

Stimulating dialogue for cooperation and finding common solutions

Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC)

Technical and operational structure

RCC Secretariat

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
979/69, SM Tower, 24th Floor, Paholyothin Road, Samsen Nai, Phayathai
Bangkok 10400, Thailand
www.rccdm.net
www.adpc.net

Contents

1. Background.....	2
2. Objectives of the RCC	3
3. Member Countries	3
4. Current Context and Value Addition.....	4
5. Operational Mechanism.....	6

1. Background

The Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC) was established by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) in 2000 as one of the early regional fora to promote consultation and cooperation in reducing disaster risk in Asia and the Pacific. The RCC aims to provide a consultative mechanism for guiding implementation of disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts and promoting transboundary cooperation and regional programs. The RCC is also charged with guiding ADPC's future work by identifying priorities and emerging issues. ADPC is the Secretariat to the RCC, facilitating the overall management and operations of the RCC mechanism in addition to following up on its decisions taken by its members during annual meetings.

1.1 RCC meetings' themes

The annual meetings facilitate theme-specific discussions and implementation options through the member country's perspective. The thematic foci are based on three factors: priorities/preference of the host country; existing regional and global priorities; and outcomes of regional and global DRR conferences and meetings. This approach ensure that deliberations will be harmonized with the current DRR discourse and can be used to operationalize DRR activities across the RCC member countries.

Table 1: Timeline of RCC meetings

#	Date	Year	Country	Meeting Theme
1	20-22 Nov	2000	Thailand	DRR agenda setting for RCC member countries
2	31 Oct 2 Nov	2001	Thailand	Flood Preparedness and Mitigation
3	29-31 Oct	2002	India	Drought Risk Management
4	29-31 Mar	2004	Bangladesh	Urban Risk Management
5	18-20 May	2005	Viet Nam	Mainstreaming DRR into Development
6	9-11 Nov	2006	China	Mainstreaming DRR into Development / HFA
7	8-10 May	2008	Sri Lanka	Rights based Community led Disaster Risk Management
8	22-24 Feb	2010	Philippines	Community based DRR in High Risk Communities
9	28-30 Nov	2011	Cambodia	Linking Community based DRR and CCA
10	25-27 Mar	2013	Mongolia	Local Level Actions for Sustainable DRR and CCA
11	1-4 Apr	2014	Myanmar	Reducing Disaster Risk and Transforming Development
12	16-18 Jun	2015	Bhutan	Risk Sensitive Development
13	17-19 Oct	2016	Pakistan	Operationalizing Global Frameworks for Risk Resilient Development

1.2 Synergy

Since the RCC discussions are directed at strategizing implementation methods for the development outcomes from noteworthy conferences related to DRR, this work has resulted in important achievements over the past 17 years. The engagement led to long-term programs implemented by ADPC and the RCC countries. One example is the program on "Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development (MDRD)" which was initiated in 2005 and concluded, after ten years, in 2015 as one of the RCC's flagship initiatives. ADPC worked in partnership with member countries to systematically

integrate DRR into a number of development planning processes in addition to producing successful outputs including the provision of national action plans and road maps for mainstreaming DRR into development.

In addition, the RCC has played a pivotal role in supporting the shaping and implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in Asia from 2005 to 2015 and is continuing in this role for the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (SFDRR) as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Over the years, the RCC has guided government decision-makers from many RCC countries to promote disaster and climate resilient development by developing and implementing national action plans for DRR. ADPC has supported this by helping in developing risk-sensitive development planning processes, roadmaps for mainstreaming DRR which include national and local-level policy reviews; national and local-level policy and planning guidelines; training manuals, guidebooks and handbooks; and capacity building initiatives at national and community level. These outputs would not have been possible without the RCC mechanism as a platform to galvanize the country's willingness, the identification of regional and national needs, the establishment of cooperative goals, and the facilitation of information-sharing.

1.3 Participation

National Disaster Management Organizations (NDMOs) represent the RCC member countries during its annual meetings. Depending on the meeting theme, experts from other line ministries, such as finance and development planning, also participate. In addition, DRR practitioners, representatives of development organizations (e.g. U.N. agencies, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and international non-governmental organizations) attend the RCC meetings as invited observers (and sometimes technical contributors). The list of observers will be enhanced by bringing in existing DRR networks from the private sector, and networks of civil society actors such as the Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR), and the involvement of academe working in DRR. This broad range of representation and perspective helps to ensure that meetings are dynamic and inclusive.

2. Objectives of the RCC

The RCC is part of ADPC's wider engagement and defined in the ADPC Charter, providing the organization with key inputs and guidance from the RCC member countries. It helps to identify disaster-related needs and priorities of its members, promote regional and sub-regional cooperation programs, and develop regional action strategies for DRR. RCC is, as defined in Article 8 of the ADPC Charter, set up for:

- a) the development of action strategies for disaster reduction in Asia and the Pacific;
- b) promoting cooperative programs on a regional and sub-regional basis; and
- c) providing guidance to ADPC on its future work and strategies.

3. Members

To date, 26 countries are members of the RCC mechanism (see Table 2). Some additional countries have expressed interest in joining the RCC (e.g. Japan, Singapore, Tajikistan and Turkey, possibly some from the Pacific). Additional members' requests are considered by the RCC and recommended to the

Chair of the Board of Trustees of ADPC who will invite the country to become a member (in accordance with Article 8.3 of the ADPC Charter).

Membership is renewed on a three-yearly basis. The mechanism for renewal is managed by the Secretariat.

Table 2: RCC member countries

Southeast Asia	East Asia	South Asia	Central and West Asia	Pacific
1. Brunei	11. China	14. Afghanistan	22. Georgia	26. Papua New Guinea
2. Cambodia	12. South Korea	15. Bangladesh	23. Kazakhstan	
3. Indonesia	13. Mongolia	16. Bhutan	24. Iran	
4. Lao PDR		17. India	25. Jordan	
5. Malaysia		18. Maldives		
6. Myanmar		19. Nepal		
7. Philippines		20. Pakistan		
8. Thailand		21. Sri Lanka		
9. Timor Leste				
10. Viet Nam				

4. Current Context and Value Addition

More than seventeen years have passed since the mechanism was originally set up and over that time the regional and global DRR landscape has greatly changed, both in terms of policy and institutions. As such, regional DRR requirements, in terms of institutional, practical, technical, and policy needs, have changed too. In response, the RCC mechanism has been reviewed and revised to ensure that RCC meetings are conducted in a way that ensures it addresses current and relevant issues and provides added value for its member countries. It also needs to support other regional meetings/platforms for enhancing the resilience of communities and institutions to disaster and climate change risk.

4.1 Focusing on implementation

Within Asia, there are numerous regional mechanisms that focus on DRR policy. For example, the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR), the ASEAN Secretariat, and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) carry considerable political weight and are vital regional platforms. However, there is a need to have operational and technically-focused mechanisms, which the RCC seeks to maintain. At the same time, it allows ADPC, through the RCC, to deliver added value to member countries as the lead technical regional institution and define the nature of the support that can be extended to member countries in implementing the RCC programs in the near future. Previous RCC meetings have always maintained a focus on implementation, helping to secure its unique position within the regional landscape. By focusing on the means and tools of implementation, the RCC mechanism provides governments with a forum to discuss the concrete and tangible aspects of DRR.

4.2 Alignment with relevant global frameworks

The RCC continues its role in drawing from and aligning itself with the global frameworks addressing DRR, climate resilience, sustainable and equitable development. Specifically, the RCC focus on operationalizing the following frameworks and agreements at local, national and regional levels:

- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- The Paris Agreement on Climate Change
- The World Humanitarian Summit
- Habitat III – The new Urban Agenda

4.3 Building through complementarities

With a number of global and regional high-level policy-setting mechanisms in place already, the RCC seeks to complement by developing technical programs and projects for implementation. In this way, delivery of technical solutions directly draws from high-level policy, but the RCC itself does not craft such policy.

The RCC mechanism will look towards supporting and actively contributing to the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the SFDRR, which was launched at the AMCDRR in 2016. The mechanism will look to support the Asia Regional Plan by: a) assisting RCC countries through technical inputs at national level; and b) through active discussions, knowledge and information sharing, and the identification of evidence-based best practices during RCC meetings.

The RCC will look to support and contribute to the implementation and operationalization of the ASEAN's Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response Work Program (AADMER Work Program, 2016-2020), the SAARC's Action Plan on Climate Change, the work of the SAARC-Disaster Management Center (Interim Unit), the Heart of Asia's Confidence Building Measure on Disaster Management, and the Economic Cooperation Organization's (ECO) Regional Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific.

4.4 Learning and knowledge exchange

Promoting DRR learning and knowledge exchange will continue to be one of the key contributions of the RCC mechanism, and it will continue to enhance the same over the coming years utilizing the experiences from the member countries, from the RCC Secretariat, and through the RCC observers. It brings together wide-ranging technical expertise of member states and the development partners and encourages for bilateral and multilateral cooperation on DRR. The RCC will continue to provide an opportunity for technical staff in member countries to learn about DRR solutions that other countries in the region have implemented successfully. In addition, the RCC's website will be enhanced by redeveloping it into a knowledge hub which will highlight lessons learned and good practices shared by member countries. The RCC website will also be utilized as a platform for member countries to interact on regular basis, leading to an increase in its utility.

4.5 Implementing the Sendai Framework for DRR

The RCC's redefined focus predominantly facilitates the implementation of the SFDRR in addition to contributing to other global frameworks (see 4.2 above). For this purpose, the RCC will continue to guide the ADPC's programmatic and strategic approach, which is reflected from ADPC's *Strategy-2020*. The annual RCC meetings will continue to engage, encourage, and support member countries to implement priority areas under the Action Plan 2018-2020 of the Asia Regional Plan for

Implementation of the SFDRR (see 4.3. above) More specifically, the technical focus of the RCC will focus on the regional actions indicated under the four priorities of the SFDRR, which include the following:

Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk – *To operationalize this priority, the RCC mechanism will promote the development of regional guidelines and tools on inclusive and integrated disaster risk assessments; strengthen regional cooperation including public-private partnerships for the research, development and application of science, technology and innovation for DRR, with particular consideration to utilize the use of rights-based approaches which highlights the needs of those most at risk, including children, women, persons with disabilities, the elderly, displaced and migrant populations and those in vulnerable situations such as the poor and marginalized. Actions under this priority will also focus on regional learning and knowledge exchange (see 4.4.) through the mechanism by sharing of good practices, lessons, peer-to-peer knowledge sharing, North-South cooperation, complemented by South-South and triangular cooperation.*

Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk – *The RCC mechanism will support the enhancement of regional cooperation and coordination on DRR by utilizing existing regional platforms such as the Asian Ministerial Conference’s ISDR Asia Partnership Forum by sharing its learnings, and lessons learned on effective and successful utilization of the Sendai Framework Monitoring. In addition, the Mechanism, through its Secretariat will promote and support gender equality in disaster risk reduction and will continue to encourage NDMOs and stakeholder groups to consistently implement, monitor and report on their voluntary commitments to the Asia Regional Plan and the SFDRR.*

Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience- *Under this priority, the RCC mechanism will continue to facilitate the exchange of leading practices and lessons learned with public and private sector organizations, especially on forming successful public-private partnership for DRR. In addition, the mechanism will continue to encourage the provision of human, financial, and technical resources by multilateral and bilateral donors to support actions to implement DRR in the region and in RCC member states.*

Priority 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to ‘build-back-better’ in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction – *by strengthening existing regional mechanisms to enhance multi-hazard early warning and preparedness for multiple and transboundary hazards, as well as pre- and post- disaster recovery frameworks; and strengthen regional cooperation on preparedness by sharing innovations, new technologies, data and good practices.*

5. Operational Mechanism

Through heads of NDMOs, the member countries guide the RCC mechanism. Building on the outcome (regional and national DRR needs and priorities) of the annual RCC meetings, ADPC mobilizes resources for new projects and programs and at the same time aligns its ongoing activities with member countries’ preferences reflected through the RCC meetings. ADPC, being the RCC’ s Secretariat, reports its progress back to member countries at the annual RCC meetings.

Apart from the implementation of DRR activities from the RCC's platform, organizing its annual meetings is yet another key aspect of the mechanism. ADPC makes all the technical and logistical arrangements in consultation with and the guidance from the RCC's Steering Committee.

5.1 RCC Steering Committee

Following the instruction of the 13th RCC meeting for the establishment of an RCC Steering Committee the following structure and function is proposed for consideration. The purpose of the Steering Committee is to lead and guide the RCC cooperation mechanism, ensure accountability of the mechanism to member countries and helps improve its utility and ownership on a long-term basis. More specifically, the Steering Committee aims to undertake the following:

- Provide support to the RCC in terms of drafting and proposing programs, initiatives, statements, themes of annual meetings, and other elements;
- Create synergies with existing sub-regional platforms and promote bi-lateral and transboundary cooperation;
- Facilitate and oversee the organization of the RCC meetings and prepare the pipeline of hosts for upcoming RCC meetings; a
- .

The Steering Committee is composed of RCC members, the Secretariat and one representative of observers. In total the Steering Committee has 10 members. The description of the Steering Committee members is given below:

- **Current and Outgoing Chair:** Host country of the ongoing or most recent RCC meeting
- **Incoming Chair:** RCC country to host the next RCC meeting
- **Secretary:** ADPC's Executive Director acts as Secretary on behalf of the RCC Secretariat
- **Six RCC members representatives (three of ADPC's Board of Trustees and three others):** (three of either Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka or Thailand and three from RCC countries other than the nine listed above)
- **Representative of Observers:** One representative of the RCC meeting observers to provide inputs and comments from non-RCC members (invited from amongst key donors, UN agencies, academe conducting resilience work, and other global networks of CSOs).

5.2 Production of Meeting Outputs

The RCC meeting results in two key outputs; the RCC Statement and the RCC Meeting Report. These two key outputs are developed under the guidance of the Steering Committee. However, RCC meeting outputs are not limited to the statement and report as outputs can be pre-determined during the preparatory stages of the RCC at the request of the Chair/Steering Committee. For example, other outputs may be systematically used and linked to other regional and sub-regional programs of work and other activities in the country and region such as the Asia Regional Plan, the AADMER work program, the Heart of Asia Confidence Building Measure on Disaster Management, and the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific.

5.3 Diversifying RCC's Portfolio

The RCC members, supported by the Secretariat, continue to diversify the RCC's portfolio to enhance initiatives, which include, among others, the following:

- The creation of RCC-aligned activities in member countries and in the region, which may go beyond work programs launched at the RCC meetings.
- The creation of RCC communications such as newsletters and an active website to highlight the work of the RCC. Utilize the platform for interacting between NDMOs and development planning agencies before and after annual meetings through sharing of lessons and good practices, webinars, online discussions on pre-selected topics, etc.
- Identifying the need for regional capacity building for which courses and training to can be developed and delivered.
- Promotion of regional and transboundary cooperation, through south-south cooperation, and other forms of knowledge-sharing platforms to maximize the benefits for RCC member countries.

5.4 Sustainability

Since its inception in 2000, the RCC mechanism has been receiving support from member countries and the development partners. Member countries support for organizing the annual meetings has proved to be a major contribution towards enhancing the ownership of the RCC mechanism. At the same time, the development partners have remained consistent in extending their generous support for undertaking programmatic activities and organizing the annual meetings. RCC Secretariat (ADPC) will continue to strengthen its ongoing partnership with regional and national stakeholders for the continuity of the RCC mechanism in years to come.

The following contributes to the future sustainability of the RCC Mechanism:

- ***Aligned strategy with global, regional and sub-regional initiatives***
The RCC mechanism is expected to and align its strategy towards achieving global resilience frameworks, and link initiatives with various regional (such as the Asia Regional Plan, and the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific), sub-regional (AADMER Work Plan, SAARC-DM Work Plan on Disaster Management, etc.) initiatives while contributing to the national priorities towards resilience. (See 4.3: Building through Complementarities.)
- ***Complementing existing DRR/CCA programs conducted by the Secretariat***
The Secretariat will continue to develop multi-year, multi-country initiatives, in which its learnings and good practices will be shared with member states during RCC meetings to enhance learning and information exchange as indicated in 4.4: Learning and Information Exchange.
- ***Member countries' enhanced contribution***
Member countries are expected to enhance their contribution in terms of sharing the cost of annual meetings, most specifically, in terms of supporting the travel, accommodation, and associated costs of their participating officials.
- ***Joint action, collaboration and coordination between ADPC, member countries and development partners***
By utilizing the RCC Mechanism to develop defined and consolidated needs and priorities of member-states, and other partners and donors who are willing to respond to these needs ensuring that interventions are demand-driven and leading to effective multi-year and multi-country results-based interventions.