

*Note: These concept notes are as received from partner organizations*



**Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2016  
New Delhi, India  
02-05 November 2016**

**Concept Note for Thematic session**

<b>Event title</b>	<b>Regional cooperation for addressing the gaps in information and knowledge for disaster risk reduction</b>
<b>Event code</b>	THEM-13
<b>Date and Time</b>	Friday, 4 <sup>th</sup> November, 13.00-14.30
<b>Venue/ Room no.</b>	Hall 2+3, First Floor, Vigyan Bhawan
<b>Organizers</b>	<p><b>Lead:</b> The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)</p> <p><b>Collaborators:</b></p> <p>Contact Details* (lead): The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and UNESCAP</p> <p>Name and Designation: From the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran – Mr. Mohammad Hadi Daryaei, Assistant Director, Deputy Head for International Affairs, Management and Planning; and from ESCAP Mr. Sanjay Kumar Srivastava – Chief, Disaster Risk Reduction Section (DRS), Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD), UNESCAP</p> <p>E-mail ID and phone number: From the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran – <a href="mailto:daryaei.mh@gmail.com">daryaei.mh@gmail.com</a>, +98 919 21 666 39; and from ESCAP – <a href="mailto:srivastavas@un.org">srivastavas@un.org</a>, +662 288 2633</p> <p>Organization name and address: UNESCAP, 8th Floor, Block A, UN Building, Rajdamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok-10200, Thailand</p>
<b>Session Objectives</b>	<p>The objectives of this Thematic Session are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To contribute to the enhancement of regional cooperation and coordination in disaster information management across Asia-</li> </ul>

	<p>Pacific; with an emphasis upon vulnerable countries in the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To increase knowledge on policy options, programmes and the various strategies for strengthening disaster information management amongst concerned stakeholders.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Background and context</b></p>	<p>Asia-Pacific is the most disaster-prone region in the world. In this increasingly vulnerable region, information and knowledge management are essential for improving disaster risk management. Data and information become valuable in risk identification, risk assessment and risk prevention, as well as for improving preparedness and response in the event of disasters. Furthermore, data and information are critical for accurate damage and loss assessment and post-disaster needs assessment that need to take into account risk reduction measures in recovery and reconstruction processes for building back better. Similarly, disaster loss databases are important for accounting for the damage and losses caused by not only large-scale disasters, but also small-scale recurrent disasters.</p> <p>In this context, ESCAP member States adopted Resolution 71/11 in May 2015 on the establishment of the Asia Pacific Centre for Disaster Information Management (APDIM). This is a regional institution of the Commission, hosted by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Centre aims to reduce the negative impact of natural hazards, strengthen capacities for disaster information management, and enhance regional cooperation and coordination among countries and organizations aiming at socio-economic development of nations and achieving internationally agreed development goals; particularly those related to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p> <p>The Thematic Session ‘APDIM: Disaster Information for Sustainable Development’ to be held at the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2016 (AMCDRR) aims to understand the critical gaps in disaster information supply chains and related institutional and policy issues in the region. It intends to discuss opportunities for capacity development through regional and south-south cooperation to narrow down the existing gaps in disaster information management.</p> <p>The APDIM Centre in Tehran has put in place the programme of work related to the capacity development in disaster information management for vulnerable Asia-Pacific countries. The goal of this Thematic Session at AMCDRR 2016 is to provide the opportunity for key stakeholders from Asia-Pacific to understand, interact and assess whether APDIM will be able to add value to the existing and planned initiatives and help in building their institutional capacities for disaster information management.</p>
<p><b>Session format and programme</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening remarks by <b>H.E. Ms. Shamshad Akhtar</b>, Executive Secretary, ESCAP</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keynote address by <b>H.E. Mr. Hamid Pour Mohammadi</b>, Deputy Vice President of Iran (Vice Presidency for Planning)</li> <li>• Introduction to APDIM, <b>ESCAP Secretariat</b></li> <li>• Panel discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>H.E. Mr. Alimbekov Davletbek</b>, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Kyrgyzstan</li> <li>○ <b>H.E. Ms. Fathimath Thasneem</b>, Deputy Minister of Defence and National Security, Ministry of Defence and National Security, Maldives</li> <li>○ <b>Mr. Kamal Kishore</b>, Member, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), India</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Question and Answer session</li> <li>• Closing remarks, <b>ESCAP Secretariat</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Intended main outcome and Key messages</b></p>	<p>This Thematic Session aims to further promote regional and south-south cooperation for sharing information, good practices, and promoting collaboration in pursuit of building resilience to natural disasters in Asia-Pacific.</p> <p>Key messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The role and functions of APDIM in terms of availability and access to disaster risk information and assessments; in line with a key target of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.</li> <li>• Addressing disaster risk towards building resilience in the particularly vulnerable Asia-Pacific region through upcoming APDIM-related initiatives.</li> <li>• Identified opportunities for capacity development and collaboration, through regional and south-south cooperation, towards bridging the critical gaps in disaster information management.</li> </ul>
<p><b>List of Speakers and their interventions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Ms. Shamshad Akhtar, Executive Secretary of ESCAP.</li> <li>• H.E. Mr. Hamid Pour Mohammadi, Deputy Vice President of Iran (Vice Presidency for Planning).</li> <li>• H.E. Mr. Alimbekov Davletbek, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Kyrgyzstan.</li> <li>• H.E. Ms. Fathimath Thasneem, Deputy Minister of Defence and National Security, Ministry of Defence and National Security, Maldives.</li> <li>• Mr. Kamal Kishore, Member, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), India.</li> </ul>

	(High-level speakers to be confirmed.)
<b>Technical Equipment</b>	Projector, computer, microphones