



15th ROCC

REGIONAL
CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE on
DISASTER
MANAGEMENT

**Enhancing Regional Cooperation and Coherence for
Resilient and Inclusive Societies**

**15 - 17 January 2020
Bangkok, Thailand**

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

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15th Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC)

(Summary of Proceedings)

The 15th RCC meeting, conducted on 15 – 17 January 2020 in Bangkok, Thailand, under the overarching theme of *Enhancing Regional Cooperation and Coherence for Resilient and Inclusive Societies*, was co-hosted by Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM), Government of Thailand. A total of 18 member countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, P.R. China, India, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, Viet Nam) and 36 international observers were in attendance.

The opening ceremony was graced by Mr. Niphon Bunyamane, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Interior, Government of Thailand; Mr. Monton Sudprasert, Director General, DDPM, Government of Thailand; Mr. Rongvudhi Virabutr, Deputy Director General, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Thailand; Mr. Prem Kumar Rai, Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Nepal; H.E. Mr. Staffan Herrström, Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Sweden in Thailand; Hon. Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Member of Parliament and Chairman, Standing Committee of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of Bangladesh; Prof. Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, Co-Founder, ADPC; and Mr. Hans Guttman, Executive Director, ADPC.

Sub-theme 1 - Coherence and inclusion: Enhancing the implementation of coherence between the global frameworks through inclusive resilience

The first sub-theme of the meeting built on ongoing regional discussions in Asia and the Pacific and aligned with the Ulaanbaatar Declaration's call for acceleration of actions to develop and implement national and local strategies towards achieving Target E of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR). Member countries provided updates on progress, challenges and solutions towards achieving Target E beyond 2020 and participated in a working group discussion which was structured around the three pillars of the upcoming Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) to be held in Australia in June 2020.

Key Discussion Points

- Key actions to ensure acceleration of Target E beyond 2020 include addressing institutional arrangements and capacities; ensuring financial mechanisms are institutionalized; and encouraging partnerships, monitoring and reporting.
- Thailand with its collaboration between 23 line-ministries and 71 disaster risk reduction (DRR) provincial focal points is working towards ensuring DRR implementation.
- Pakistan presented an overview of DRR and climate resilience (CR) efforts to create synergies in the relevant targets of the international frameworks.
- Bangladesh presented progress in local DRR strategies in strengthening women participation and disability inclusive Disaster Risk Management (DRM) at all levels across preparedness efforts.
- The Philippines provided an overview of the capacity development initiatives for local governments to promote and achieve coherence as well as local resilience.
- Mongolia highlighted the establishment of a national platform and local platforms to support implementation of an action plan targeted towards priorities of the SFDRR.

- UNWomen presented a living document that indicates the increase in coordination among countries working with women organizations and efforts to have more women representation in ministries/departments.
- Persons with disabilities, children and youth, gender equality, indigenous people and displaced persons working groups delved into experiences, challenges and barriers in ensuring financial provisions, accountability and inclusive DRR policies, specific to each group's particular needs and concerns.

Sub-theme 2 - Building resilience through inclusive and rights-based approaches

Sub-theme 2 promoted inclusive and rights-based approaches for disaster and climate resilience, and discussing the challenges and practical solutions towards inclusive resilience in the region. At the very outset it was highlighted that Ulaanbaatar Declaration specifies the need to ensure a human rights-based approach (HRBA) in line with the SFDRR's call to promoting and protecting all human rights, including the right to development and promoting universally accessible approaches that highlight gender equality and women's leadership as fundamental principles.

Key Discussion Points

- A key step to a HRBA includes compilation and review of existing international standards and guidelines and development of simple checklists to integrate human rights perspectives targeting specific phases of DRM to be applied at the local level.
- A research conducted to understand the integration of rights-based approaches in preparedness for response promotes the importance of implementing transformative processes necessary to address the roots of vulnerability and encourage participation of marginalized groups.

Sub-theme 3 – Data for resilience

There has been significant progress in strengthening statistical capacity building in view of complex data systems in Asia and the Pacific region. To continue supporting countries in setting up methodologies to collect disaster loss data and risk profiles by 2020, as stated in the Asia Regional Plan, sub-theme 3 enabled member countries to highlight key challenges and potential solutions in ensuring quality data for resilience.

Key Discussion Points

- Disaster-related statistics must be dynamic and actionable by policy makers, responders and DRR practitioners in both pre- and post-disaster contexts and supported by risk-informed policies.
- UNDRR will continue leveraging the strengths of partners to increase outreach to member states in reporting data through the online Sendai Framework Monitor (SFM).
- Bhutan provided an overview of a mechanism developed for monitoring and reporting progress on SFDRR through SFM.
- China proposed to establish a full-time Sendai Framework liaison system between member states to encourage experience-sharing.
- Myanmar proposed to upgrade Myanmar's Disaster Management and Loss Database in line with the SFDRR.
- Data ecosystems should include a narrative of the current condition and trend analysis of historical loss and damages to support in identifying vulnerable areas.
- Data providers are encouraged to identify the benefits of strengthening stakeholder understanding and utilization of data and new technology.



Sub-theme 4 – Building resilience in fragile contexts

The prevention and mitigation of disasters and conflicts have been treated separately, with different frameworks and institutions. However, there is a strong recognition that DRR promotes civility, civil mindedness, and resilience, and therefore, highlights a key element of its potential to enhance understanding and contribute to sustainable peace. Under sub-theme 4, member countries explored linkages between DRR and conflict and looked towards utilization of the SFDRR as a mechanism for conflict prevention through inclusive processes.

Key Discussion Points

- There is a need to address disaster and conflict as mutually reinforcing factors, starting with documenting and highlighting lessons learned that will strengthen the understanding of types of DRR actions that are viable and applicable to improving policies and strengthening program design and delivery in conflict-affected areas.
- There is a need to ensure that funds are targeted towards hard-to-reach communities through greater coherence and consistency of action.
- Afghanistan emphasized the recent uptake of a new definition of humanitarian risk to include conflict should support in reshaping resilience building and strengthening coping capacities.
- The Philippines highlighted the role the Commission on Human Rights in promoting a global discourse on human rights issues as an entry point for integrating rights-based and inclusive approaches in disaster and conflict-affected areas.
- DRR could be linked with peace building and conflict prevention approaches, embedding both disaster and post-conflict response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction technical teams.
- Sri Lanka promoted the need to bring all responsible ministries under one action plan to strengthen coordination in post-conflict reconciliation and reconstruction activities.

In the closing session of the 15th RCC meeting, member countries and international observers were invited to share perspectives to support in enhancing the RCC's effectiveness in the region. Member countries reiterated their commitments to the mechanism and, together with international observers, emphasized the need to explore further avenues for collaboration and cooperation on DRR and CR.

The [Bangkok Statement](#), presented prior to the closing of the 15th RCC meeting, highlights the commitments of delegates and observers of the meeting to call upon parties of the UN frameworks to uphold their commitments in implementing inclusive DRR and CR strategies and action plans at national and local level; strengthen their efforts to integrate gender equality in DRR and CR; engage with and build capacities to support inclusive resilience; and work towards promoting risk-informed development.

The 16th RCC meeting will be held in Korea. Meeting dates and venue will be announced later.

The RCC mechanism will continue to strive to leverage discussions and observe opportunities to inform other regional forums, including the 2020 APMCDRR, by building on its pillars of investing on prevention, making infrastructure and systems resilience, and sharing knowledge and innovations. ADPC, as Secretariat to the RCC, will continue supporting member countries in meeting their commitments to the Bangkok Statement and formulation or revision of national and local DRR strategies and plans.

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