

*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 Preconference Event  
Hotel The Ashok, New Delhi**

<b>Event title</b>	<b>The Asia-Pacific Space Leaders Forum: Space+ for a resilient Asia and the Pacific</b>
<b>Event code</b>	PC-15
<b>Date and Time</b>	Wednesday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> November, 14.00-17.00
<b>Venue/ Room no.</b>	Friendship Lounge Partition 2, Third Floor
<b>Organizers</b>	<p><b>Lead:</b> ISRO</p> <p><b>Collaborators:</b> ESCAP</p> <p><i>Contact Details* (lead):</i> ISRO; ESCAP</p> <p><i>Name and Designation:</i> For ISRO - Mr. Shantanu Bhatawdekar, Assistant Scientific Secretary (ISRO) Associate Director (Applications); For ESCAP – Ms. Kelly Hayden, Economic Affairs Officer (ESCAP)</p> <p><i>Email id and phone number:</i> From ISRO - bpshtanu@isro.gov.in +9180 2351 5592; From ESCAP – <a href="mailto:haydenk@un.org">haydenk@un.org</a> +662 288 1544</p> <p><i>Organization name and address:</i> Earth Observation System (EOS), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Antariksh Bhavan, New BEL Road, Bangalore 560 231, India</p> <p>United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations Building, Rajadamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok, Thailand 10200</p>
<b>Session Objectives</b>	<p>The objective of the Forum will be to enhance regional cooperation for space applications towards the implementation of the SFDRR, 2030 Agenda and Paris Climate Agreement.</p> <p>To situate RESAP in the new development landscape to ensure that the benefits of space applications reach all countries in Asia and the Pacific for</p>

	<p>decades to come.</p> <p>To establish closer links between the space community and the end users.</p>
<p><b>Background and context</b></p>	<p>In 1994, leaders in space technology from the Asia-Pacific region envisioned utilizing satellite data and related systems and services for disaster risk management and sustainable development. To implement this vision, the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (RESAP) was established to harness the benefits of space applications through regional cooperation, with ESCAP providing the multi-sectoral intergovernmental platform.</p> <p>RESAP has achieved a number of outcomes that have greatly benefited member States. In 2011, leaders from national space agencies adopted the historical Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017 (the 5-year Plan of Action). Through the implementation of this 5-year Plan of Action, RESAP has enhanced networking and harmonization among the global and regional initiatives in particular the UNOSAT, UNSPIDER, UNGGIM, UNISDR, WMO, FAO, GEO, GEOSS, Space Charter, APRSAF/Sentinel Asia and APSCO.</p> <p>The year 2016 marks the beginning of the implementation of historic global summits such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (SFDRR), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025 and the Paris Climate Agreement (COP 21). Both the SFDRR and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development call for greater utilization of space-based data, systems and services that require strengthening cooperation in space and satellite data sharing as well as enhancing coordination mechanisms at international, regional and national levels.</p> <p>The Asia-Pacific is the most disaster-prone region in the world. Many of the disasters are transboundary in nature. The region’s rapid economic growth, rising population, and its burgeoning cities are creating new risk and exacerbating existing disaster risks in the process. Therefore, the achievement of SFDRR and the 2030 Agenda will depend largely on building greater resilience to disasters. Realizing the potential of technologies, especially space technology applications, are important tools that can act both as an enabler for understanding risk and assessing disaster impacts and as a catalyst for monitoring land use/covers changes and planning spatial land use to build a resilient Asia and Pacific. Through regional cooperation, space technology applications can play a critical role, especially in those developing countries that do not have space faring abilities, to support the implementation of the SFDRR, the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Climate Agreement, and the GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025. Moreover, it will be an indispensable tool in measuring and monitoring the progress towards these global agreements.</p>

	<p>However, space applications continue to be an untapped resource primarily due to the lack of capacity in many developing countries in terms of human, scientific, technological, organizational, and institutional resources and expertise. With the establishment of RESAP, countries which do not have a space programme of their own have been accessing and effectively utilizing space-derived data, products and services for disaster management. Nevertheless, gaps remain in utilization of potential space applications, especially by the end users. The emergence of several new space faring countries with high-end earth observation satellites in the region vis-à-vis multiple space cooperation initiatives both at regional and global levels provide opportunities for closer linkages with RESAP. By scaling up RESAP, the enhanced space infrastructure can be a driver of greater partnership opportunities in the region.</p> <p>With the adoption of above global mandates, it is now timely to situate RESAP in this new development landscape and ensure that the benefits of space applications reach all countries in Asia and the Pacific for decades to come. In this context, RESAP may need to establish closer links between the space community and the end users. This can be achieved through expanding the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee of RESAP (presently consisting of only space agencies) to a wider group consisting of stakeholders that represent disaster management authorities, national hydro-meteorological organizations as well as sectoral ministries that deal with sustainable development. RESAP may also promote the utilization of emerging innovations in the applications of second generation earth observation satellites. In delivering its services, RESAP could also pay particular attention to low capacity and high risk countries with no space infrastructure and related institutions.</p> <p>The current 5-year Plan of Action of RESAP will expire in 2017 and it is the right time to not only take stock of the accomplishments within the framework of RESAP, but also address new and emerging development challenges by focusing on the opportunities provided by the above mentioned global agreements and the upcoming Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) to shape a new Asia-Pacific Plan of Action (2017-2030) to coincide with the SFDRR and 2030 Agenda.</p>
<p><b>Session format and programme</b></p>	<p><b>Draft Agenda</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Opening of the Meeting.</li> <li>2. Election of officers.</li> <li>3. Adoption of the agenda.</li> </ol>

	<p>4. Review of the progress of implementation of the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, at both national and regional levels.</p> <p>5. Emerging applications and initiatives in space technology applications for implementation of the SFDRR, the SDGs and related global agreements in Asia-Pacific region: issues, vision, challenges and opportunities, by leaders of space agencies, Ministers of disaster management and ESCAP secretariat.</p> <p>6. Strategy and Asia-Pacific Action Plan (2017-2030) on enhancing regional cooperation in space technology applications towards the implementation of SFDRR and SDGs.</p> <p>7. Discuss and Adopt the Declaration of Space Leaders’ Forum on enhancing regional cooperation in space technology applications for building resilient Asia and the Pacific.</p> <p>8. Discuss the substantial inputs to the ‘Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework’-the main outcome of the AMCDRR 2016.</p> <p>9. Other matters.</p> <p>10. Adoption of the report.</p>
<p><b>Intended main outcome and Key messages</b></p>	<p>The main outcome of the Forum will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A regional strategy for RESAP and Asia-Pacific Plan of Action (2017-2030) to enhance regional cooperation in space technology applications to implement the SFDRR and 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific.</li> <li>• A Declaration by the Space Leaders of Asia and the Pacific. The Declaration would support the ‘Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework.’</li> </ul>
<p><b>List of Speakers and their interventions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Shamshad Akhtar, Executive Secretary of ESCAP.</li> <li>• Mr. A. S. Kiran Kumar, Chairman, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)</li> <li>• Other high level speakers to be confirmed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Technical Equipment</b></p>	<p>Projector, computer, microphones</p>