

*Stimulating dialogue for cooperation
and finding common solutions*

Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC)

Technical and operational structure

RCC SECRETARIAT



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1. Background

The Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC) was established by Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) in 2000 as one of the early regional fora to promote consultation and cooperation in reducing disaster and climate change risk in Asia and the Pacific. The RCC aims to provide a consultative mechanism for guiding the implementation of disaster risk reduction (DRR) and resilience efforts, promoting transboundary cooperation, and designing regional programs. The RCC mechanism also guides ADPC's future work by identifying priorities and emerging issues in the field of DRR. ADPC is the Secretariat of the RCC. It facilitates the management and operations of the mechanism in addition to following up on the statements issued by member countries after every RCC Meeting.

1.1 RCC meetings' themes

The annual meetings facilitate theme-specific discussions and implementation options through the member countries' perspective. The thematic foci are based on three factors:

- a) priorities/preference of the host country;
- b) existing regional and global priorities;
- c) outcomes of regional and global DRR conferences and meetings.

This approach ensures that deliberations will be harmonized with the current DRR and resilience 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
14	3-5 Dec	2018	Nepal	Policies and Practices for Coherence between Global Frameworks

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 significant 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 several development planning processes. It also produced successful outputs, including 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 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 governments with 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 countries’ 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 meetings. Depending on the meeting theme, experts from other line ministries, such as finance and development planning, also participate. In addition, DRR practitioners and representatives of development organizations attend the RCC meetings as invited observers (and sometimes technical contributors). The list of observers will be enhanced by bringing in existing DRR and resilience networks from the private sector and networks of civil society actors, and the involvement of academe working in DRR. This broad range of representation and perspective helps to ensure that RCC 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. The 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

More than 20 countries are members of the RCC mechanism (see Table 2). 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
Brunei	China	Afghanistan	Kazakhstan	Papua New Guinea
Cambodia	South Korea	Bangladesh	Iran	
Indonesia	Mongolia	Bhutan	Jordan	
Lao PDR		India		
Malaysia		Maldives		
Myanmar		Nepal		
Philippines		Pakistan		
Thailand		Sri Lanka		
Timor Leste				
Viet Nam				

4. Current Context and Value Addition

The regional and global DRR landscape has greatly changed, both in terms of policy and institutions, since the creation of the RCC mechanism. 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 the RCC meetings address current and relevant issues and add value for participating countries. The RCC mechanism also needs to support other regional meetings/platforms working to enhance the resilience of communities and institutions to disaster and climate change risks.

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 focuses on operationalizing the following frameworks and agreements at local, national and regional levels:

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

4.3 Building through complementarities

With several 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 draw from high-level policies, 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. It will continue to enhance learning and knowledge-exchange 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 to enhance 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 work as 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 in ADPC's Strategy-2020. 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 promote rights-based approaches which highlight 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. In addition, the mechanism, through its Secretariat, will promote and support gender equality in DRR and will continue to encourage NDMOs and stakeholder groups to consistently implement, monitor and report on their voluntary commitments to 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. Furthermore, 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 outcomes (regional and national DRR needs and priorities) of the 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 RCC meetings.

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

5.1 RCC Steering Committee

The purpose of the Steering Committee is to lead and guide the RCC cooperation mechanism, ensure accountability of the mechanism to member countries, and help 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 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; and
- Facilitate and oversee the organization of the RCC meetings and prepare the pipeline of hosts for upcoming RCC meetings.

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 from 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 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;
- Identifying the needs for regional capacity building for which courses and training can be developed and delivered; and
- 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 received 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 regular 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 sustainability of the RCC mechanism:

- ***Aligned strategy with global, regional and sub-regional initiatives***

The RCC mechanism is expected to contribute to and align its strategy towards achieving global resilience frameworks, and link initiatives with various regional and sub-regional initiatives while contributing to the national priorities towards resilience.

- ***Complementing existing 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 knowledge- 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***

The RCC Mechanism is utilized to develop, define and consolidate needs and priorities of member-states, with support from 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.



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