

Regional knowledge and cooperation initiatives for improved disaster risk reduction in Asia and the Pacific

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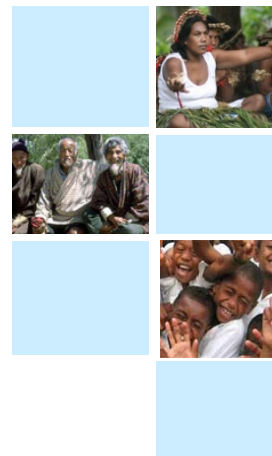
Information and Communications Technology
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United Nations Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2011
13-15 June 2011, Colombo, Sri Lanka

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

- ESCAP is the regional development arm of the United Nations for the Asia-Pacific region
- 62 members and associate members
- The largest United Nations body serving the Asia-Pacific region
- ESCAP has more than five decades of experience integrating disaster risk management with economic and social development at the regional level.



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Regional cooperative mechanisms initiated by ESCAP

2010 – Central Asia DRR Knowledge Network

2010 – Asia-Pacific Gateway for DRR and Development

2010 – RCM Drought Monitoring and Early Warning

2008 - Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction

2005 – ESCAP Tsunami Regional Trust Fund

1994 - Regional Space Applications Programme (RESAP)

1973- WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones

1968 - ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee

1957 - Mekong River Commission

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Mekong River Commission

- The MRC has been built on a foundation of nearly 50 years of knowledge and experience in the region starting from 1957 when it began as the UN-founded Mekong Committee.
- 4 members: Cambodia; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Thailand; Viet Nam.
- Implements several programmes, including flood management and mitigation programme



Opening of Mekong Committee office in Bangkok by Dag Hammarskjöld (left), Secretary-General of the United Nations, 1959



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 UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP
 Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific


 Strengthening regional cooperation for the improved management of disasters





 UNITED NATIONS
 Economic and Social
 Commission for Asia and
 the Pacific



 World
 Meteorological
 Organization



UNESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee


- Intergovernmental body (established in 1968)
- 14 members: Cambodia; China; DPR Korea; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Lao PDR; Macao, China; Malaysia; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Singapore; Thailand; United States of America; Viet Nam.
- Main objective: To promote and coordinate the planning and implementation of measures required to minimize the loss of life and material damage caused by typhoons.

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 the Pacific

WMO /UNESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones

- Intergovernmental body (established in 1971)
- 8 members: Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand.
- Main objective: to promote measures to improve tropical cyclone warning systems in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea.

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Regional Space Applications Programme (RESAP)

- **1994:** Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (RESAP) launched by the first Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development, Beijing
- Promote regional cooperative mechanisms on space technology applications for disaster risk management :
 - **2010:** Regional Mechanism for Disaster Monitoring and Early Warning, Particularly Drought launched with support of China, India, Thailand, WMO and other UN agencies
 - Exploring regional cooperative mechanism on floods
- Collaborate with JAXA and regional space agencies to support Sentinel Asia - a disaster management support system in the Asia-Pacific region

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ESCAP Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness

2005: support to tsunami early warning through a multi-hazard approach in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian countries.

2010: broadening of the scope to include overall disaster and climate preparedness, with a focus on end-to-end early warning coastal hazards.

16 projects supported (total US\$ 11,3 million). Results include:

- Regional architecture for tsunami EWS - establishment and institutionalization of RIMES (ADPC and Maldives).
- Filling gaps in the region for SOP capacity for coastal disasters (with UNDP, APRC, IOC UNESCO).
- Improved warning communication and awareness through broadcasters (ABU).
- Gaps filled in the regional network for tsunami warning (Myanmar, Viet Nam, Philippines).

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Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction

ESCAP resolution 64/1 established an intergovernmental Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction as a regional platform to formulate regional perspectives and facilitate discussions on collective efforts and actions required

Issues addressed by the Committee:

- Policy options and strategies on multi-hazard disaster risk reduction and mitigation
- Regional cooperation mechanisms for disaster risk management, including space and other technical support systems
- Multi-hazard assessment, preparedness, early warning and response to disaster risks
- ICT applications for disaster risk reduction

First session - 25-27 March 2009
Second session - 29 June-1 July 2011

Strategic framework

ESCAP's Subprogramme on ICT and disaster risk reduction

To promote applications of information and communications technology and to enhance regional cooperation for improved disaster risk reduction and management, as well as for improved management of the associated socio-economic risks, for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific

Socio-economic focus

- Socio-economic analysis of disaster risk reduction and effects of disasters to development
- Damage and loss assessment, including capacity building
- Technical assistance to integrate disaster risk reduction into economic and social development, putting people first

Building regional knowledge



Asia-Pacific Disaster Report

Jointly published by ESCAP and UN/ISDR

Chapters:

- Socio-economic impacts of disasters
- Reducing vulnerability, socio-economic perspectives
- Making the recovery resilient
- Capitalizing on new technology
- Cooperating across the region
- Way forward

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Regional cooperative resources by ESCAP

Asia Pacific Disaster Report

ESCAP statistics

Socio-economic studies

ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee

WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones

Regional Space Application Programme

RCM on Drought Monitoring and EW

Central Asia DRR Knowledge Network



- Promote mainstreaming of DRR into development planning at national level
- Target the information, capacity and networking needs of NDMA and other line ministries working on DRR
- Improve access and aggregates relevant information from existing online resources whilst providing analytical tools and opportunities on mainstreaming DRR
- Provide a regional online network, encouraging communities of practice and regional cooperation

External Partners

The Gateway is a partner initiative involving:

- Knowledge partners
- Resource Partners
- Theme moderators

UNISDR Prevention Web
- Warehouse of DRR Info/knowledge

ISDR Asia Partnership on Disaster Reduction:
DRR Project Portal
- providing information on different DRR projects and initiatives in the region

Other partners

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