

**Consultation Workshop on Early Warning Systems:  
Effectiveness of Early Warning Systems in Asia/Pacific**

Bandung, Indonesia  
26.-28. May 2003

**AIDE MÉMOIRE**

**Introduction**

The Indonesian Government, and under the aegis of the United Nations Economic and Social Commissions for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) with financial support of the Federal Institute of Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) of Germany, is organizing a Consultation Workshop on Early Warning Systems: Effectiveness of Early Warning Systems in Asia/Pacific. The Consultation Workshop, which will be held at the Sheraton Hotel, Jl. Ir. H. Juanda (Jl. Dago) 390; Bandung 40135, West Java, Indonesia from 26 to 28 May 2003, is part of the preparations of the Second International Early Warning Conference (EWCII), to be held in Bonn, Germany, 15-19 October 2003. For more detailed information, please contact the following address: Mrs Ria Hidajat, Directorate of Geological and Mining Area Environment (DGMAE), Project Georisk, Jalan Diponegoro No. 57, 40122 Bandung, Indonesia, email: [ria.georisk@dgtl.esdm.go.id](mailto:ria.georisk@dgtl.esdm.go.id), tel: 62-22-727-3198, mobile: 62-811-203-502, fax: 62-22-720-6167.

**Background**

In preparation for the International Conference on Early Warning Systems to be held in October 2003 in Germany, a series of regional consultations has been planned to assess achievements in improvement of early warning aiming at mitigation of natural disasters since the Postdam Conference in 1998. For Asia and the Pacific, which is the most severely affected by natural disasters in terms of loss of lives and economic loss, the regional consultation is planned to focus on the following areas:

© *Disaster Patterns (ref: Theme I)*

The region is characterized by its specific hazards and vulnerability factors. The most pronounced risks, hazards and trends in vulnerability should be identified, including emerging new hazards and vulnerability factors, as well as underrepresented hazards must be made visible. For instance, special attention should be given to cross-cutting hazards (multi-national) and health issues such as communicable diseases in the aftermath of natural disasters.

© *Advances and Constraints (ref: Theme II)*

In order to better understand the regional state of the art in early warning it is important to identify "best practices" and to trace advances and understand constraints that have been characterized the early warning process in particular in the intervening years since Potsdam (1998). Case studies will be most helpful to illuminate the state of the art in early warning.

© *National Planning (ref: Theme II)*

The regional consultations should provide an overview of the extent to which early warning has been integrated into natural disaster reduction initiatives and public policy (including, for example, national legislation and/or provincial and municipal governing structures). It would also be helpful if they discussed the status of national research, education and degree of understanding by the public of their risk. In order to characterize the early warning process on a regional basis, information on how the individual sectors of the early warning process cooperate and to what extent they function across national borders (sub-regional planning) will be helpful.

© *Needs and recommendations (ref: Theme III)*

In order to accurately convey to the conference plenary the critical needs identified through the regional consultation, it would be helpful to elaborate the most important issues and describe the necessary steps to address or resolve them. To do this, the following approach is recommended:

- 1) Identify and fully describe priority needs (maximum 5)
- 2) Identify strategies and resources requirements to fulfill these needs
- 3) Identify and discuss anticipated measurable results of steps taken

**Objectives:** The overall objective of the Consultation Workshop is contribute to the achievement of objectives of the Second International Conference on Early Warning (EWCII) to build upon the principles developed at EWC'98 through the identification of emerging trends and new threats, such as climate change and variability, as well as review their implications in the development of early warning systems and to provide a timely input to two policy frameworks for the effective application of early warning systems worldwide: the implementation of WSSD outcomes, and the review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action to be completed by 2004.

In the above context, the primary objectives of the Consultation Workshop are:

1. To identify emerging trends and new threats including climate change and variability and to review past major development in early warning systems of the countries in Asia and the Pacific with a view to synthesizing them into common emerging trends and new threats and achievements in early warning at the regional level;
2. To identify latest achievements, including best practices in the development of early warning systems in the context of integrating natural disaster reduction measures and policies into the economic and social development process in the region, based inputs of participants and regional reviews undertaken by resource persons;
3. To identify priority needs in the development, including improvement, of early warning systems of the countries in the region so as to consolidate the recommendations into a plan of action including priority projects for better regional cooperation in the implementation of WSSD outcomes and the Yokohama Strategy.

### **Participants**

The participants to the Workshop are expected to be experts in early warning systems representing various levels (local, municipal, national, regional), of different expertise areas (types of hazards: volcanoes, floods etc; public policy issues; advocacy/awareness raising; and media), and with experience of different stages in the implementation of early warning systems. Due to limitation in financial resources, only a limited number of participants from developing countries and selected NGOs working on the promotion of disaster management and preparedness would be provided in financial support to cover their travel expenses. Experts from developed countries, international organizations, agencies and training institutions may be invited to attend the Workshop at their own costs.

### **Documentation**

Background documents of the Workshop prepared by the UN/ISDR Secretariat and UNESCAP and their resource persons and papers of invited experts will be made available to the participants at the Workshop. Invited participants are requested to prepare a case study along the proposed annotated outline (attached) and email it to the following focal points of the Workshop: Mrs Ria Hidajat at [ria.georisk@dgtl.esdm.go.id](mailto:ria.georisk@dgtl.esdm.go.id) (or [rhidajat@gmx.de](mailto:rhidajat@gmx.de)), Mr John Harding at [harding@un.org](mailto:harding@un.org), and Mr Ti Le-Huu at [ti.unescap@un.org](mailto:ti.unescap@un.org). The participants are also requested to bring with them 30 copies of their papers or send it before to Mrs. Hidajat in Bandung.

### **Attendance Information Forms**

Participants are requested to complete the attendance form and submit them to Mrs Ria Hidajat by 5 May 2003.