</b>	Bangladesh Preparedness Partnership
<b>CCA</b>	Climate Change Adaptation
<b>CDRI</b>	Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure
<b>CR</b>	Climate Resilience
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>DDPM</b>	Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation
<b>EWS</b>	Early Warning System
<b>FAORAP</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
<b>GBM</b>	Ganges- Brahmaputra-Meghna
<b>GCF</b>	Green Climate Fund
<b>GESI</b>	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
<b>IbFW</b>	Impact-based Forecast and Warning
<b>GLOFs</b>	Glacial Lake Outburst Floods
<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communication Technology
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for Conservation of Nature
<b>LDC</b>	Least Developed Countries
<b>NDMA</b>	National Disaster Management Authority
<b>NPP</b>	National Preparedness Partnerships
<b>PDC</b>	Pacific Disaster Center
<b>RCC</b>	Regional Consultative Committee
<b>SAARC</b>	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SFDRR</b>	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>SIDA</b>	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
<b>SPRINT</b>	Strengthening Partnerships for Community Resilience in Indonesia and Timor-Leste
<b>TROSA</b>	Transboundary Rivers of South Asia
<b>UNDRR</b>	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>UNCCD</b>	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
<b>UNESCAP</b>	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
<b>VDDMA</b>	Viet Nam Disaster and Dyke Management Authority
<b>WHS</b>	World Humanitarian Summit



## PREFACE

The 18th Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) on Disaster Management, convened in Bangkok, Thailand on January 23–24, 2025, marked a significant milestone of 25 years of regional collaboration and resilience-building in Asia and the Pacific. Hosted by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) of the Royal Thai Government, the meeting brought together representatives from 20 RCC member countries, regional organizations, development partners, and international experts.

Under the theme “Sustainable Anticipatory Actions for Resilient Development Goals,” the 18th RCC meeting served as a dynamic platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and strategic collaboration on pressing issues of disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate resilience (CR). It built upon past achievements, including the Manila Statement from RCC17 and focused on three key pillars: advancing risk information through innovation and technology, localizing priority actions to empower communities, and enhancing financial mechanisms to bridge resilience gaps.

The meeting’s high-level discussions reflected the growing consensus on the urgency of anticipatory action and the need for inclusive, people-centered approaches to resilience. Technical sessions offered critical insights into next-generation risk analytics, financing strategies for climate and disaster preparedness, and transboundary cooperation for water governance.

As the RCC enters its 25th year, this meeting reaffirmed the importance of the RCC Mechanism as a regional forum that aligns local priorities with global frameworks such as the Sendai Framework, Paris Agreement, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This proceeding captures the voices, commitments, and innovative ideas shared throughout the meeting, and serves as a testimony to the shared vision of a safer, more resilient Asia-Pacific.

We extend our gratitude to all participants, partners, and hosts for making the 18th RCC meeting a success, and we look forward to continued collaboration as we work towards building a future where no one is left behind.

**Aslam Perwaiz**  
Executive Director



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) would like to express its sincere appreciation to all those who contributed to the successful organization of the 18th Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) on Disaster Management, held from 23–24 January 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand.

We are especially grateful to the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM), Ministry of Interior of the Royal Thai Government, for co-hosting this landmark meeting and for their continued leadership and commitment to advancing disaster risk reduction and climate resilience in the region.

Our deepest thanks go to the RCC Member Countries for their active participation, valuable contributions, and continued collaboration, which have been instrumental in shaping the RCC's vision over the past 25 years.

We also acknowledge the support and engagement of development partners,

donors, intergovernmental organizations, diplomatic missions, and representatives from civil society, academia, the private sector, and the media, whose insights and expertise enriched the discussions.

We extend our gratitude to the distinguished speakers and panelists, including high-level representatives from the United Nations, ASEAN, SAARC, BIMSTEC, and other regional bodies, for sharing strategic perspectives and reinforcing the importance of regional cooperation.

A special thanks to Mr. Aslam Perwaiz for his guidance throughout the proceedings drafting stage through his valuable comments and suggestions. A special note of thanks also goes to all Directors and the ADPC team who has contributed to the planning, logistics, documentation, and facilitation of the meeting as well as this publication including collaborators behind the sessions, communications, and knowledge management.

Finally, we acknowledge the contributions of all those working tirelessly across the region to strengthen disaster and climate resilience. This proceedings document is a testament to their collective efforts and enduring commitment to a safer, more sustainable Asia-Pacific.



## SPOTLIGHT!!!



This year's theme of 18th RCC meeting on "Sustainable Anticipatory Actions for Resilient Development Goals" reflects the urgency and importance of addressing various challenges posed by disasters and climate change in the Asia-Pacific region which is nearly the 60 percent of population of the world. Thailand continues to experience the significant impacts from climate change. In this regard, the RCC serves as a vital platform for collaboration, dialogue and action. RCC has consistently demonstrated the power of partnership in building resilience and reducing disaster risk across the region."

### **H.E. MS. SABEEDA THAISED**

Deputy Minister of Interior, Royal Thai Government



“ADPC is a remarkable institution. It’s been working towards disaster risk reduction issues in the Asia-Pacific for almost four decades now. It has set the agenda for disaster risk reduction even before the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and its really important that we recognize the contribution that ADPC has made over the years.”

## H.E. KAMAL KISHORE

Special Representative of United Nations Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction & Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)



“We must invest in climate-resilient infrastructure, expand social protection systems for vulnerable communities, and embrace innovative technologies, from predictive analytics to nature-based solutions. I am confident that a deeper partnership with organizations like ADPC will amplify the reach and impact of transformative adaptation strategies.”

## H.E. DR. ARMIDA SALSIAH ALISJAHBANA

Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations & Executive Secretary of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)



“I take great pride in the progress made by ADPC and its partners in building resilience and improving disaster preparedness across the region by aligning regional priorities with global frameworks such as the Sendai Framework for DRR, the Paris Agreement, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

## MR. RAJENDRA SINGH

Chair of the ADPC Board of Trustees and Head of the Department, National Disaster Management Authority, Government of India



“In 2022, the Philippines was honored to host the 17th Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee in Manila. We have explored innovative financing solutions and the establishment of the Trust Fund mechanism to provide flexible and transparent financing for priority actions. Those discussions during RCC17 led to the adoption of the Manila Statement. This year’s RCC theme builds on the progress of earlier deliberations in the Philippines. Hence, we are confident that the outcomes of this year’s RCC meeting will lead to a more resilient and sustainable region.”

## H.E. MILICENT CRUZ PAREDES

Ambassador of the Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines in Thailand



"The contributions of RCC extended far beyond Asia, serving as a hub for showcasing the best practices and aligning efforts to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Agenda 2030. Consequently, ADPC has a significant role in organizing RCC meetings that serve as a valuable platform for reviewing the advancement of the Roadmap 2030 and identifying the next steps by the Member countries and others."

## MR. PAISAN RUPANICHKIY

Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand



"ADPC should prioritize the expansion and enhancement of the Regional Cooperation Mechanism. Let us collectively commit to ensuring that our immediate strategy focuses on implementing disaster risk reduction and climate change initiatives through knowledge sharing and the adoption of best practices, making such good practices an essential component of any disaster risk reduction program."

## DR. BHICHIT RATTAKUL

Member, Advisory Council of ADPC



“Asia-Pacific is a very vast region. regional and sub-regional organizations have a role to play as they are very well placed and can take forward the regional agenda appropriately. Therefore, organizations like BIMSTEC has a role to play in disaster risk reduction and climate resilience. If you look at the BIMSTEC member States, 9 of the members are ADPC’s founding member States. So, there is a synergy in our membership, there is a synergy in our agenda and synergy in our priorities. That’s why BIMSTEC is ready to work with ADPC.”

## H.E. INDRA MANI PANDEY

Secretary General of The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multisectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)



“ASEAN is one of the most disaster-prone regions in the world. We recognize that disasters do not respect the borders. So, we understand that collaborations and solidarity are the essential to ensure the regions strive to be One ASEAN.”

## H.E. San Lwin

Deputy Secretary-General for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community



“The link between climate change and disasters is very obvious. Climate induced disasters such floods, landslides, and GLOF have become frequent and rampant in South Asia. The theme of RCC “Anticipatory Action” is very important as SAARC too is moving ahead on implementing anticipatory action as SAARC believes through such initiatives SAARC can help its member countries reduce or minimize disaster risk.”

## MR. DAWA TSHERING

Director, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)



“Localization should be seen not just as a sector strategy, but as a way of being and working. It is important to put people at the center of localization efforts, recognizing that those affected by disasters are not just recipients of aid but also possess knowledge and solutions.”

## Dr. VALERIE BEMO

Gates Foundation



"A disaster-resilient world begins with water security, and organizations like ADPC play a vital role in fostering collaboration and innovation to address this challenge."

## MR. SAROJ KUMAR JHA

Global Director, Water Global Practice, the World Bank



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC), hosted by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM), Ministry of Interior of the Royal Thai Government, convened on January 23-24, 2025, in Bangkok, Thailand. Under the theme "Sustainable Anticipatory Actions for Resilient Development Goals," the two-day event brought together representatives from 20 RCC member countries, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, and Vietnam. The meeting fostered collaboration among ADPC founding and RCC member countries, Royal Thai Government ministries, development partners, donors, and diplomatic missions from nations such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, Japan, and Switzerland.

Opened by Ms. Sabeeda Thaised, Deputy Minister of Interior of Thailand and Chair of the ADPC Board of Trustees, alongside representatives from the Philippines Embassy and Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the meeting emphasized regional strategies to advance disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate resilience (CR). High-level participation from the Secretary General of BIMSTEC, the Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN, and the Director of SAARC underscored the importance of regional cooperation and increased investments in DRR and CR. The discussions built on outcomes from recent global and regional forums, including the 2022 APEC meeting, the 2024 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR), COP29, and the G20 meeting in Brazil, as well as the 20th anniversary of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami.

The meeting focused on three core areas: advancing risk information through technology, localizing priority actions, and mobilizing disaster and climate financing. Participants committed to accelerating cooperation aligned with the Sendai Framework for DRR, urging ADPC to deepen engagement with governments, NGOs, the private sector, and media to enhance resilience across people, infrastructure, and economies.

## Key Outcomes from the 18th RCC Meeting

The preparation and discussions 18<sup>th</sup> RCC Meeting were built on the key outcomes of the APEC 2022 meeting under the Thailand presidency, the recent Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) hosted by the Government of the Philippines in October 2024, the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) meeting, the 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) held in Baku, Azerbaijan and the G20 meeting Brazil in November 2024. It also drew insights from many events organized by Thailand and other countries to commemorate the 20th year since the devastating 2004 Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami.

The meeting participants committed to accelerating regional and national cooperation in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. They called on ADPC to meaningfully engage governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and the media for disaster risk reduction and investment in people, goods, and infrastructure.

The key outcomes from the high-level panel, technical, and upfront sessions are summarized below:

1. Increase investment in achieving a granular understanding of risk at the national and sub-national levels, develop next-generation capacity-building efforts to enhance resilience at the local level, and leverage emerging technologies for risk reduction. ADPC must expand its role in supporting member countries, specifically at national and local levels, toward accelerating the progress of

achieving DRR targets over the next five years.

2. Advances in early warning systems with real-time impact-based forecasting are needed, as are safeguards for climate-sensitive infrastructure and strengthening risk-informed decision-making. ADPC to advocate and influence member countries and partners for more investments in climate-resilient infrastructure, social protection, and nature-based solutions must be supported to enhance adaptation strategies.
3. Enhancing ICT-based real-time disaster monitoring, transboundary knowledge-sharing, and investment in climate resilience is essential. Uneven progress in DRR and the challenges in accessing climate financing were highlighted, calling for targeted investments in high-risk areas. ADPC must develop regional and national action strategies and programs that address the urgency of climate resilience, the integration of global frameworks with local policies, the importance of partnerships and collaboration, the use of data-driven and technology-based solutions, the need for economic and social resilience, and the commitment to a forward-looking DRR and CR agenda.
4. Risk analytics are critical for effective disaster risk reduction and climate resilience actions. Successful interventions of risk investigation and analysis must be replicated, and mechanisms of data sharing be strengthened. ADPC must play a role in standardizing the methods and format of risk informatics and cooperating with regional organizations in scaling global efforts on risk information and transforming them for national and local-level applications and policymaking, as well as the cross-border exchange of knowledge.

5. Localization efforts should prioritize the very purpose of “people” rather than overemphasizing organizations. Local communities’ needs, knowledge, and priorities must guide DRR and CR efforts, ensuring that those initiatives are relevant, effective, and tailored to the unique contexts and lived experiences of those at risk. ADPC must engage with partners to continue building the capacity of national and local actors, equipping them with the skills, knowledge, and resources needed to design, manage, and implement disaster risk reduction and resilience programs effectively. There is an urgent need for greater stakeholder collaboration, flexible financing, localized capacity-building programs, and streamlined localization policies, strategies, and legal frameworks that address bureaucratic challenges, decision-making inefficiencies, and sectoral integration gaps.
6. There is a need to address financing gaps for climate and disaster resilience. Financing mechanisms must be integrated into broader development and resilience strategies. ADPC to work with partners to address the lack of equitable access to financial resources, particularly for vulnerable communities such as women, indigenous populations, children and youth, persons with disabilities, migrants, displaced populations, and low-income groups. Predictive tools, early warning systems, and impact-based financing models must be promoted to ensure pre-disaster funding. Building disaster-resilient infrastructure is a priority.
7. The private sector’s role in financing disaster risk reduction is critical and must be incentivized to attract private participation. ADPC must develop an action strategy of public-private collaboration, capacity building, policy integration, and scaling of innovative financial solutions in partnership with the private sector to build long-term climate and disaster resilience.
8. The regional and transboundary cooperation session emphasized climate change as a water crisis, particularly in river basins such as the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) basin, where floods, erosion, droughts, and glacial lake outburst floods threaten over 1.5 billion people. ADPC called for greater multi-stakeholder engagement to strengthen transboundary water governance and climate resilience, particularly involving youth, local communities, and cross-border cooperation.
9. There is an unprecedented surge in humanitarian needs—driven by armed conflicts, natural disasters, and the escalating impacts of climate change. This has underscored the urgent need to transform the humanitarian ecosystem to achieve a global commitment to sustainable development and ensure that no one is left behind. ADPC must focus on Localization by shifting humanitarian action to prioritize national and local actors, putting people at the front and center of funding support, decision-making, and action to reduce their risks and vulnerabilities to disasters and climate change.
10. There is an urgent need to integrate gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) considerations into disaster risk assessment, planning, response, and recovery, highlighting the importance of local knowledge and inclusive community engagement. ADPC must promote the Sendai Gender Action Plan (GAP) and identify key challenges and opportunities to integrate GESI into DRR across the Asia-Pacific region. This includes examining the policy and institutional frameworks that support or hinder GESI mainstreaming in DRR, as well as exploring the role of regional

cooperation and collaboration in addressing these challenges.

ADPC is committed to playing an important role in translating the above mentioned outcomes into actionable strategies for its member countries.

## Follow-up Actions

The follow-up actions from ADPC are summarized below:

- i. ADPC will facilitate the implementation of priority actions for advancing risk information by promoting technology-driven disaster risk management through capacity-building programs, regional cooperation, and investment in emerging technologies. It will support governments and local organizations using AI, real-time sensors, and data analytics to enhance disaster prevention and response while ensuring data interoperability and sustainability. By fostering regional collaboration, ADPC will help establish standardized data formats, open-access platforms, and a global hub for technological exchange to improve cross-border knowledge sharing. Additionally, ADPC will advocate for increased investment in digital solutions to address climate-related loss and damage and integrate risk information systems into national disaster resilience strategies, ensuring sustainable and adaptive approaches to DRR across the Asia-Pacific region.
- ii. ADPC will facilitate the implementation of priority actions for localization by strengthening multi-stakeholder collaboration, ensuring locally led adaptation and disaster risk management are people-centered rather than sector or organization-driven. To address overlapping work, resource competition, and bureaucratic inefficiencies, ADPC will serve as the bridge to promote coordination and regional cooperation mechanisms among governments, NGOs, and private sector actors, streamlining localization efforts and amplifying DRR and CR at local levels. By enhancing local capacities, decision-making, and leadership skills, ADPC will work with national and local governments to amplify policy implementation and improve access to direct funding by local organizations, small businesses, and community-led initiatives. Addressing flexible financing concerns, ADPC can advocate for greater flexibility in funding mechanisms to ensure that resources directly reach local actors through streamlined mechanisms and provide flexibility for innovations and localized interventions in DRR and CCA. Additionally, ADPC will provide technical assistance in strengthening sectoral coordination through mainstreaming disaster risk management across national and local policies while ensuring their alignment with broader climate adaptation strategies. To tackle challenges in geographically dispersed populations, ADPC will promote regional partnerships and knowledge-sharing platforms to support localized solutions and avoid redundancy. Finally, ADPC will design flexible and localized capacity-building programs tailored to local needs, empowering communities with practical disaster risk reduction skills, inclusive decision-making processes, and improved sectoral integration for long-term resilience.

iii. ADPC will facilitate key priority actions by bridging disaster resilience and climate finance gaps for marginalized communities, advocating for equitable access to funding, and supporting local organizations in developing bankable resilience projects. By strengthening regional collaboration, ADPC will mobilize joint financial mechanisms and align policies with national adaptation plans and DRR plans while promoting cross-border cooperation in disaster resilience and climate finance. By enhancing predictive tools and pre-disaster financing, ADPC will support member countries in integrating early warning systems, impact-based financing, and forecast-based funding models into national strategies. To scale up investment in disaster-resilient infrastructure, ADPC will support member countries to address data gaps, provide capacity-building programs, and attract private sector participation through policy incentives and innovative investment models by promoting hybrid financing mechanisms, including blended finance, green bonds, and payment for ecosystem services for vulnerable regions. Lastly, by mainstreaming DRR and climate resilience into policies, scaling financial innovations, and fostering multi-sectoral collaboration, ADPC will drive sustainable climate and disaster risk finance solutions across the region.

ADPC, as the RCC Secretariat will facilitate technology-driven DRR through capacity building and regional collaboration, bridging financing gaps by mobilizing joint mechanisms and supporting bankable resilience projects, and amplifying localization by empowering local actors and aligning policies with global frameworks. Specific follow-ups will include promoting digital solutions for risk management, fostering flexible funding for local initiatives, and scaling disaster-resilient infrastructure investments with private sector involvement. Amid rising humanitarian needs driven by climate change, conflicts, and disasters, the 18<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting underscored the urgency of transformative action to ensure ***“NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND.”***



*Inaugural session of the 18th RCC Meeting on January 23, 2025 in the presence of H.E. Ms. Sabeeda Thaised, Deputy Minister of Interior, Royal Thai Government*



## 25-YEARS OF REGIONAL COLLABORATION AND BEYOND

For a quarter of century, the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC), established in 2000 by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), has been a cornerstone of disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate resilience (CR) in Asia and the Pacific. As one of the region's earliest platforms for consultation and cooperation, the RCC has evolved into a permanent mechanism under ADPC's 2018 Charter, guiding strategic action, fostering regional programs, and shaping ADPC's work to address the evolving challenges of disasters and climate change.

From its inception in Thailand in 2000 to the 17 RCC meetings hosted across the region such as in Thailand (2000, 2001 and 2020), India (2002), Bangladesh (2004), Vietnam (2005), China (2006), Sri Lanka (2007), Philippines (2010, 2022), Cambodia (2011), Mongolia (2013), Myanmar (2014), Bhutan (2015), Pakistan (2016), Nepal (2018), and Republic of Korea (2021), the RCC Mechanism has convened governments, NGOs, and stakeholders to align DRR and CR efforts with global frameworks like the Sendai Framework, Paris Agreement, and 2030 Agenda.

Marking its 25<sup>th</sup> year, the 18<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting was convened from January 23-24, 2025, in Bangkok, Thailand, reflecting its milestone as a legacy of collaboration across 20-member countries and a vision for sustainable resilience. The meeting, co-hosted by the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) was organized under the theme "**Sustainable Anticipatory Actions for Resilient Development Goals**," that focused on areas related to enhancing risk reduction with technology and innovation, supporting localization of priority actions, and identifying ways to secure disaster and climate funding from global, regional, and national sources. The event also included the

5th Brian Ward Memorial Lecture and ADPC's 2025 Development Partners' Forum.

The 18<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting was organized leveraging the key milestones from the APEC

systemic risks, accelerating finance access, strengthening risk governance, and integrating global frameworks to echo its founding mission while adapting to contemporary needs. The RCC's impact as a



*Delegates from Member Countries during the 18th RCC 2025 Meeting*

2022 meeting under Thailand's Presidency, the 2024 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) hosted by the Government of the Philippines, the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), 2024 held in Vietnam, and the 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) held in Baku. The event also commemorated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami by incorporating lessons from various events hosted by Thailand and other nations towards reinforcing regional cooperation.

RCC during its 25 years of existence, has championed an all-of-society approach, sharing good practices, fostering policy dialogues, and enhancing peer advocacy. Its objectives for 2025 includes understanding

regional hub is evident in its role, exemplified by its strong support to Thailand's emergence as a regional disaster management center, which is in line with the government's policy to position the country as the base of international organizations in Asia. Therefore, looking ahead, the RCC remains committed to advancing risk analytics, promoting climate adaptation, and enhancing international collaboration, ensuring Asia and the Pacific are equipped for resilient development in an era of compounding crises.



## INAUGURATION OF THE 18TH RCC MEETING

The inaugural session of the 18<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting was held on January 23, 2025, in the presence of Ms. Sabeeda Thaised, Deputy Minister of Interior, Royal Thai Government and a distinguished lineup of dignitaries delivering their remarks. The inaugural session was also followed by a high-level panel discussion.

# INAUGURAL SPEECH

# MS. SABEEDA THAISED

Deputy Minister of Interior  
Government of Thailand



*H.E. Ms. Sabeeda Thaised, Deputy Minister of Interior, Royal Thai Government delivering her inaugural address*

## Inaugural Address from H.E. Ms. Sabeeda Thaised, Deputy Minister of Interior, Royal Thai Government

H.E. Ms. Sabeeda Thaised, Deputy Minister of Interior, Royal Thai Government opened the 18<sup>th</sup> RCC Meeting in Bangkok, thanking ADPC and DDPM for organizing the event. Emphasizing the theme **"Sustainable Anticipatory Actions for Resilient Development Goals,"** the speech highlighted growing disaster and climate risks in Asia-Pacific region and stressed the need for regional cooperation in disaster risk reduction considering Thailand's own vulnerability.

Recognizing the RCC as a key platform for resilience-building since 2000, and Thailand being the host country of ADPC, the Government reaffirmed its commitment to disaster preparedness and climate resilience, aligning national strategies with global frameworks like the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Royal Thai

Government through the Ministry of Interior and DDPM prioritizes community-based disaster risk management, early warning systems, and anticipatory action, leveraging technology and data for proactive disaster mitigation. The Deputy Minister has also acknowledged ADPC's technical support and urged stronger partnerships and collective action to build a safer, more resilient Asia-Pacific.



*Mr. Rajendra Singh, Chair of the ADPC Board of Trustees delivering his welcome remarks*

Mr. Rajendra Singh, Chair of the ADPC Board of Trustees and Head of the Department, National Disaster Management Authority, Government of India.

Mr. Rajendra Singh reaffirmed India's commitment to **"One Earth, One Family, One Future,"** as he highlighted the RCC's role since 2000 in promoting dialogue, knowledge exchange, and coordinated action on disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate resilience. He emphasized the need for innovation and foresight in tackling increasing disasters in Asia-Pacific region while commending ADPC's efforts in aligning regional priorities with global frameworks like the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement, and the SDGs. Encouraging active participation, he urged attendees to share expertise and contribute solutions for resilience-building. Mr. Singh thanked ADPC, RCC members, and partners for their commitment to a safer Asia-Pacific, stressing the importance of collaboration in reducing risks and advancing sustainable development.



*H.E. Milicent Cruz Paredes, Ambassador of the Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines in Thailand delivering her welcome remarks*

H.E. Milicent Cruz Paredes,  
Ambassador of the Embassy of  
the Republic of the Philippines  
in Thailand

The Philippine Ambassador to Thailand thanked Thailand's Ministry of Interior and ADPC for hosting the RCC and acknowledged RCC members. She recalled the honor of hosting 17<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting in Manila in 2020, which focused on **state development, gender equality, rights-based DRR, and climate resilience**. She highlighted the RCC Roadmap 2030, emphasizing the need for innovative financing and a trust fund mechanism to support priority actions. Stressing the importance of anticipatory actions, she underscored their role in disaster preparedness and long-term resilience. She also reaffirmed the Philippines' commitment to collaboration with ADPC, RCC members, and partners to strengthen disaster governance, promote climate adaptation, and advance global frameworks like the Sendai Framework and the SDGs.



*Mr. Paisan Rupanichkij, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand delivering his welcome remarks*

Mr. Paisan Rupanichkij,  
Deputy Permanent Secretary,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Thailand

Mr. Paisan Rupanichkij, the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand stressed that the Asia-Pacific region's high disaster risk, worsened by climate change, makes DRR a priority, calling for **policy integration and stronger national-to-global linkages** to minimize economic losses. Referencing the Sendai Framework midterm review, he highlighted key priorities like data governance, localization, and preparedness. He also recalled the Manila Statement from RCC 2020, which reinforced commitments to reducing disaster mortality and strengthening resilience. Marking Thailand's 20 years since the 2004 tsunami, he underscored the need for early warning systems and preparedness and encouraged discussions on emerging DRR initiatives. Acknowledging Bangkok's PM2.5 air pollution, he advised protective measures such as wearing masks. He reaffirmed Thailand's commitment to advancing DRR and ensuring the RCC Roadmap 2030 fosters a resilient and sustainable future.



*Mr. Aslam Perwaiz, Executive Director of ADPC delivering his speech on 25 Years of Regional Consultative Committee*

## Mr. Aslam Perwaiz, Executive Director of ADPC

The Executive Director of ADPC Mr. Aslam Perwaiz marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of RCC by highlighting its role in promoting **sustainable DRR solutions** and integrating **gender diversity** and transboundary collaborations in DRR strategies. He reaffirmed ADPC's commitment to addressing disaster challenges and supporting regional DRR efforts. With 17 RCC meetings fostering partnerships, the 18<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting focused on national-level applications and approaches while adopting a rights-based approach, and engaging with media, academia, and humanitarian organizations. He stressed the need for resource mobilization and thematic approaches to accelerate DRR initiatives. Reflecting on APEC 2020 outcomes and the upcoming UNESCAP event, he emphasized towards enhancing the understanding, increase in funding, and encouraging multi-stakeholder engagement. He also underscored the need for integration of global framework through international cooperation.



*H.E. Kamal Kishore, Special Representative of United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction & Head of UNDRR delivering his special message*

H.E. Kamal Kishore,  
Special  
Representative of United  
Nations  
Secretary-General  
(SRSO) for Disaster Risk  
Reduction  
Head of the United  
Nations Office for Disaster Risk  
Reduction (UNDRR)

The UN Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction praised ADPC's four decades of contributions to DRR in the Asia-Pacific region while recognizing its role in **integrating DRR with sustainable development** even before the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. As the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction is nearing its final phase, he emphasized the need for faster progress, especially in reducing economic and infrastructure losses which remains insufficient. He outlined three key expectations for ADPC:

1. *Enhancing Risk Understanding* – Collaborate with governments to identify, quantify, and mitigate risks to reduce loss of lives, affected populations, economic losses, and infrastructure damage.
2. *Advancing the Next Generation of Capacity Development* – Strengthen DRR efforts beyond national-level at subnational and local levels, ensuring stronger implementation of DRR measures.
3. *Harnessing Emerging Technologies* – Leverage innovation and technology to improve disaster preparedness and response by actively engaging with governments and stakeholders to maximize the potential of new technologies.

He reaffirmed UNDRR's high expectations for ADPC's leadership in accelerating DRR, fostering multi-stakeholder engagement, and ensuring a resilient future for Asia-Pacific.



*H.E. Dr. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations & Executive Secretary of UNESCAP delivering her special message*

H.E. Dr. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana,  
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations  
Executive Secretary of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

The UNESCAP Executive Secretary stressed the urgency of the climate crisis, citing the past year as the warmest year on record and highlighting findings from the 2024 five sub-regional reports on rising climate disasters posing threats to food, water, and energy security.

She outlined three strategic priorities to address such challenges:

1. Advancing Digitally-Driven Innovations – Enhance early warning systems and impact-based forecasting by addressing existing gaps to achieve a comprehensive early warning system.
2. Strengthening Climate-Sensitive Infrastructure – Address sectoral vulnerabilities that underscores countries like Cambodia whose agriculture is at high risk from floods under a 2°C warming scenario among other regional concerns.
3. Enhancing Risk-Informed Decision-Making & Regional Cooperation – Strengthen data-driven policies and regional coordination to build resilience.

She also called for greater investment in climate-resilient infrastructure, social protection, and innovative solutions like predictive analytics and nature-based solutions while reaffirming the importance of partnerships with ADPC and emphasizing regional solidarity and shared responsibility in disaster resilience.



## **HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DISCUSSION ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE**

The high-level panel session at the 18<sup>th</sup> RCC focused on enhancing regional and transboundary cooperation for disaster resilience in the Asia-Pacific. Chaired by ADPC leadership, the session included key addresses from senior representatives of the United Nations and regional intergovernmental organizations such as BIMSTEC, ASEAN, SAARC, and UNDRR. Panelists discussed strategies for strengthening collaboration between RCC and regional mechanisms to advance DRR and climate change adaptation efforts. Key discussion points included leveraging digital technologies, promoting knowledge-sharing, and fostering coherence between global frameworks like the Sendai Framework and regional/national DRR strategies. The session also featured floor interventions from high-level government representatives, who explored actionable recommendations for maximizing RCC's impact in the region.

## High Level Panel Discussion:

Intergovernmental and International Organizations on Regional Cooperation for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Resilience

**Chair:**  
Dr. Bhichit Rattakul,  
Advisory Council, ADPC  
**Co-chair:**  
Aslam Perwaiz,  
Executive Director, ADPC

**High Level Panelist**  
H.E. Indra Mani Pandey  
H.E. San Lwin  
Mr. Dawa Tshering  
Mr. Marco Toscano-Rivalta  
Ms. Tiziana Bonapace



*Panelist delegating at the high-level panel on Intergovernmental and International Organizations on regional cooperation for disaster risk reduction and climate resilience*

The session was chaired by **Dr. Bhichit Rattakul of the Advisory Council of ADPC** and Co-chaired by **Mr. Aslam Perwaiz, Executive Director of ADPC.**

Dr. Bhichit Rattakul emphasized the crucial role of knowledge sharing in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and the climate crisis as a major global challenge. He highlighted the need for regional and transboundary cooperation, particularly at the community level. He stressed for the need of strong national and sub-national level collaboration, supported by robust implementation mechanisms, and called for new approaches to combat disasters and enhance preparedness. Advocating for regional knowledge exchange, he emphasized anticipatory action and integrating DRR and climate adaptation into development policies. He further reinforced that resilience and preparedness can save lives, making collaboration essential for tackling future disasters.

## H.E. Indra Mani Pandey, Secretary General of The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

The BIMSTEC Secretary General highlighted the impact of global warming on the Bay of Bengal and the increasing climate challenges over the past two decades. He emphasized that disaster risk reduction (DRR) should be a key priority, with a focus on implementing action plans. Recognizing the importance of maritime component in climate mitigation, he called for stronger cooperation to address environmental threats. One of BIMSTEC's key projects focus on interconnection, research, capacity building, and enhancing weather forecasting for better disaster preparedness. He also emphasized ADPC's crucial role in fostering regional and sub-regional cooperation, ensuring that disaster resilience remains a shared priority for BIMSTEC nations.



*Mr. Aslam Perwaiz, Executive Director of ADPC co-chairing high-level panel on Intergovernmental and International Organizations on regional cooperation for disaster risk reduction and climate resilience*

### H.E. San Lwin, Deputy Secretary-General for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community

The Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community emphasized ASEAN's crucial role in disaster risk reduction (DRR) at national and sub-national levels, highlighting the importance of regional support for Member States. ASEAN Secretariat has set high standards for disaster preparedness, with a key milestone being the Risk Assessment and Communication Framework, which enhances risk-informed decision-making. He further acknowledged the growing threats like air pollution, extreme heat, and health risks, particularly for island nations while expressing appreciation for ASEAN's leadership in advancing disaster resilience and strong DRR governance.

### Mr. Dawa Tshering, Director, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

The SAARC Director highlighted efforts in hydrometeorology and drought challenges, emphasizing the need for continued regional support and partnerships to South Asian countries. Addressing transboundary population issues remains a key priority on the regional agenda. He appreciated recent collaborations between UNCCD and ADPC, which have significantly contributed towards strengthening disaster preparedness in South Asia, and acknowledged the Third Pole Alliance, with China, Pakistan, and Nepal in leading regional coordination efforts. He further reaffirmed SAARC's commitment to regional collaboration, disaster resilience, and partnerships to tackle climate risks and transboundary challenges.

Mr. Marco Toscano-Rivalta,  
Chief, United Nations Office for  
Disaster Risk Reduction  
(UNDRR), Asia Pacific Region

The Chief of UNDRR has emphasized that only five years remain in accomplishing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), and highlighted the progress made so far in risk policies, reporting systems, and disaster preparedness. He also mentioned about the challenges that persists particularly in justifying progress in ensuring comprehensive and inclusive DRR efforts. He noted significant progress in early warning systems during the past 20 years but emphasized that DRR extends beyond disaster response to jobs, security, and economic stability, requiring cross-sectoral engagement. However, key gaps remain in loss and damage data collection, necessitating improvements in local and national disaster impact assessment while more efforts should be made in financing, and social security measures particularly in employment, e-health, and governance.

Moving forward, he called for:

- Greater focus on localization, financing, and innovation
- Addressing transboundary challenges in high-risk regions
- Strengthening collaboration and technical capacity

He also concluded by calling into action for better governance, partnerships, and contingency financing to ensure effective and inclusive DRR efforts.

Ms. Tiziana Bonapace, Director,  
Information and  
Communications Technology  
and Disaster Risk Reduction  
Division, United Nations  
Economic and Social  
Commission for Asia and the  
Pacific (UNESCAP)

Ms. Tiziana Bonapace emphasized the importance of geographic representation in disaster discussions and the role of governments in developing a regional early warning system. She highlighted the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC)'s potential to scale up climate risk and seasonal forecasting data for better preparedness. She described Asia-Pacific as a global hub for science and innovation, with AI-driven impact-based early warning systems being tailored to regional needs. She also highlighted progress in disability-inclusive DRR tools, with the RCC playing a key role in raising awareness and strengthening the adoption of these tools. She concluded by reaffirming that the future of DRR lies in technology and innovation, calling for continued digital advancements to enhance preparedness and resilience.



## INTERVENTIONS FROM RCC MEMBER COUNTRIES

Mr. Pawan Kumar, Director,  
Disaster Management Division,  
Ministry of Home Affairs,  
Government of India

Mr. Pawan Kumar emphasized the role of natural resources and traditional knowledge in disaster risk reduction (DRR), advocating for a harmonious approach to resilience. He highlighted how India has adopted a generic DRR framework to reduce disaster-related costs. He also emphasized how India has prioritized global cooperation as G20 Chair by launching a new G20 DRR working group to enhance preparedness and response strategies. The Indian government has been actively participating in regional organizations to strengthen collective resilience and DRR efforts, guided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision. The establishment of a Center for DRR is a key

initiative, ensuring that disaster risk reduction is integrated into the national development agenda. India is also actively engaged with regional organizations such as the ASEAN and ADPC leveraging technology and innovation to strengthen disaster resilience both at the regional and global levels.

H.E. Mr. Faiyaz Murshid Kazi,  
Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the  
People's Republic of  
Bangladesh

Ambassador Faiyaz Murshid Kazi emphasized the role of regional and international platforms in strengthening disaster risk reduction (DRR). Bangladesh, once highly vulnerable to disaster risk, has made significant progress in resilience and financial preparedness, shifting from being seen as a vulnerable nation to one that is actively improving its DRR capabilities. He further highlighted the RCC's role in uniting stakeholders to leverage their strengths and guide national policymakers on regional investment priorities. He stressed the need for capacity building and improved climate financing access for smaller, climate-vulnerable nations. His speech also outlined key priorities that includes

- Showcasing successful DRR models
- Developing a regional strategy aligned with the Sendai Framework
- Addressing uneven progress and policy gaps
- Facilitating investment and financial support

He reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to collaboration and expressed hope that RCC discussions would lead to stronger regional DRR strategies.



*Delegates from RCC Member Countries attending the session*

## Mr. Li Xiaodong, General Engineer, Ministry of Emergency Management of the People's Republic of China

Mr. Li Xiaodong from the Ministry of Emergency Management (MEM) of the People's Republic of China expressed appreciation for the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC)'s contributions to disaster risk reduction (DRR) and reaffirmed China's strong commitment to its efforts. He highlighted China's long-term focus on prevention, risk reduction, and resilience, integrating these into sustainable development goals. During his speech, he put forward three key recommendations that includes

- Strengthening DRR mechanisms by China's commitment towards enhancing 14 operative measures and inviting RCC to join the initiative.
- Hosting a Ministry of Emergency Forum to discuss DRR mechanisms in 2025 and welcoming all RCC members to participate.
- Leveraging innovation and technology through cooperation, hazard reduction, and knowledge exchange.

He further reaffirmed China's commitment to regional collaboration, innovation, and knowledge-sharing as essential for advancing DRR strategies.

Mr. Eung Beom Lee,  
Director, Disaster  
Management Policy  
Division, Ministry of Interior  
and Safety, Republic of  
Korea

Mr. Eung Beom Lee reaffirmed Republic of Korea's commitment to proactive disaster mitigation aligned with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. He highlighted Korea's efforts in developing a Five-Year National Safety Plan, which includes an annual action plan and financial strategy for effective implementation. His speech underscored the need for a strong legal framework to enhance coordination between government and agencies, investment in ICT-based real-time monitoring for early warning and risk assessment, developing policies supporting vulnerable groups, promoting international cooperation, and integration of sustainability and inclusivity in DRR strategies. He further emphasized strengthening disaster risk governance, private sector engagement, and improved monitoring to build a safer and more resilient society.

Ms. Ohashi Makiko,  
Director, Disaster  
Management Bureau,  
Cabinet office, Government  
of Japan

Ms. Ohashi Makiko highlighted Japan's role as a regional hub for knowledge and technology advancement in disaster risk reduction (DRR). She emphasized the importance of bilateral and multilateral cooperation to enhance transboundary disaster mitigation. She stressed the need to secure donor budgets and climate funding, viewing investment in disaster resilience as a long-term safeguard for economic stability. She noted that disasters are not only humanitarian issues but also economic and development concerns affecting long-term growth and sustainability. She even called for greater youth involvement in DRR efforts to ensure future leaders are equipped to create a more resilient society.





## ADVANCING RISK INFORMATION – TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR DECISION-SUPPORT SYSTEMS

In today's rapidly changing world, the Asia-Pacific region faces a multitude of natural hazards. The increasing frequency and intensity of these events underscore the critical need for effective disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies. This session, "Advancing Risk Information – Technology and Innovation for Decision-Support Systems," will explore how advancements in technology can revolutionize our understanding of risks and improve disaster preparedness across the region.

Advancements in technology offer a wealth of opportunities to revolutionize how we assess and manage disaster risks. These advancements include artificial intelligence

and machine learning, which can analyze vast datasets to identify patterns, predict potential hazards, and develop more accurate risk assessments. Remote sensing provides invaluable insights into land cover changes, environmental degradation, and potential vulnerabilities to natural disasters. The ability to collect and analyze vast amounts of real-time data from diverse sources, such as sensor networks and social media, through big data analytics, allows for a more comprehensive understanding of evolving risks. These advancements, coupled with local knowledge and expertise, can empower decision-makers at all levels – from community leaders to national governments – to make informed choices about disaster preparedness, mitigation, and response strategies.

The Asia-Pacific region is particularly vulnerable to natural disasters due to its geographical location and growing population density. The session explored how to leverage technology to address the specific needs of the region, building upon the work of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) in fostering regional cooperation and knowledge sharing. This includes exploring the use of geospatial technologies to provide critical data and analysis for informed decision-making. The session further discusses on how to build capacity within national meteorological services and local governments to effectively use geospatial tools for DRR. Moreover, the session also investigates ways to foster data-sharing platforms and transboundary cooperation to promote a more coordinated and effective approach to disaster risk reduction across the region.

# ADVANCING RISK INFORMATION – TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR DECISION-SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Chair:

**DR. WUNAT WANGRIMOOL**  
 Director of Foreign Affairs Division  
 Office of the National Water Resources  
 Thailand

Co-Chair:

**Dr. Peeranan Towashiraporn**  
 Director of Risk Analytics and Climate  
 Services, ADPC

Panelists:

**MR. JEON IN**  
 Deputy Director  
 Ministry of Inter

**DR. ZHOU HONG**  
 Director for DIS  
 Department of  
 Coordination, M  
 China

**MS. VICTORIA**  
 Pacific Disaster



*Panelist at the technical session on Advancing Risk Information – Technology and Innovation for Decision-Support Systems*

## Session Summary

The technical session on "Advancing Risk Information – Technology and Innovation for Decision-Support Systems" focused on the role of technology in enhancing disaster risk reduction (DRR) in the Asia-Pacific region. Chaired by experts from Thailand and ADPC, the session featured panelists from the Republic of Korea, People's Republic of China, and the Pacific Disaster Center, who shared insights on leveraging AI, big data, remote sensing, and geospatial tools for improved risk assessment and decision-making. Discussions further highlighted successful national and regional initiatives in disaster monitoring, information dissemination, and predictive analytics.

The session also explored ways to strengthen regional cooperation, build capacity in national meteorological services, and enhance transboundary data-sharing mechanisms. Audience interactions and panel discussions resulted in key recommendations for ADPC, including the development of a regional roadmap for advancing risk information systems and strategies to ensure equitable access to DRR technologies across sectors and communities.



*Dr. Winai Wangpimool, Director of Foreign Affairs Division of the Office of the National Water Resources in Thailand chaired the session*

## Speakers and Panelist

- Chair: Dr. Winai Wangpimool, Director of Foreign Affairs Division, Office of the National Water Resources, Thailand
- Co-Chair: Dr. Peeranan Towashiraporn, Director, ADPC
- Mr. Jeon In-seung, Deputy Director, Disaster Management Policy Division, Ministry of Interior and Safety, Republic of Korea
- Dr. Zhou Hongjian, Director for Disaster Risk Reduction and Assessment, Department of Integrated Disaster Reduction and Reform Coordination, Ministry of Emergency Management of the People's Republic of China
- Ms. Victoria Leat, Pacific Disaster Center (PDC)

## Highlights from the Panelists

- Panelist from the **Republic of Korea** showcased their real-time sensor-based systems for high-risk areas and emphasized multilingual support for diverse populations.
- Panelist from the **People's Republic of China** presented its national comprehensive risk survey and plans to use survey data to enhance disaster prevention. They highlighted the importance of data sharing across different government levels.
- Panelist from the **Pacific Disaster Center** focused on building resilience through early warning systems and emphasized the use of national, regional, and global datasets for better disaster risk understanding.



*Dr. Peeranan Towashiraporn, Director of Risk Analytics and Climate Services Department of ADPC co-chairing the session*

## Key Considerations for Technology and Data in Disaster Risk Management

- Replicating successful technologies across different countries requires careful consideration of local contexts, available financial resources, and long-term sustainability.
- Challenges persist in **data collection and maintenance**, particularly in ensuring data quality and keeping information up-to-date.
- Interoperability and the adoption of **standardized data formats** are essential for effective collaboration across various stakeholders.
- The role of technology in addressing **loss and damage** caused by climate change was also discussed, alongside the introduction of a proposal for a global hub to facilitate information sharing and collaboration through technological centers.

## Enhancing Disaster Risk Management through Innovation, Cooperation, and Data Sharing: Key Takeaways

- The session focused on translating **disaster risk information into actionable solutions** for effective management.
- Participants shared **best practices and challenges** in disaster risk management (DRM) from across the region, emphasizing the importance of **scaling successful strategies** to enhance resilience in diverse contexts.
- **Regional cooperation and information sharing** were highlighted as key to improving disaster preparedness and response.
- The role of **technology and innovation**, including AI, real-time sensors, and data analytics, was discussed in enhancing disaster prevention and response.
- The need for **standardized data formats and interoperable systems** for better coordination among organizations was strongly emphasized.



## **LOCALIZATION OF PRIORITY ACTIONS THROUGH LOCALLY- LED ADAPTATION, ANTICIPATORY ACTION AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT**

In 2016, the first World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) outlined the global state of humanitarian affairs. An unprecedented surge in humanitarian needs – driven by armed conflicts, natural disasters, and the escalating impacts of climate change – has underscored the urgent need to transform the humanitarian ecosystem. This transformation is critical to achieving the global commitment to sustainable development and ensuring that no one is left behind. At the heart of this transformation is a focus on Localization: putting people at the front and center of funding support, decision-making, and action to reduce their risks and vulnerabilities to disasters. The transformation demands a new way of working – shifting humanitarian action to prioritize national and local actors. Since 2016, ADPC has been implementing the Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP), its flagship localization program. The APP has facilitated the creation of National Preparedness Partnerships (NPPs), which unite key stakeholders, including government, civil society, the private sector, and other partners. The ADPC Bangladesh Preparedness Partnership (BPP) follows the APP model.

The Strengthening Partnerships for Community Resilience in Indonesia and Timor-Leste (SPRINT) program is being implemented with local civil society organizations (CSOs) to reduce the impact of future disasters, minimize the dependency of local communities and their partners on external organizations, and promote faster, more resilient recovery following disasters.

These localization models, along with others being implemented by RCC member countries and partners, face various challenges. However, the insights gained from these challenges can lead to new directions and approaches, fostering more meaningful and genuinely empowering localization initiatives. Therefore, this session examines the challenges and opportunities in advancing localization to enhance the capacities of national and local actors, enabling them to lead their own priorities in creating safer, better prepared, and more

resilient communities while providing insights on how localization can be enhanced, progressed, and sustained within RCC member countries.

## Session Summary

The technical session on "Localization of Priority Actions – Locally-Led Adaptation, Anticipatory Action, and Disaster Risk Management" focused on advancing localization efforts in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate action. Chaired by experts from the Gates Foundation and ADPC, the session featured panelists from the Maldivian Red Crescent Society, Church World Service Cambodia, and the Viet Nam Disaster and Dyke Management Authority. Discussions explored the challenges and opportunities in strengthening locally-led initiatives, including capacity-building, partnerships, and sustainable resource allocation. Panelists highlighted lessons from regional programs such as the Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP) and the SPRINT initiative in Indonesia and Timor-Leste, emphasizing the importance of empowering national and local actors to lead their own disaster resilience priorities. The session concluded with recommendations for improving localization efforts, including enhanced collaboration among governments, civil society, and the private sector, as well as strategic support from ADPC to ensure long-term sustainability.

## Speakers and Panelist

- Chair: Dr Valerie Bemo, Gates Foundation
- Co-chair: Dr. Sisira Madurapperuma, Director, ADPC
- Mr. Ibrahim Shameel, Manager, Programmes & Services, Maldivian Red Crescent Society, Maldives.
- EK Sothea, Country Representative, Church World Service, Cambodia
- Tran Viet Kim Chi, Official, Science Technology and International

Cooperation Department (STICD), Viet Nam Disaster and Dyke Management Authority (VDDMA)

## Highlights from the Panelists

- Chair of the session Dr. Valerie Bemo shared the Donor Perspective emphasizing the importance of collaborating with local actors and increasing donor flexibility to ensure funds are effectively allocated at the ground level.
- Panelist Ms. Ek Sothea from Church World Service, Cambodia has highlighted key challenges, including restricted decision-making authority, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and obstacles in integrating disaster risk management plans into national development agendas.
- Panelist Ms. Tran Viet Kim Chi from Viet Nam Disaster and Dyke Management Authority (VDDMA) emphasized the importance of cross-sectoral integration in disaster risk reduction (DRR), stressing that all sectors must clearly define their roles in incorporating disaster management into their plans.
- Panelist Mr. Ibrahim Shameel of the Maldivian Red Crescent Society highlighted challenges in accessing remote communities, securing funding amidst competition, and coordinating efforts among multiple actors. He shared examples of how collaboration with ADPC has helped enhance localization strategies and improve disaster response efforts.

## Key Considerations for Enhancing Localization Through Collaboration and Innovation

- Localization efforts continue to face **numerous challenges** due to top-down approaches, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and funding constraints, slowing progress on the ground.
- Effective disaster risk management requires strong **collaboration** between governments, NGOs, the private sector, and humanitarian organizations to ensure seamless implementation.
- Capacity-building programs must be **more adaptable**, addressing the specific needs of local communities rather than relying on rigid, standardized training.
- Leveraging technology and innovative solutions is also essential to enhance the **efficiency and reach** of localization strategies.

## Strengthening Localization Efforts: Key Takeaways

- *Translating Knowledge into Action* – The discussion focused on turning knowledge into practical localization efforts that empower communities.
- *Sector-Specific Challenges* – Different sectors face unique challenges in implementing localization:
  - *Red Cross/Red Crescent*: Competition for resources and overlapping efforts.
  - *Private Sector*: Difficulty engaging small businesses.
  - *Government (Vietnam)*: Gaps in policy implementation and funding constraints.
  - *NGOs (Cambodia)*: Limited decision-making power and coordination issues.
- *Barriers to Localization* – Many efforts remain top-down, hindered by bureaucratic inefficiencies, lack of coordination, and lack of mainstreaming into national development plans.
- *Donor Perspective* – Donors face challenges in balancing flexibility with administrative requirements, often relying on intermediaries that limit direct funding to local actors.
- *Collaboration & Integration* – Strengthening partnerships across sectors is essential, ensuring DRR is embedded in education, healthcare, and governance.
- *Technology & Innovation* – Training programs should be adapted to local needs, making standardized models more effective across different community contexts.



*Panel discussion on enhancing financial mechanisms for climate resilience and disaster risk*



## FINANCIAL MECHANISMS AND INVESTMENTS – CLIMATE FINANCE, INVESTMENT FOR RESILIENCE BUILDING, AND DISASTER RISK FINANCE

Effective resilience building requires addressing critical financing gaps, particularly for reducing climate and disaster vulnerabilities. Innovative solutions such as forecast-based financing, insurance schemes, nature-based approaches, and

public-private partnerships are essential to mobilizing investments. Embedding disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) into development and financial policies is equally important. While Asia has made strides in implementing financial mechanisms for resilience, significant gaps remain. Existing financial resources are often insufficient to address immediate disaster responses and long-term resilience building, particularly for vulnerable communities and countries.

Addressing these issues requires a cohesive strategy integrating finance into broader development and resilience goals, prioritizes equity, and scales innovative solutions to meet the region's growing needs. Access to financing, particularly for marginalized groups such as women and low-income communities, must be prioritized. Locally led adaptation initiatives are critical to ensuring equitable financing and scaling resilience efforts. Economic impacts arising from disasters exacerbate debt challenges, particularly in least-developed countries (LDCs), necessitating sustainable and innovative financial solutions. Collaboration, including South-South and transboundary cooperation, can enhance resource

mobilization, knowledge sharing, and joint resilience-building strategies.

The session emphasizes scaling up CCA and DRR investments through innovative financial instruments and greater public and private sector engagement. Mainstreaming CCA and DRR into planning and public budgeting is critical to ensuring sustainable and predictable funding. Strengthening institutional capacities to integrate risk analytics and forecast-based financing will support timely interventions. Partnerships between public and private sectors can facilitate the development of scalable, community-based adaptation projects. Lastly, enhancing governance frameworks to align CCA, DRR, and resilience financing with national development goals will ensure cohesive and effective implementation.

The session aims to identify key financial barriers hindering climate and disaster resilience efforts, including challenges in forecast-based financing, insurance schemes, and public-private partnerships. It tends to explore mechanisms to ensure equitable access to financial resources for marginalized communities, such as women, indigenous populations, and low-income groups. Furthermore, the session facilitated discussions on strengthening regional collaboration to mobilize resources, share knowledge, and implement joint financial mechanisms to enhance climate and disaster resilience.

## Session Summary

The technical session on "Financial Mechanisms and Investments – Climate Finance, Investment for Resilience Building, and Disaster Risk Finance" focused on addressing financing gaps in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate adaptation. Chaired by experts from UNESCAP and ADPC, the session featured keynote and spotlight talks from representatives of NDMA Pakistan, the Stockholm Environment Institute, the Coalition for Disaster Resilient

Infrastructure (CDRI), and the New Development Bank. Discussions highlighted challenges in mobilizing financial resources for resilience, the need for equitable access to climate finance, and the role of innovative financial mechanisms such as forecast-based financing, insurance schemes, and public-private partnerships. Panelists emphasized the importance of integrating climate finance into national development strategies, strengthening institutional capacities, and enhancing regional collaboration for joint financing initiatives. The session concluded with a call to action, where speakers provided actionable recommendations for ensuring climate finance reaches marginalized communities and fostering investment in climate-resilient infrastructure across Asia.

## Speakers and Panelist

- Chair: Sanjay Srivastava, Chief, Disaster Risk Reduction UNESCAP
- Co-chair: Mr. Irfan Maqbool, Director, ADPC
- Keynote Speaker: Lt. Gen. Inam Haider Malik, Chairman, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Pakistan
- Spotlight: Ms. Sushmita Mandal, Senior Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute
- Future Vision Talk: Ms. Ranjini Mukherjee, Director-Research, Knowledge & Capacity Development, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure
- Mr. Garvit Sah, Principal Professional, New Development Bank, Indian Regional Office

## Highlights from the Panel

- **Enhancing Disaster Management Readiness**
  - *Global Impact* – Disasters pose a growing threat to all nations, regardless of their development status, with increasing frequency and severity.
  - *Predictive Tools* – Leveraging historical data and community exposure insights enables more accurate loss estimation and financial planning.
  - *Financing Challenges* – Navigating global financial instruments remains complex, underscoring the need for pre-arranged financing mechanisms to ensure timely access to resources.
- **Strengthening Risk Financing Mechanisms**
  - *Forecasting & Gap Analysis* – Impact-based Financing for Weather (IbFW) helps identify financial requirements and address resource gaps.
  - *Technology Integration* – Early Warning Systems (EWS) offer a six-month lead time to enhance disaster preparedness.
  - *Innovative Financing* – The high cost of insurance premiums highlights the need for shared or participatory financial models.
- **Scaling Financial Resources for Disaster Resilience**
  - *Stakeholder Collaboration* – Engaging local, national, and global actors ensures a well-rounded and effective funding strategy.
  - *Scenario Planning* – Utilizing simulations and financial benchmarks helps align resources with anticipated risks.

## Key Considerations for Empowering Communities in Climate Finance

- **Key Principles:**
  - *Plurality in Knowledge* – Combining technical, indigenous, and traditional knowledge fosters inclusive and innovative solutions.
  - *Simplified Financing* – Making funding processes more accessible ensures greater community participation.
  - *Sustainability Focus* – Prioritizing long-term resilience solutions over short-term interventions.
- **Technology & Localized Solutions:**
  - *Environmentally Sustainable Technologies* – Promoting climate-smart and inclusive innovations.
  - *Tailored Approaches* – Financing models like blended finance address diverse community needs.

## Key Considerations for Building Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure

- **Challenges:**
  - *Data Gaps* – Lack of granular risk information limits effective planning and investment.
  - *Capacity Deficiencies* – Countries struggle with cost-benefit analysis and project development for bankable infrastructure.
  - *Funding Shortages* – The public sector dominates financing, while private investments remain limited due to high risks.
- **Strategic Interventions:**
  - *Comprehensive Risk Assessments* – Conduct hazard and vulnerability evaluations across project lifecycles.

- Data-Driven Financing – Strengthen national policies using historical and predictive data.
- Private Sector Engagement – Use policy incentives to attract private investment in resilient infrastructure.

## Key Considerations for Climate Challenges & Financial Solutions

- **Rising Disaster Costs & Financial Strains:**
  - *Poly-Disasters* – Climate change is disrupting water and food security, increasing financial burdens.
  - *Traditional Insurance Models Struggle* – New hybrid financing models are needed for long-term sustainability.
- **Innovative Financial Mechanisms:**
  - *Anticipatory Instruments* – Allocating pre-disaster funds can significantly reduce long-term recovery costs.
  - *Hybrid Financing* – Combining public, private, NGO, and diaspora funding ensures multi-tiered disaster response.
- **Strengthening Local Resilience:**
  - *Localized Risk Assessments* – Move towards community-specific disaster planning.
  - *Stronger Governance* – Enhance institutional frameworks to support fiscal and infrastructure resilience.
  - *Community-Driven Planning* – Ensure women, indigenous populations, and vulnerable groups participate in decision-making.

- **Loss & Damage Fund**

The discussion highlighted the need for evolving financial mechanisms to support vulnerable regions facing irreversible disaster impacts.

## Call to Action for Advancing Climate and Disaster Resilience

To strengthen climate and disaster resilience, participants highlighted the need for:

- *Enhanced Multi-Sectoral Collaboration* – **Strengthening** partnerships across government, private sector, and communities to drive coordinated resilience efforts.
- *Capacity Building for Sustainable Financing* – **Equipping** Least Developed Countries (LDCs) with the skills and resources to design and implement bankable resilience projects.
- *Policy and Financial Integration* – **Embedding** resilience into national policies and financial frameworks to ensure long-term sustainability.
- *Scaling Innovations Through Regional Cooperation* – **Expanding** successful models and best practices across borders to enhance collective resilience.



## ADVANCING REGIONAL AND TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) is implementing a regional program called Transboundary Rivers of South Asia Phase 2 (TROSAs 2), aiming to improve cooperation in governing shared water resources, strengthening resilience to climate change of riparian communities in the transboundary Ganges- Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) River Basins in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh. ADPC implements the TROSA 2 outcomes with Oxfam as the lead partner. TROSA 2 is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). The project's expected outcomes are to:

- Strengthen the leadership of civil society, especially women, and youth to influence the government and private sector on water governance across and between the transboundary GBM River Basins.
- Strengthen cooperation, collaboration, and accountability across and between the transboundary GBM River Basins.

The Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna Basin is a birthplace of flourishing cultures and livelihoods with a total area of 1.7 million square kms. The basin is distributed across Nepal, India, Bangladesh, China and Bhutan and finally joins the Bay of Bengal. Apart from being the third largest freshwater outlet to the world's oceans, the basin supports more than 800 million people. In South Asia, the Ganges River is located in India, Nepal and Bangladesh, the Brahmaputra River is located in India, Bangladesh and Bhutan, and the Meghna River Basin is located in India and Bangladesh. Many societies, cultures and economies depend on the basin for various needs, but the ecosystem services provided by the basin are also exposed to severe risks.

According to the World Bank Bangladesh Development Series, the GBM Basin will undergo a projected temperature rise of 1-3°C and receive 20 percent more monsoon rainfall by 2050. Intensification of climate events, degradation of ecosystems, unregulated infrastructure development and unplanned land use practices have caused increasing stress on water resources and limited accessibility for the communities. The increasing climate risk also leads to issues of gender disparity and social inequalities, in addition to water accessibility challenges. Climate change poses a threat by causing crop damage, loss of life and property and increase of climate related disasters. Communities of the basin feel vulnerable due to climate risks and rapidly changing socio-economic scenarios.

According to the World Bank, by 2030, South Asia's water demand will double due to unsustainable usage, impacting lives and livelihoods. About 20 percent of the population in the GBM Basin lacks access to



*Panel discussion on the need for regional cooperation, sharing perspectives from South Asia and Southeast Asia*

safe drinking water. Additionally, the Water Development Report 2016 highlights that globally 78% of the jobs are water dependent and increasing stress on water resources can lead to direct impacts on the water dependent sectors. At the face of changing climatic and socio-economic conditions the demand of water also increases for industries and communities. Multilateral cooperation and good governance for upstream and downstream linkages of the countries of the basin will improve water accessibility and build resilience to climate change of riparian communities. The GBM Basin has social, biophysical, cultural, economic and institutional interdependence which sustains agriculture, economic activities and societal functions of the basin. Multidimensional and inclusive governance and cooperation by the basin countries will ensure equal accessibility of resources.

## The Need for Regional Cooperation

Climate change impacts the South Asia region and increases the burden of already vulnerable societies. There is a dire need for regional cooperation to help societies dependent on shared water resources to adapt and build climate resilience. The bilateral transboundary knowledge exchange. Bilateral knowledge exchange and agreements are influenced by ongoing conflicts, power dynamics and severe climate-related disasters resulting in limited initiatives for data and knowledge sharing. Based on this, there is a need for consistent knowledge exchange to oversee the entire region's water management. Meeting such needs is essential to not only accelerate climate actions but also to address local-level challenges. In the GBM region, disparities in equitable water management become further complex with the intersection of gender, social class, geographical location, and remoteness of these communities. However, international frameworks and commitments, such as the Dublin Principles (1992) and the SDGs (2015), emphasize the inclusion of gender and youth in water governance. Despite the systemic barriers -

restrictive gender norms, limited access to resources, and a lack of participation platforms where they can influence policies (Meinzen-Dick et al., 2022; Geza et al., 2021) - there is a growing sense of hope and the willingness among women, and young professionals to engage in environmental conservation and sustainable development (Hickman et al., 2021).

Climate finance investments are also needed to back policy actions to address local-level disparities and to ensure water security and availability. The increase in adaptation finance will also enable communities who are interdependent to deal with increasing impacts of climate change. Improved delivery of climate finance will also promote bottom-up participatory planning and improve cooperation and knowledge exchange between the communities of shared water resources.

This session tried to explore shared water governance challenges in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna River Basins across India, Bangladesh, and Nepal while drawing lessons from best practices in other transboundary basins, such as the Mekong River Commission. Discussions focused on enhancing inclusivity through bottom-up participatory planning, ensuring that the voices of riparian communities are heard. The session also seeks to establish a roadmap for strengthening dialogue, fostering knowledge exchange, and promoting regional cooperation to build resilience across river basins.

## Session Summary

The Session on "Advancing Regional Cooperation and Inclusive Water Governance to Build Climate Resilience" at the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) focused on strengthening transboundary water governance in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) River Basins. The session, organized under ADPC's Transboundary Rivers of South Asia Phase 2 (TROSA 2) program, brought together experts from Oxfam Asia, IUCN, and government representatives from Bangladesh, India, and Nepal to discuss challenges related to climate risks, water governance, and equitable resource access. Panelists highlighted the increasing climate threats to riparian communities, the need for inclusive governance, and the role of climate finance in promoting sustainable water management. Discussions also emphasized the importance of regional cooperation, knowledge sharing, and participatory planning to ensure resilient water governance. The session concluded with key recommendations on policy interventions, intergovernmental collaboration, and financial strategies to support local adaptation efforts and enhance resilience across transboundary river basins.

## Speakers and Panelist

- Chair: Dr. Veena Vidyadharan, Feminist Lead, Oxfam Asia
- Moderator: Dr. Homolata Borah, ADPC
- Ms. Nayeem Rubaiyet, Counsellor (Political), Embassy of Bangladesh, Bangkok
- Mr. Vishwa Ranjan Sinha, Senior Project Officer, IUCN
- Mr. Ajaya Dixit, Executive Director, Institute for Social and Environmental Transition
- Dr. Riyanti Djalante, Head of Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance Division



*Panelist from South Asia and Southeast Asia converged to discuss about the need for regional and transboundary cooperation during 18<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand*

## Highlights from the Panel

Chair of the session Dr. Veena Vidyadharan opened the session by underscoring the importance of regional collaboration and knowledge-sharing platforms in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and water governance. She emphasized the need for multi-stakeholder engagement, youth participation, and cross-sectoral cooperation to enhance climate resilience. She has identified the key discussion areas by highlighting collaborative initiatives led by organizations like BIMSTEC, SAARC, and ADPC, which facilitate joint DRR exercises and promote regional cooperation. She highlighted the role of regional forums such as the RCC in fostering government dialogue, knowledge exchange, and capacity building. Youth involvement in DRR and water governance was also emphasized, with programs like the Mengna Youth Strategy and youth ambassador initiatives playing a crucial role. She also pointed to risk assessment tools developed by ADPC and other organizations, stressing the importance of translating technical knowledge into accessible formats for local communities. Lastly, she called for both horizontal and vertical collaboration, ensuring that knowledge-sharing extends

across borders while also bridging the gap between policymakers and grassroots communities.

## Climate Risks and Water Governance Challenges in Bangladesh

*Speaker: Ms. Nayeem Rubaiyet, Counsellor (Political), Embassy of Bangladesh, Bangkok*

Ms. Rubaiyet provided an overview of Bangladesh's vulnerability to climate change, particularly in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) Basin, where floods, cyclones, droughts, and salinity intrusion pose significant challenges. She highlighted that climate-induced migration could displace 13.3 million people by 2030. She also highlighted about the Governance challenges facing the country including transboundary water management issues with India and Myanmar, inequitable water distribution within Bangladesh, and limited local adaptation capacity due to resource constraints and a lack of climate-resilient technologies. Emphasizing the need for regional collaboration, she pointed to the Transboundary Rivers of South Asia Phase 2,

supported by ADPC and international partners, as a key initiative for strengthening resilience and governance in the GBM Basin. To address these challenges, she called for stronger regional partnerships among governments, NGOs, and donor agencies, along with enhanced capacity building for local governments and water management authorities.

## Climate Risk and Water Governance in India

*Speaker: Mr. Vishwa Ranjan Sinha, Senior Project Officer, IUCN*

Mr. Sinha highlighted India's climate risks and water governance challenges, emphasizing threats such as rising temperatures and heat-related deaths, unpredictable rainfall leading to intensified flooding, and the impact of urban expansion, agricultural water demand, and pollution on climate resilience. He also noted the increasing risks of flash floods, water scarcity, droughts, and saltwater intrusion in coastal regions. He highlighted about a survey conducted with ADPC's support which identified highly vulnerable areas like the Barak-Meghna Basin, where flash floods and salinity intrusion are worsening. However, a lack of localized climate data remains a major obstacle to effective risk assessment. To address these challenges, initiatives like TROSA and Bridge are working to improve climate modeling, close hydrological data gaps, and enhance basin-scale planning with support from the Green Climate Fund. Mr. Sinha stressed the importance of strengthening community resilience strategies, particularly for the most vulnerable populations.

## Water Governance Challenges in Nepal

*Speaker: Mr. Ajaya Dixit, Executive Director, Institute for Social and Environmental Transition*

Mr. Dixit highlighted Nepal's complex river systems and governance challenges, emphasizing the impact of expanding hydropower infrastructure on upstream and downstream communities. He noted the increasing climate-induced risks, such as landslides, flash floods, and glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), as well as the effects of urbanization and wetland encroachment on river flows and groundwater dynamics. Key governance gaps include limited access to climate information, unclear decision-making responsibilities, and financial constraints. To address these challenges, he recommended

- adopting community-centered approaches that prioritize marginalized riverine populations,
- expanding early warning systems to mitigate disaster impacts,
- establishing stakeholder dialogue platforms for better cross-sector coordination, and
- promoting holistic governance models that integrate local, national, and regional disaster resilience efforts.

## ASEAN's Approach to Climate Risk and Water Governance

*Speaker: Dr. Riyanti Djalante, Head of Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance Division*

Dr. Riyanti Djalante highlighted ASEAN's institutional and regulatory frameworks for disaster resilience, emphasizing the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) of 2006 and the AHA Center's role in coordinating regional disaster preparedness and response. Key initiatives include the development of early warning systems, the ASEAN Disaster Management Information System, and regional warehouses for disaster response, supported by ASEAN's Emergency Response and Assessment Team. She also mentioned about ASEAN conducting studies on transboundary risks, such as worsening droughts and typhoons. Looking ahead, she highlighted how the region is focusing on crop insurance schemes to protect farmers from climate shocks, cross-sector collaboration through platforms like the ASEAN Disaster Resilience Platform, and simulation exercises for transboundary disaster scenarios. She however said that the increasing severity and frequency of disasters call for stronger regional cooperation and more inclusive disaster management strategies.

## Critical Role of Climate Finance in Addressing Local-level Disparities and Accelerating Climate Action: Key Takeaways

- Dr. Veena Vidyadharan emphasized that local communities are best positioned to lead climate adaptation efforts, yet accessing global climate finance, including the Green Climate Fund (GCF), remains a major challenge.
- Ms. Nayeem Rubaiyet highlighted the financial constraints faced by developing countries, particularly in securing funds for loss and damage recovery.
- Mr. Vishwa Ranjan Sinha proposed innovative financial mechanisms, such as climate barcodes and payment for ecosystem services, to encourage private sector participation in adaptation initiatives.
- Mr. Ajaya Dixit pointed out that local governments often face competing priorities and weak policy implementation, underscoring the need for multi-scale governance approaches.

## Call for Action

- Increase climate finance and ensure accessibility for vulnerable communities.
- Improve tracking mechanisms for effective fund utilization.
- Strengthen governance and cross-sector collaboration.



## INNOVATION AND LOCALIZATION

In a world marked by exacerbating disaster and climate risks, 'innovation' and 'localization' emerge as important action areas for bending the curve of vulnerability. On their own, both concepts are celebrated for their potential to address the current crisis. However, when combined, do they yield sustainable, scalable, and resilient outcomes? This session explores the intersection of innovation and localization to examine their potential for creating societal resilience at scale, achieved more effectively and efficiently.

While technology-driven innovations have caught much of the limelight in recent years, this session draws attention to various types of innovation that help promote localized solutions for disaster and climate resilience of last-mile stakeholders. The "UpFront Session" on Innovation and Localization, aims to:

- Highlight diverse types of innovation beyond technology that support localized disaster and climate resilience for last-mile stakeholders.
- Explore catalysts for scaling and sustaining innovative DRR and CCA solutions.
- Demonstrate the potential of localization in fostering innovative ideas and initiatives for resilience-building.

### Session Summary

The Session on "Innovation and Localization" explored the intersection of innovative approaches and localized solutions in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate adaptation. Chaired by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) of Maldives and moderated by ADPC, the session featured presentations from experts across Myanmar, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Thailand, and the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. Panelists highlighted diverse innovations, including community engagement strategies, anticipatory action mechanisms, and localized technological solutions for resilience-building. Discussions emphasized the need for scalable and sustainable innovation tailored to last-mile stakeholders. The session concluded with commitment from stakeholders in reinforcing the importance of integrating innovation with localized efforts to enhance regional and global climate resilience strategies.



*Mr. Thurein Aung discussing about the Yangon Neighborhood Networks during the 18<sup>th</sup> RCC Meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand*

## Speakers and Panelist

- Chair: Mr. Hisan Hassan, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Maldives
- Moderator: Ms. Ronilda Co, ADPC
- Social Innovator: Mr. Thurein Aung, Director of Community Engagement, Doh Eain, Myanmar
- *Technology Innovator*: Ms. Ishrat Shabnam, Country Director, Practical Action (i-CARE recipient) (TBC)
- *Process Innovator*: Ms. Veronica Gabaldon, Executive Director, Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF), Philippines
- *Community Innovator*: Dr. Nion Sirimongkonlertkul, Air Quality Advocate, Rajamangala University of Technology, Thailand
- *Approach Innovator*: Mr. Damien Riquiet, Regional Anticipatory Actions Specialist, Food and Agriculture Organization Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAORAP), Thailand

## Presentations from the Session

### **Social Innovation: Yangon Neighborhood Networks, Myanmar**

*Presenter: Mr. Thurein Aung, Director of Community Engagement, Doh Eain*

Mr. Thurein Aung discussed about the Yangon Neighborhood Networks, a grassroots initiative established in response to Myanmar's social protection collapse in 2021, exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis. The network has expanded to over 200 community groups nationwide, focusing on localization, funding support, trust-building, and climate adaptation. However, funding remains a critical challenge, with less than 10% of available resources reaching these groups. To improve coordination, the initiative relies on low-tech solutions like mobile phones and has partnered with ADPC and AAPP to extend its reach beyond Yangon into five additional regional networks.

**Outcome : Chiang rai province remains the province with the least of fire hotspot and burning area in the northern of Thailand.**



18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee of Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)



*Dr. Nion Sirimongkonlertkul introduced the 'Smoke Watch' mobile app and the 'Blue School' initiative at the 18<sup>th</sup> RCC Meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand*

Looking ahead, the initiative aims to enhance climate change adaptation efforts, establish a platform for local response mechanisms, and develop strategies for heatwave preparedness. Mr. Aung underscored the limitations of top-down approaches, stressing the importance of community-led disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts. He reaffirmed that strengthening local groups is essential for Myanmar's long-term resilience and recovery.

## Community Innovation: 'Smoke Watch' & 'Blue School' Projects, Thailand

*Presenter: Dr. Nion Sirimongkonlertkul, Air Quality Advocate, Rajamangala University of Technology*

Ms. Sirimongkonlertkul introduced the **'Smoke Watch'** mobile app and the **'Blue School'** initiative, both aimed at improving fire hotspot monitoring and raising awareness about air quality. These tools are designed to empower firefighters, local communities, and students in addressing air pollution and forest fire risks. The 'Smoke

Watch' app provides real-time fire data, allowing communities to respond more effectively, while the 'Blue School' initiative involves students in tracking air quality and advocating for environmental action, fostering a community-driven approach to cleaner air.

Despite the success of these initiatives, challenges such as limited resources for scaling these innovations remain. The goal is to scale these projects across Thailand and increase community awareness of air quality issues. The session concluded with a youth-led call for cleaner air and efforts to reduce smoke pollution.

## Approach Innovation: Anticipatory Actions in Asia- Pacific

*Presenter: Mr. Damien Riquet, Regional Anticipatory Actions Specialist, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAORAP)*

Mr. Damien Riquet shared an overview of the Anticipatory Actions (AA) Working Group, which has grown over the past decade to include 18 members across 13 countries, with plans to expand to 20 countries by 2025. Launched in collaboration with WFP, the initiative focuses on risk information, forecasting, strategic planning, and pre-disaster interventions to address hazards like droughts and typhoons.

The three main components of AA include:

- *Risk Information & Forecasting:* Implementing pre-agreed, risk-informed triggers for disaster response.
- *Strategic Planning & Risk Assessment:* Enhancing government coordination for early action.
- *Implementation & Logistics:* Ensuring preparedness in terms of financial and technical support for disaster response.

He further highlighted that in 2023, the initiative achieved 92 anticipatory responses across countries such as India, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Mongolia. The next step is to increase government collaboration to scale interventions and integrate stronger policies.

## Highlights from the Panel

The discussion focused on scaling successful innovations, addressing implementation challenges, and defining RCC's role in supporting localization and DRR initiatives. However, there are challenges in scaling and implementation.

Panelists highlighted shared obstacles to scaling up DRR initiatives:

- Limited community capacity and technical knowledge.
- Funding shortages and difficulties in securing long-term financial support.
- Challenges in integrating AI and emerging technologies for DRR.

The panelists discussed the potential of AI in enhancing disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts.

- Mr. Damien Riquet (FAO AA Initiative) emphasized AI's ability to address data accessibility gaps, particularly in forecasting disaster risks in regions like Timor-Leste.
- Mr. Thurein Aung from Myanmar noted that while AI is not yet fully integrated into their systems, there are plans to become AI-ready.
- Ms. Nion Sirimongkonlertkul from Thailand mentioned that although AI is not currently used in their air quality projects, they aim to build the necessary knowledge before incorporating AI-driven tools.



*Dr. Nion Sirimongkonlertkul emphasized the need for less fire and more clean air, expressing hope for a future with better air quality.*

## Key Consideration on DRR Insurance and Financial Sustainability

- *Integration of DRR Insurance into Anticipatory Actions:* While DRR insurance has not yet been formally incorporated into anticipatory actions, financial sustainability is recognized as essential for scaling such initiatives. Hybrid financing models could be explored to enhance localized disaster resilience efforts.
- *Community Awareness & Preparedness in DRR:* Many local communities are not disaster specialists, highlighting the need for accessible disaster risk reduction (DRR) related training programs. The focus is on breaking down complex DRR knowledge into smaller, more manageable training programs to improve community engagement and implementation.

## Key Considerations on the Future Outlook towards Scaling Innovations in the Next 5 Years

- *Strengthening Regional Cooperation:* Ms. Nion Sirimongkonlertkul emphasized the importance of enhancing regional cooperation to address shared environmental risks, such as those managed by the Mekong River Commission.
- *Building Alliances for Scaling Grassroots Initiatives:* Mr. Thurein Aung highlighted the need to establish alliances with other community networks to expand and scale grassroots disaster risk reduction initiatives.
- *Expanding Anticipatory Action (AA) Coverage:* Mr. Damien Riquet underscored the importance of increasing the coverage of anticipatory actions (AA) and increasing government involvement in pre-disaster interventions.



## RCC's Role in Advancing DRR Innovation: Key Takeaways

- *FAO (AA Initiative):* RCC should play a key role in fostering knowledge exchange, advocating for policy change, and enhancing government engagement to scale anticipatory actions.
- *Thailand (Air Quality Initiative):* RCC can assist in the creation and development of regional air quality monitoring applications.
- *Myanmar (Localization Initiative):* RCC should offer opportunities for smaller organizations to progress from low-tech solutions to more advanced disaster risk reduction solutions.



## GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN DRR

Disasters disproportionately impact marginalized and vulnerable groups, including women, girls, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and the elderly. Recognizing this, effective disaster risk reduction (DRR) must prioritize gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) considerations. This "UpFront Session 3: Gender and Social Inclusion in DRR" delved into the critical importance of integrating GESI perspectives throughout the entire DRR cycle, from risk assessment and planning to response and recovery.

Building upon the work of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) in promoting inclusive and equitable disaster risk reduction, this session explores how GESI considerations can enhance the effectiveness and equity of DRR efforts. By understanding the unique vulnerabilities and capacities of different social groups, we can ensure that DRR interventions are more inclusive, responsive, and sustainable. This

session showcases successful examples and best practices in integrating GESI into DRR planning and implementation at the local and community levels, demonstrating how a GESI-sensitive approach can lead to more equitable and resilient outcomes for all.

The session also identifies key challenges and opportunities in effectively integrating GESI into DRR across the Asia-Pacific region. This includes examining the policy and institutional frameworks that support or hinder GESI mainstreaming in DRR, as well as exploring the role of regional cooperation and collaboration in addressing these challenges. By fostering a deeper understanding of GESI considerations in DRR and identifying practical solutions, this session tends to contribute to a more inclusive and equitable disaster risk reduction future for the Asia-Pacific region.

### Session Summary

The Session on "Gender and Social Inclusion in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)" focused on the critical importance of integrating gender and social inclusion (GESI) considerations into DRR efforts. Chaired by a representative from CDRI and moderated by ADPC's GESI Mainstreaming Officer, the session featured panelists from the Thailand Environment Institute, UN Women, and Thailand's Ministry of Social Development and Human Security. Panelists shared case studies on inclusive community-level DRR, the Sendai Gender Action Plan, and locally-led climate actions among vulnerable groups. Discussions emphasized the challenges and opportunities in mainstreaming GESI in DRR, highlighting the need for policy reforms, regional collaboration, and capacity-building initiatives. Audience engagement provided insights into effective strategies for empowering marginalized communities in disaster resilience efforts. The session



*Panelist during the UpFront Session on Gender and Social Inclusion in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)*

concluded with key recommendations for ADPC on strengthening GESI integration into DRR policies and fostering cross-regional cooperation to scale best practices.

## Speakers and Panelist

- Chair: Ms. Ranjini Mukherjee, Center for Disaster Resilience Infrastructure (CDRI)
- Moderator: Ms. Momota Hena, GESI Mainstreaming Officer, ADPC
- Dr. Jeeranuch Sakkhamduang, Senior Researcher, Thailand Environment Institute (TEI)
- Ms. Aisha Gul, Humanitarian and DRR Analyst, UN Women
- Mr. Mak Srikhao, Head of the Highland People Development Subdivision, Department of Social Development and Welfare, Thailand

## Need for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

The session underscored the need for integrating Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) into all aspects of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), ensuring a truly inclusive and intersectional approach

throughout the disaster cycle. Panelists emphasized the importance of meaningful community participation, policy alignment with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and addressing systemic barriers that hinder effective GESI implementation.

A key takeaway from the discussion was the necessity of embedding GESI considerations at every stage of the DRR cycle starting from risk assessments and preparedness to response, recovery, and long-term rehabilitation. Participants highlighted that inclusive disaster management policies require planning, implementation, and continuous monitoring to address the unique vulnerabilities of marginalized groups. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was recognized as a guiding document, with its Gender Action Plan providing a strategic pathway for integrating GESI into national DRR policies. Case studies from Nepal and Pakistan illustrated how incorporating GESI in DRR initiatives enhances resilience and fosters more equitable recovery efforts.



*Dr. Jeeranuch Sakkhamduang, Senior Researcher, Thailand Environment Institute (TEI) highlighting the need to involve everyone in community and seek engagement from the local administrative organization*

## Community-Level Engagement & Challenges

Panelists emphasized that community-driven action is essential for equitable DRR outcomes, highlighting the need to actively involve marginalized groups such as the poor, elderly, persons with disabilities, and youth in decision-making. Traditional knowledge was recognized as a valuable asset in disaster preparedness. A key takeaway from the session was shifting from victimization to empowerment, viewing marginalized groups as solution providers. Capacity building, skills development, and leadership training were identified as crucial for fostering meaningful participation and long-term resilience. Challenges in integrating GESI into DRR including data gaps, underrepresentation in decision-making, and systemic exclusion, all of which hinder inclusive disaster resilience efforts.

## Call for Action

The key recommendations to strengthen GESI integration in DRR policies and programs includes:

- *Improving Data Systems* – Enhance data collection and analysis to better identify vulnerable populations based on sex, age, disability, and other relevant factors.
- *Allocating Dedicated Resources* – Ensure sufficient financial and human resources are committed to GESI-focused initiatives across government agencies.
- *Strengthening Community Engagement* – Expand community-based surveillance networks, involve local organizations, and empower grassroots leaders in DRR efforts.
- *Redesigning Social Protection* – Adapt social protection programs to be more inclusive and responsive to the needs of vulnerable populations in disaster situations.
- *Ensuring Inclusive Communication* – Make DRR communication materials and outreach accessible to all, including persons with disabilities and marginalized groups.
- *Fostering Cross-Sector Collaboration* – Enhance partnerships among governments, civil society, academia, and community organizations to advance GESI in DRR.



## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### RCC Member

- **Mr. Abu Daud Md. Golam Mustafa**  
Joint Secretary , MoDMR  
Bangladesh
- **Dasho Karma Galay**  
Director General, Department of Local  
Governance and Disaster Management  
(DLGDM), Ministry of Home and Cultural  
Affairs  
Bhutan
- **Mr. Kim Virak**  
Secretary General, National Committee for  
Disaster Management (NCDM)  
Cambodia
- **Mr. Socheath So**  
Senior Technical Official, National Committee  
for Disaster Management (NCDM)  
Cambodia
- **Mr. LI Xiaodong**  
General Engineer, Ministry of Emergency  
Management  
People's Republic of China
- **Dr. ZHOU Hongjian**  
Director, Disaster Risk Reduction and  
Assessment Department of Integrated  
Disaster Reduction and Reform  
Coordination, Ministry of Emergency  
Management  
People's Republic of China
- **Ms. TA Mier**  
Interpreter, International Cooperation  
Department, National Disaster Reduction  
Center, Ministry of Emergency Management  
People's Republic of China
- **Mr. Pawan Kumar**  
Director, Ministry of Home Affairs  
India

- **Mr. Prasetio Wijaksono**  
Section Head of International Cooperation  
Cooperation Division  
Legal, Organization and Cooperation Bureau,  
National Disaster Management Authority  
(BNPB)  
Indonesia
- **Brigadier General Dr Mohammad  
Mahmoud Al Omari**  
Director of Civil Defense Directorate, Civil  
Defense  
Jordan
- **Mr. Eung Beom Lee**  
Director, Disaster Management Policy  
Division  
Ministry of Interior and Safety (MOIS)  
Republic of Korea
- **Mr. Jeon In Seung**  
Head of Team, Disaster Management Policy  
Division  
Ministry of the Interior and Safety (MOIS)  
Republic of Korea
- **Ms. Jung You Jin**  
Director, Disaster Management Policy  
Division  
Ministry of the interior and Safety (MOIS)  
Republic of Korea
- **Mr. Vongkham Phanthanouvong**  
Director General, Department of Social  
Welfare  
Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare  
(MoLSW)  
Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR)
- **Ms. Vilaykham Lathsath**  
Deputy Director of Disaster Control and  
Recovery Division, Social Welfare  
Department, the Secretariat of the Central  
Disaster Management Committee  
Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR)
- **Mr. Rusli Bin Ibrahim**  
Director, National Disaster Management  
Agency (NADMA)  
Malaysia
- **Mr. Al-Amin Mukammal bin Abdul Razak**  
Principal Assistant Director (Operations)  
National Disaster Management Agency  
(NADMA)  
Malaysia
- **Mr. Hisan Hassan**  
Chief Executive, National Disaster  
Management Authority  
Maldives
- **Major Ankhtuya**  
National Emergency Management Agency  
(NEMA)  
Mongolia
- **Captain Dashdulam**  
National Emergency Management Agency  
(NEMA)  
Mongolia
- **Dr. Min Thein**  
Deputy Director General, Department of  
Disaster Management  
Myanmar
- **Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik**  
Chairman, National Disaster Management  
Authority (NDMA)  
Pakistan
- **Muhammad Idrees**  
Member DRR  
National Disaster Management Authority  
(NDMA)  
Pakistan
- **Muhammad Omair**  
Staff Officer with Chairman  
National Disaster Management Authority  
(NDMA)  
Pakistan
- **Lusete Laso Mana**  
Acting Director, National Disaster Centre  
Papua New Guinea
- **Assistant Secretary Bernardo Rafaelito**  
Office of Civil Defense  
Philippines

- **Mr. W.P.A.K. Thilakarathna**  
Director, Human Resources and Administration  
Disaster Management Centre  
Sri Lanka
- **Mr. Paskorn Boonyalug**  
Director General  
Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation  
Ministry of Interior  
Thailand
- **Ms. Chatchadaporn Boonpeerapas**  
Deputy Director General  
Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation  
Ministry of Interior  
Thailand
- **Mr. Jesuino Dos Reis de Matos Carvalho**  
President, Civil Protection Authority (CPA)  
Timor Leste
- **Mr. Mateus da Costa**  
Media Communication Officer, Civil Protection Authority (CPA)  
Timor Leste
- **Ms. Pascoela Almeida Orleans da Silva**  
Secretary of CPA President  
Timor Leste
- **Ms. Tran Viet Kim Chi**  
Viet Nam Disaster and Dyke Management Authority (VDDMA) Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Vietnam

## Diplomatic Mission

### Bangladesh

- **H.E. Mr. Faiyaz Murshid Kazi**  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Embassy of Bangladesh, Bangkok
- **Ms. Nayeem Rubaiyet**  
Counsellor Embassy of Bangladesh, Bangkok

### Cambodia

- **H.E. Mr. Hun Saroeun**  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Embassy of Cambodia, Bangkok
- **Ms. Niem Kanchana**  
First Secretary

### Lao PDR

- **Mr. Soulikone SAMOUNTY**  
First Secretary (Political and Multilateral Affairs)
- **Mr. Sonephet Douangphachanh**  
Second Secretary

### Maldives

- **Ms. Huda Ali Shareef**  
CDA/Deputy Ambassador Embassy of Maldives, Bangkok

### Mongolia

- **H.E. Mr. Tumor Amarsanaa**  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Embassy of Mongolia, Bangkok

### Nepal

- **H.E. Mr. Dhan Bahadur Oli**  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Embassy of Nepal, Bangkok
- **Mr. Prakash Adhikari**  
Deputy Chief of Mission/Minister Counsellor

### Pakistan

- **H.E. Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal**  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Embassy of Pakistan, Bangkok

### Philippines

- **H.E. Mrs. Millicent Cruz-Paredes**  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
- **Ms. Beatriz Ines L. Herrera-Davila**  
First Secretary and Consul Alternate  
Permanent Representative to UNESCAP  
Embassy of Philippines, Bangkok

### Sri Lanka

- **H.E. Mrs. Edirisinghe Arachchilage Sriyani Wijayanthi Edirisinghe**  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
- **Ms. A.W.S. Samanmali**  
Deputy Chief of Mission

### Thailand

- **Mr. Paisan Rupanichkij,**  
Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand

### Japan

- **Mr. OZAWA Haruka**  
Second Secretary

### Sweden

- **Dr. David Lymer**  
First Secretary and Senior Advisor  
Environment, Climate, and Research
- **Mr. Kriangkrai Thitimakorn**  
Senior Programme Officer Environment and Climate

## Switzerland

- **Mr. Philippe Brunet**  
Head of the Regional Thematic Hub in Bangkok  
SDC Regional Hub Southeast Asia  
Embassy of Switzerland in Thailand
- **Mr. Erik Kjaergaard**  
Senior Regional Programme Manager /  
Disaster Risk Management Advisor SDC  
Regional Hub Southeast Asia Embassy of  
Switzerland in Thailand

## New Zealand

- **Ms. Abigail Poole**  
Deputy Head of Mission
- **Ms. Tarika Wongsinsirikul**  
Senior Development Advisor on Climate  
Change

## Observers

- **H.E. Mr. Indra Mani Pandey**  
Secretary-General  
BIMSTEC
- **Mr. Dawa Tshering**  
Director Environment, Natural Disasters and  
Biotechnology Division  
SAARC
- **H.E. San Lwin**  
Deputy Secretary General  
ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community  
(ASCC)  
ASEAN
- **Mr. Ky Anh Nguyen**  
Director for Sustainable Development  
Directorate  
ASEAN
- **Dr. Riyanti Djalante**  
Head of Disaster Management and  
Humanitarian Assistance Division  
ASEAN
- **Pilar Pacheco**  
Senior Program Officer,  
Emergency Response  
Global Development Division  
Gates Foundation
- **Mr. Saroj Kumar Jha**  
Global Director World Bank Group's Water  
Global Practice
- **Ms. Melinda Good**  
Country Director, Thailand  
World Bank
- **Mr. Kamal Kishore**  
Special Representative of United Nations  
Secretary- General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk  
Reduction,  
Head of the United Nations Office for  
Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- **Mr. Marco Toscano-Rivalta**  
Chief of Office UNDRR Regional Office for  
Asia and the Pacific  
UNDRR
- **Ms. Diana Mosquera Calle**  
Deputy Chief, UNDRR ROAP – join 23 and  
reception  
UNDRR
- **Ms. Sunisa Ho**  
Associate Programme Management Officer
- **Mr. Alper Aras**  
Economic Affairs Officer
- **Mr. Harold Rice**  
Associate Program Officer
- **Ms. Anita Cadonau**  
External Relations Officer
- **Mr. SASAHARA Akio**  
Executive Director, Asian Disaster Reduction  
Centre (ADRC)
- **Ms. OHASHI Makiko**  
Director in Charge of International  
Cooperation Disaster Management Bureau  
Cabinet Office of Japan
- **Maj Gen Asghar Nawaz (Retd)**  
Former Chairman NDMA, Pakistan  
PIEDRR
- **Mr. Muhammad Fawad Hayat**  
Senior Director, Recharge Pakistan  
WWF
- **Rita Thakuri**  
Network Coordinator  
ADRRN
- **Dr. Kit Miyamoto**  
Global CEO  
Miyamoto International
- **Ms. Elizabeth Petheo**  
Senior Principal  
Miyamoto International
- **Ms. Kathryn Clarkson**  
Head of Country Cluster Delegation and  
Representative to the United Nations ESCAP  
IFRC

- **Mr. Vishwa Sinha**  
Senior Programme Officer  
IUCN
- **Ms. Tiziana Bonapace**  
Director, Information and Communications  
Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction  
Division  
ESCAP
- **Ms. Catherine Jones**  
Emergency and Rehabilitation Officer  
FAO
- **Mr. Philippe Brunet**  
Head of the Regional Thematic Hub in  
Bangkok SDC Regional Hub Southeast Asia  
Embassy of Switzerland in Thailand
- **Mr. Erik Kjaergaard**  
Senior Regional Programme Manager /  
Disaster Risk Management Advisor  
SDC Regional Hub Southeast Asia  
Embassy of Switzerland in Thailand
- **Ms. Ranjini Mukherjee**  
Director Research Knowledge Management  
& Capacity Development  
CDRI
- **Mr. Kensuke Molnar-Tanaka**  
Head of Asia Desk  
OECD Development Centre
- **Ms. Veena Vidyadharan**  
Feminist Influencing Lead Oxfam in Asia
- **Mr. Ibrahim Shameel**  
Manager, Programmes & Services  
Maldivian Red Crescent Society
- **Ms. Ishrat Shabnam**  
Country Director  
Practical Action, Bangladesh
- **Ms. Veronica Gabaldon**  
Executive Director  
Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation  
(PDFR)
- **Tadesse Bekele Fanta**  
Senior Technical Advisor  
Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management  
Commission (EDRMC)
- **Mr. Ben Churchill**  
Head, Regional Office for Asia and the South-  
West Pacific  
World Meteorological Organization
- **Dr. David Corbelli**  
International Development Manager Met  
Office  
United Kingdom

## Thai Agencies

### Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters

- **Lt. Kritsada Sitthiroek**  
Intelligence Analyst at the Geospatial Intelligence Operations Center
- **Colonel Didsaphan Naksen**  
Quality Assurance Officer
- **Lt. Col. Theerata Kultonta**  
Civil-Military Leader, Directorate of Joint Civil Affairs

### Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA)

- **Mr. Suntorn Suntornchat**  
Deputy Permanent Secretary

### Thai Meteorological Department (TMD)

- **Ms. Prapaporn WONGSAMING**  
Director of Numerical Weather Prediction Sub-Division

### Chulalongkorn University

- **Dr. Sineenat Sermcheep**  
Director ASEAN Studies Centre

### Department of Climate Change and Environment (DCCE)

- **Mr. Teerapong Laopongpith**  
Environmental Senior Professional Level

### Hydro - Informatics Institute (HII)

- **Ms. Jittiporn Chantarojsiri**  
Director of Special Project Collaboration and Corporate Communications Division
- **Ms. Sumaporn Puengpo**  
International Affairs Officer

### National Housing Authority (NHA)

- **Ms. Nydchakan Puchasutharod**  
Plan and Policy Analyst
- **Mr. Torphong Jumjod**  
Assist Governor
- **Mr. Atip Ragarcheep**  
Policy and Plan Analyst
- **Ms. Jongchit Vitprasertkul**  
Director, Division of Strategy and Housing Information
- **Mr. Chokanan Sudmee**  
Policy and Plan Analyst

### Department of Social Development & Welfare (DSDW)

- **Ms. Onwalun Narongdecha**  
Chief of Planning and Budget Group
- **Ms. Sawitee Keadchuang**  
Plan and Policy Analyst, Practitioner Level

### Office of the National Water Resources

- **Ms. Nilobol Aranyabhaga**  
Expert on Hydrology
- **Ms. Sumalee Phungkham**  
Director of Applied Hydrometeorology Sub-Division
- **Dr. Winai Wangpimool**  
Director of Foreign Affairs Division
- **Ms. Puttikul Tongnuesook**  
Irrigation Engineer, Senior Professional Level
- **Mr. Taradol Chumchuen**  
Practitioner Level
- **Ms. Mooktapa Mongkonsit**  
Hydrologist, Practitioner Level

### Pollution Control Department

- **Mr. Sakda Tridech**  
Director Air Quality and Noise Innovation  
Sub-division

### Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation

- **Ms. Chatchadaporn Boonpreeranat**  
Deputy Director-General
- **Ms. Duangnapa Uttamangkapong**  
International Cooperation Section  
Research and International Cooperation  
Bureau
- **Ms. Chattip Chumpong**  
Director Research and Development  
Section
- **Ms. Chatrapee Praditsarn**  
Foreign Relation at the Professional Level
- **Ms. Sasithorn Srirattanapibul**  
Plan and Policy Analyst
- **Ms. Wiphavee Sriprapai**  
Plan and Policy Analyst

### Ministry of Labour Thailand

- **Ms. Piyaret Songkaew**  
Labour Specialist



18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee  
of Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)



40 years in cooperation and implementation of disaster risk reduction and building  
climate resilience in Asia and the Pacific



© 2025 ADPC  
Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

ASIAN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS CENTER (ADPC)  
Head Office  
SM Tower 24th Floor No. 979/67-69  
Phahonyothin Road,  
Phaya Thai Sub-District Phaya Thai  
District, Bangkok 10400  
Tel:+66 2 298 0681-84  
Fax:+66 2 298 0012  
Email: [adpc@adpc.net](mailto:adpc@adpc.net)