The shocks brought by the COVID-19 pandemic have generated a great deal of reflection, anxiety and action. One aspect that is not less important is the natural and climate induced disasters that happened during the pandemic. The pandemic, in the dominant systems and processes, now shape how we respond to disasters, how we view Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and what resiliency means to us.

The present DRR strategies and activities are based on the accumulation of everyday perceptions, choices, and decisions made in the past. The current COVID-19 pandemic showcases that decisions and actions based on pre-pandemic “normal” had never been suitable to face the uncertainty of the future and novelty. Our quest for certainty and repetition (of the past) has created the conditions for a vulnerable and fragile society facing a plethora of multiple disasters that we were unequipped for. By being rigid about the future, thinking about the future solely through the prism of risk, we have built fragility. Through the sole scope of preparation, we also limit the learnings we could get from novel phenomena: unforeseen mutations, or novel human behaviours. The future has things to teach us, which we can only acquire by adopting a humble posture.

Several aspects that have prohibited us to adequately prepare ourselves for these uncertainties are the inability to use the future effectively and the poverty of our imagination. In addition, people’s ability to immediately adapt to the situation leads the problem to a more difficult situation to address. Paradoxically, our frustration in light of the existence of risks increases the prevalence of risk. Disasters caused by natural hazard and climate induced disasters which are simultaneously happening propels us to question ourselves, how could we have navigated this volatility better? Could our current knowledge and understanding reduce the risk of today’s unprecedented disasters? If they cannot, what to do when the hurricane comes?
The only disasters we can foresee are events we know. Our fundamental limitation forces us to walk on one leg. How do we prepare for something we don’t know? We do not force for knowledge we won’t get. This is called agility and resilience, openness to emergence, innovation, in short, futures literacy (Miller 2015, UNESCO 2018).

These questions should be taken to diversify the reasons why we use the future: using the future to best prepare on the basis of what we know and using the future to embrace emergence, novelty and difference. This is the distinction between anticipation for the future and anticipation for emergence. What if we can imagine and utilize the future to help us to make decisions for our DRR and resilience? Thereby opening the possibility that a different logic might inform the functioning of perception and choice. Welcoming difference and uncertainty, shaping our DRR and resilience through difference, exploration, and emergence.

Key ingredients needed to create the conditions for this more diversity-oriented strategy towards resilience involve a capability that UNESCO calls Futures Literacy (Futures Literacy op de Hanzehogeschool Groningen https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SBGuWa3MmLE&t=10s; and Resilience Frontiers | Riel Miller | A Futures Literacy Laboratory | UNESCO https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_WgvTfR7TLI).

The youth and young professionals (YYPs) are now the future leaders, they will have the responsibility to make choices and decisions that will shape how our future we (or they) want. They have a key survival advantage: weaker commitment to past baggage which inhibits our ability to use the future more freely. As they become more futures literate, their capacity to be more agile and resilient is also enhanced.

UNESCO, UNDRR, UNDP Accelerator Lab, and U-INSPIRE Alliance are implementing a series of activities on Future Thinking on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience. The series of activities consist of Webinars, Futures Literacy Laboratory on DRR (FLL-DRR), and Let’s Talk DRR that will be organized throughout 2021.

**AIM, OBJECTIVES, OUTPUTS, AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

The aim of this future thinking of DRR activities is to leverage on the collective intelligence and frontiers thinking of the youth and young professionals to challenge, create and negotiate concepts and frameworks for disaster risk reduction and resiliency in 2045. They are expected to become more familiar with futures literacy (capacity), foresight (tool-based approach), future thinking (posture), and engage with system thinking and collective intelligence processes on specific DRR topics. The year of 2045 reflects more than 50 years after the 1st World Conference on DRR (Yokohama 1994) and 30 years after the last World Conference on DRR which was the 3rd World Conference on DRR (Sendai, 2005).
The year 2045 is 24 years from now in which by then the current youth and young professionals will be between 41-64 Years old, the present age range to access leadership positions.

The main objective of this initiative is to provide a venue and encourage the youth and young professionals to voice and contribute with their views and thoughts to disaster risk reduction and resiliency framework at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Bali, in May 2022. In specific, the objectives include:

- Introduce the latest advancements in anticipatory system thinking and collective intelligence processes.
- Develop competencies among the YYPs on future thinking and design thinking, with a focus on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resiliency.
- Build capacity of YYPs to ‘use-the-future’ by becoming more futures literate, to encourage sustainability, and opening new ideas of framing disaster risk reduction and resiliency regionally and nationally.
- Facilitate YYPs’ thoughts and voice on the future of DRR and Resilience

The expected outputs of these series of activities will lead to a publication of (tentative title) “Youth and Young Professionals in Asia and the Pacific Think about the Futures of Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in 2045”.

While the expected outcomes of this initiative are:

- The YYPs’ understanding and skills on futures literacy developed and tested through ‘learning by doing’. They are better able to use the future in regards DRR and resiliency as well as for other variety of different purposes.
- Energized YYPs ability to invent and implement change, and to build upon innovation for achieving future disaster risk reduction and resiliency
- New questions, meanings, concepts, models, and framings developed for disaster risk reduction and resiliency as well as seed ideas elaborated for novel ‘interventions’ to drive transformation of the DRR that can be shared at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2022.
METHODOLOGY

A series of virtual activities will be conducted and facilitated by UNESCO, UNDP Accelerator Lab, U-INSPIRE Alliance, and UNDRR in engaging with youth and young professionals (YYPs) in Asia and the Pacific and other regions. The activities will complement each other, and will begin with a webinar, followed by a series of Futures Literacy Laboratory on DRR (FLL-DRR) and then series of Let’s Talk DRR episodes on specific DRR topics.

- The first Webinar will be on past and current uses of the future to address disasters in the region. The first webinar will cover two main topics, the first is on lessons learnt of what has been achieved in term of foresight by experts involved in 1st World Conference on Natural Disaster with the 10 strategies for a safer world (1994) and of the Hyogo framework of action (2005-2015), and the expected foresight of the Sendai Framework for DRR (2015-2030). is to introduce the concepts, frameworks, tools, and approaches and methodology of Futures Literacy framework as part of the study of all forms of anticipation. Prominent experts and leaders in Futures Literacy will be invited to speak on this topic.

The second webinar is a consolidation of the discussions on futures of specific DRR topics over the last few months. Other topics covered will include contextualizing the future of DRR within Asia and the Pacific in the future, to seek a more culturally appropriate, a context-based approach where communities are better represented and tapping into the need for systemic transformation through collective action. The concluding segment will focus on navigating further complexities in disaster management beyond 2045, taking into consideration the exacerbated climate crisis and its impact.

With the expectation that the global pandemic condition is getting better, in 2022, the organizers plan to organize the 3rd Youth and Young Professionals in SETI for DRR Regional Workshop in Bali, back to back with the Global Platform for DRR in May 2022 (to be confirmed).

- The first webinar will be followed by a series FLL-DRR for the future thinking. There will be one FLL-DRR simulation to train YYPs facilitators and followed up with three FLL-DRR of a specific DRR topic. The objective is to build futures capacity via a ‘learning by doing’ approach.

A survey was conducted amongst YYPs in the Region to gauge their interest in DRR tropics. Potential topics for discussion under the Virtual FLL-DRR are based on the emerging issues in DRR among others:

1. Risk Communication / Understanding Risk
2. Key new technologies for DRR, innovation in DRR, and/or Digital Transformation of DRR
3. DRR Citizens’ Participation / Crowd Sourcing for DRR / Citizen’s Science for DRR
4. Disaster Risk Governance
5. Nature-based DRR Solutions
6. Cascading Risk / Systemic Risk

The FLL-DRR will be held in a form of virtual group discussion:

- Thirty-five (max) registered YYPs will engage in “learning by doing” discussion and exercise using the future thinking approaches to imagine and discuss the futures of DRR and resiliency of one specific DRR topic.
- There will be 3 days facilitated sessions (each of 3-4 hours) for the group to discuss and exercises.
A trained facilitator guided by UNESCO’s Futures Literacy Team and Futures Literacy Centres will facilitate the FLL-DRR sessions.

Registered YYPs can participate in one of more FLL-DRRs.

Output of the FLL-DRRs are reports of Future Thinking of DRR and Resiliency for each specific DRR Topic.

Facilitated discussion end exercise sessions in FLL-DRR

- **Phase 1: Preparatory, introduction and discussion “Reveal”** From tacit to explicit: exploring probable and desirable futures. Participants will be asked to share their perception (probable scenario) and hopes (preferred scenario) for the future of DRR and Resiliency.

- **Phase 2: Reframe** – Participants will work together creatively to analyse deeper, adding more detail to their descriptions of DRR and Resilience in 2045. Specifically, they were invited to imagine and explore the perspectives of different actors, to think of a systemic landscape of DRR and devise illustrations or visuals (sayings, drawings, designs, images, expressions) that symbolize the reframed futures DRR and Resilience.

- **Phase 3: New Questions** – Arising out of the collective effort to specify the assumptions that shape images of the future, participants will explore new questions and consider aspects of the present models of DRR and Resiliency that will either be invisible or marginal but now offer unexpected potential.

- **Phase 4: Next steps** – Reflecting on the process and the content of the conversations, the participants sketch out avenues for moving forward despite the challenges.

Each of the FLL-DRR will be followed by Let’s Talk DRR (LTD) episodes. The participants of the FLL-DRR will share the result of their discussion on Futures of specific DRR topic. A DRR expert will be requested to share their insights and views on the discussion result based on the current issues, concerns, challenges, gaps, and future trend of the particular DRR topic. Futures Literacy and Foresight experts will be invited for discussion in some of the sessions. Emphasis will be put on the absence of hierarchy of expertise: nobody has been to the future, which is as frightening as liberating for all of us.

### Future Thinking on DRR Activities
**PARTICIPANTS**

The webinar and LTD sessions will be open to all participants. This will be an open webinar; however, the organizer will prioritize and invite youth and young professionals in Asia and the Pacific. There will be announcement and infographics shared via social media for interested participant to register and attended the webinar and the LTDs. This webinar will also be streamed live via UNESCO Office Jakarta Facebook and U-INSPIRE YouTube.

The FLL-DRR will be a closed session, only selected participants can participate in this FLL-DRR and are expected to commit from start to finish. There will be registration and selection process for the FLL-DRR participants. The criteria for the participants are

- YYPs from Asia and the Pacific and other regions
- Participants must be gender- & geographically balanced, with meaningful age representations, from any disciplines and educational background as long as they care about the topic at hand and are ready to listen to their peers, imagine, and contribute,
- Participants must apply and will be selected. Priority will be given to the members of U-INSPIRE National Chapters through U-INSPIRE Alliance.
- Participants will have the opportunity to:
  - Learn by doing on their current and potential uses of the future to become more futures literate and more familiar with future thinking, system thinking, and foresight activities.
  - Engage with experts and resource people in the field (discipline of anticipation).
  - Write paper and report that will be published and shared at the GPDRR 2022
  - Participate in webinars, lectures, and regional workshop
- Participants requirements for FLL-DRR participants:
  - Express a desire to use their imagination and understand why and how they anticipate
  - English proficiency (speaking and writing).
  - Participate in the first Webinar (W1) as well as the following webinars.
  - Participate in the Let’s Talk DRR according to the relevant hazard topic.
  - Full commitment and active attendance for each FLL-DRR of the topic.
  - Able to connect via a computer and have stable internet connectivity (requires turning on camera during FLL-DRRs).
  - Submit a motivation and interest statement.

**SCHEDULE**

This series of activities will be conducted in 2021

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<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Length</th>
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<tr>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>FLL Simulation</td>
<td>9-11 June 2021</td>
<td>Wednesday-Friday</td>
<td>~3 hours per day</td>
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<td>Webinar -1</td>
<td>25 June 2021</td>
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<td>14-16 July 2021</td>
<td>Wednesday-Friday</td>
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<td>1.2</td>
<td>Let’s Talk DRR 1</td>
<td>30 July 2021</td>
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<td>2.0</td>
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<td>Let’s Talk DRR 2</td>
<td>1 October 2021</td>
<td>Friday</td>
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PARTNERS

Partners / Collaborators:
• UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific in Jakarta
• UNDP Accelerator Lab Indonesia
• UNDRR Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (under consultation)
• U-INSPIRE Alliance (Alliance of Youth and Young Professionals in SETI for Resiliency platform to accelerate the implementation of DRR in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) and to support DRR policy and action at the local, national and international levels

Expert Partners:
• UNESCO Futures Literacy team, Paris.
• UNESCO’s Global Futures Literacy Network composed of 20+ Chairs in Futures Literacy, Anticipation Studies and Futures Studies and a series of practitioners and researchers, including International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM - Malaysia), Chulalongkorn University (Thailand), and Northwestern Laorg (Philippines)
• UNDP Accelerator Lab Global Network (consisting of 92 Labs over 116 countries)

Potential Partners:
• The National Agency for Disaster Management of Indonesia (BNPB)
• APSTAAG UNDRR (Asia Pacific Science, Technology and Academia Advisory Group)
• Keio University (Prof. Rajib Shaw)
• IRDR (Dr. Qunli HAN)
• IDMR (Prof. Gretchen Kalonji)
• Indonesia Institute of Sciences
• Other to be identified

RELEVANCE TO SDG