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

Concept Note for Thematic session

Event title	Strengthening Community Resilience
Event code	THEM-6
Date and Time	Thursday, 3 rd November, 13.30-15.00
Venue/ Room no.	Hall No. 6, Second Floor
Organizers	<p>Co-leads: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)</p> <p>Collaborators: Bangladesh Government, Mongolian government (TBC), Government of Myanmar (tbc), Asian Development Bank (ADB)</p> <p>Contact Details* (leads):</p> <p>UNDP Name: Sanny Jegillos Designation: Senior Advisor, Disaster Risk Reduction, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS) Email id and phone number: sanny.jegillos@undp.org Organization name and address: United Nations Development Programme Bangkok Regional Hub 3rd Floor United Nations Service Building Rajdamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand</p> <p>International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Name: Pierre Kremer / Jeong Park Designation: Head of Partnerships / DRR Coordinator Email id and phone number: pierre.kremer@ifrc.org / Jeong.PARK@ifrc.org Organization name and address:</p>

	<p>IFRC – Regional Office, Asia Pacific The Ampwalk, Suite 10.02, 218 Jalan Ampang 50450 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</p>
<p>Session Objectives</p>	<p>The objectives of the session are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the broader enabling environment required for achieving community resilience and common goals to bring community resilience to the next level in Asia Pacific • Discuss approaches and opportunities for scaling up community - resilience, notably through collaborative platforms. • Promote local actors and innovative solutions to enable people to enhance their safety and resilience
<p>Background and context</p>	<p>Disasters caused by natural hazards continue to affect communities, especially at the local level as they face significant losses in lives, livelihoods and properties. Such impact derives from both large-scale and many localized small-scale events which typically remain confined within communities, as the effects are usually absorbed by the poorer households, small businesses, and marginalized members of a community, and become part of their everyday life.</p> <p>Disaster risks are largely shaped and the impacts felt the most at the local level. Thus, the solutions to address the risks should also be localized and involve the communities that live and work in the area. This is important for various reasons including, communities have better knowledge about local hazards; different communities perceive disaster risk differently and play different roles in shaping risk; and with the uncertainties associated with climate risks, especially the change in magnitude and intensity of extreme weather events, ideal risk reduction approaches are those that manage a range of uncertain conditions and bring wider development gains in the immediate term.</p> <p>Community resilience starts at the grassroots levels with people and communities assessing both the risks they are exposed to and their vulnerability in the face of adversity. It is effectively based on encouraging local communities to anticipate risks; to respond when disaster strikes; to adapt to the evolving risk patterns brought about by the changing climate; and to transform themselves to address underlying factors and the root causes of risks, including being active partners for governments in adopting policies and implementing programmes that bridge the humanitarian and development continuum.</p> <p>The proposed session will be based on two ongoing strategic initiatives by the Co-Leads of this thematic session: a) One Billion Coalition for Resilience</p>

	<p>(1BC) and b) Policy Study on Community Resilience described below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community resilience initiatives happen at different scales/levels and working together is essential. In 2015, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) launched the One Billion Coalition for Resilience (1BC) – an initiative the aims, by 2025, to enabling one billion people to be safer and healthier – as a commitment to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the SDGs and Paris Agreement on Climate Change. • This proposed session will also build on the outcome of the session organized by UNDP and ADB on <i>Community Disaster Resilience</i> at the 6th AMCDRR in Bangkok, and will feature a presentation of the key findings of a Policy Study on Community Resilience under the ADB-UNDP partnership. This Study factors in the directions provided by the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. It will also show how promoting policy coherence for resilience can yield results in building risk-informed communities, and how it can be further expanded across Asia as a joint collaborative initiative enabling partners to work at scale.
<p>Session format and programme</p>	<p>Overview Presentations – By ADB, UNDP, IFRC</p> <p>Minister of Disaster Management: By 2025, enabling 50 million people in Bangladesh to take active steps towards their resilience.</p> <p>Discussions will focus on the following (four) factors that contribute to community resilience, with examples to be given by the chair/lead:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opportunities for and challenges in scaling up community resilience (chaired by Government of Myanmar) 2. Policy coherence for resilience building (chaired by the Government of Mongolia) 3. Practical and innovative solutions for integrated risk management (CSO, IFRC Climate Center) 4. Community resilience is strengthened through alliance/coalition building and partnerships (1BC of IFRC)
<p>Intended main outcome and Key messages</p>	<p>At-risk communities and local actors must be key drivers of change and their voices must be at the core of decision-making processes that draw on local knowledge, capacities and ongoing feedback mechanisms --</p> <p>A change in mind-set at the local level is required from managing disasters to managing disaster risk under high levels of uncertainty. Disaster risk is intrinsic in development decisions; and with the changing hazard patterns due to climate change, the management of disaster risk will require</p>

	<p>communities to adopt a comprehensive, dynamic, and aspirational approach that goes beyond preparing for a disaster event.</p> <p>Policy coherence that promotes integrated approaches for community resilience -Bringing in this change in mind-set requires working collaboratively within the context of local development priorities across sectors and themes of development. Depending on the characteristics of the community—location, type of natural hazards they are exposed to, preexisting socioeconomic vulnerabilities, and capacities— the opportunities to strengthen resilience in different sectors should be explored and could include a wide range of interventions including coherent policy and planning reforms; targeted community-driven investments; local financing mechanisms; and broader governance issues related to people-centered and risk-sensitive development. All of these can be realized if there is an enabling policy environment that ensures coherence in the implementation of development, risk reduction and climate change agreements, targets and priorities.</p> <p>Integrated risk management is key in building community resilience – For community resilience to happen, ensuring that people are able to anticipate, adapt, respond to and transform from the risks are key. This can be done through the adoption of integrated risk management that is climate-smart, ecosystem-based and bridges time- and spatial scales. It integrates the urgent attention needed for changing risks due to changes in hazards, exposure and vulnerability. Integrated risk management includes a specific focus on ecosystem degradation, locally and in the wider landscape, as well as changes in hazards due to climate change (in relation to current risks, near-term changes and longer-term shifts in climate patterns). It integrates elements from disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and ecosystem management and restoration.</p> <p>Community resilience cannot be done in isolation; partnerships and coalitions are key – Partnerships, alliance and/or coalition building are key to ensuring that community resilience do not happen in isolation. We need to mobilize individuals, communities, organizations, business and governments, to share common targets at country level, drive more resources and build the capacity of local actors through coalitions sharing common goals, risks, accountability and successes.</p>
<p>List of Speakers and their interventions</p>	<p>Tentative Presenters (tbc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADB, UNDP and IFRC • Government of Bangladesh • Government of Myanmar • Government of Mongolia • Grassroots Women’s Organization

**Technical
Equipment**

Projector, computer, microphones