

Global South-South Development Expo Leadership Roundtable 3: Enhancing multi-hazard early warning for disaster and health resilience

12 September 2022; 14:15 – 15:20 (Bangkok time)

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that the intersection of natural and health hazards increases the complexity of risk and adaptation objectives. The *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2021* shows that even though a number of biological hazards such as vector-borne and heat related diseases are closely linked with floods or heatwaves, these intersections have yet to be systematically included in disaster or health management policies.

Climate change is also adding a new layer of complexity, increasing both the frequency of natural hazards and intensity of related biological hazards, creating a vicious circle of disaster, climate and health challenges. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Reports (2021/2022) states that every fraction of a degree in warming translates into additional risks of increasing precipitation, tropical cyclones, heatwaves, drought, desertification, and land degradation and their related diseases such as malaria, dengue, heat stress and mortality and malnutrition.

While the overarching trends in climate change are global, the impacts of the 1.5°C and 2°C warming scenarios vary across all regions and sub-regions. Therefore, each sub-region requires its own risk profile or ‘riskscape’ with sub-regional specificities, both in terms of the risks and the key adaptation priorities. There is also an urgency to accelerate climate action, and particularly reverse the regressing trends on SDG 13.1 by strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity of the region to climate-related disasters. Towards this end, opportunities to strengthen interregional cooperation and tackle transboundary disaster-climate-health risks should be prioritized in order to build the resilience of countries and populations.

Objectives

The policy dialogue will identify pathways to build systemic resilience to multi-hazard and interregional risks through South-South cooperation. The objectives are:

- a) address the challenges and opportunities in developing multi-hazard frameworks for the specific set of hazard risks specific subregions and in the context of implementing the health aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 including through the Bangkok Principles;
- b) recommend pathways and collaborative policy actions through regional and sub-regional cooperation mechanisms for multi-hazard early warning systems that support climate and health resilience.

Expected outcomes

1. Action-oriented decision support tools for impact-based forecasting that supports early warning and action for disaster-climate-health resilience.
2. Strengthened South-South cooperation in research, analysis and policy formulation through regional and subregional cooperation mechanisms.

Target Participants

Ministers, Policymakers and technical experts from multiple sectors including disaster management, climate change, health, planning and foreign affairs.

Moderator and MC Mr. Chirachai Punkrasin, Executive Director, ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD)

PROGRAMME AGENDA	
14:00-14:15 (5 mins)	ESCAP will open the MS Teams link. Login of virtual participants. All speakers to join 15 minutes early
14:15-14:25 (10 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome remarks by Mr. Chirachai Punkrasin, Executive Director, ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDDSD) • Opening statement by Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of United Nations and Executive Secretary of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific • Recorded Keynote statement by H.E. Khadeeja Naseem, Minister of State for Environment, Climate Change and Technology, Maldives, and Chair of the Seventh Session of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction
VIRTUAL SIGNING CEREMONY	
14:25-14:31 (6 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remarks from H.E. Jagan Chapagain, Secretary-General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (joining virtually) (<u>Focus</u>: Interregional level south-south cooperation) • Signing of ESCAP-IFRC Memorandum of Understanding, with H.E. Jagan Chapagain and Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana
PRESENTATIONS	
14:32-14:45 (13 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video Demonstration of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund on Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness • Video Demonstration of the Risk and Resilience Portal to support resilience to the disaster-climate-health nexus and south-south cooperation • Video Demonstration of the Regional Drought Mechanism
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION	
“Strengthening multihazard early warning for disaster and health resilience”	
14:45-15:10 (20 mins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Ku Bunnavuth, Director of Cooperation and ASEAN Department, Cambodia (<u>Focus</u>: Perspective on South-South cooperation for resilience building from an LDC) • Ms Vasiti Soko, Director National Disaster Management Office, Fiji (<u>Focus</u>: SIDS perspective on building health resilience through integrated early warning systems) - <i>joining virtually</i> • Dr. Riyanti Djalante, Assistant Director for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance at the Secretariat of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (<u>Focus</u>: ASEAN-UN Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management: 2021-2025) - <i>joining virtually</i> • Dr. Indrajit Pal, Associate Professor and Chair, Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation and Management, Asian Institute of Technology (<u>Focus</u>: Regional transformative adaptation for disaster and health resilience) - <i>joining virtually</i>
CLOSING SESSION	
15:05–15:20 (15 mins)	Open discussion on way forward and concluding remarks