



11th APFSD

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20-23 February 2024



“Progress with rolling out the Early Warnings for All initiative in Asia and the Pacific”

Side Event: 11th Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development

Date and Time: Friday, 23 February 2024 at 10:45 hr -12:00 hr

Venue: Meeting Room G, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok and Online (hybrid)

Organizer(s):

WMO, ITU, IFRC, UNESCAP, UNDP and UNDRR

Co-organizer(s)

With participation from among the priority countries of the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative and those that have expressed interest to carry out voluntary national reviews (VNRs) in 2024.

Registration

All interested participants are requested to fill this **registration form**:

<https://forms.office.com/e/PrtDUjzF1v>

To attend the side event in person, all registrants must also register on Indico to attend the APFSD by February 20 using the link here: <https://indico.un.org/event/1007683/>

Please register using the option “Registration for Others” and choose your side event.

Those who do not register on Indico will not be able to access the United Nations Conference Centre.

However, since this is a hybrid event, participants can also register (on the above-mentioned registration form) and join the event online through the following meeting link:

<https://undrr.zoom.us/j/95367933592>

Meeting ID: 953 6793 3592

Passcode: 621047

Background

Announced by the UN Secretary-General in March 2022 on the occasion of the World Meteorological Day and launched at UNFCCC COP 27 in November 2022, the EW4All initiative aims to protect every person on Earth with early warning systems (EWS) by 2027. Until now, the Initiative has made a crucial transition from conceptualization to action, with the Asia Pacific region making strong progress. In this process, six of the



initial focus countries of the Initiative in Asia have gone through a multi-stakeholder national consultation and been securing political endorsement towards roadmap development for investing in inclusive and multi-hazard national EWS. In addition to this, the Pacific is also surging ahead on the same path, building on its Weather Ready Pacific (WRP) programme and numerous ongoing EWS-related initiatives.

In line with the theme of the 11th APFSD, which focuses on reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty during times of multiple crises, this side event will examine early warning as one of the most effective ways to reduce mortality and economic losses from natural hazards.

Key Questions and Outcomes

Objective: The main objective of this side event is to showcase how strengthening of EWS could be a key policy instrument in governance for sustainable development through a truly inclusive approach.

Rationale: An investment of US\$ 800 million in EWS in developing countries would avoid losses of US\$ 3-16 billion per year (SDG 11 and 13).

For countries with at-risk agriculture or energy sectors, it will be critical to advance sector-specific early warnings to protect these assets. (SDG 2).

Establishing a robust and effective EWS necessitates global, regional and subregional partnerships as natural hazards are often transboundary in nature (SDG 17) while global and regional resources are available to support countries in issuing early warnings. By reducing the negative impacts on lives and livelihoods of the people, EWS help ensure peace and stability by empowering policymakers to prioritize sustainable and resilient economic and social development (including prevention, preparedness and anticipatory and early action) (SDG 16)

Outcomes:

- Finance and planning ministries have a better understanding on how EWS can be a strategic area of investment for risk-informed sustainable development (with the EW4All providing a suggested framework);
- National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs), National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and sectoral ministries and their agencies learn from country experiences how they can adapt good practices in EWS in their own country context;
- National stakeholders learn of existing initiatives on the regional, subregional, and national level to support the implementation of the EW4All initiative.
- Stakeholders identify opportunities of engagement horizontally across the EWS pillars and vertically at different levels.

This side event will examine the following key guiding questions:

1. What are the main gaps and solutions that you see in implementing EWS in your country, covering areas such as governance, financing, and instrumentation?
2. What are the national and regional approaches in implementing the EW4All initiative and how do different partners (representatives from Member States, regional inter-governmental organizations and other stakeholders) work together and contribute?
3. How can stronger risk data governance (including hazard-based analysis, monitoring, generation, dissemination and action at the local level) strengthen the roll-out of the EW4All initiative?
4. How can we promote inclusiveness overcoming any challenges in different contexts, across the different pillars of EWS, a key issue around which the EW4All initiative is built?
5. What is the latest experience of your country in using multiple communication channels to disseminate disaster alerts in time?

Programme

Time (BKK)	Topic	Presenter / Moderator
10:45–10:50	Opening remarks	Mr. Ben Churchill Director, Regional Office for Asia and the South- West Pacific · WMO
10:50–11:05	Joint presentation of the EW4All initiative and its roll-out in the Asia-Pacific region	Mr. Ashish Narayan, Programme Coordinator, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, ITU Ms. Cindy Le Ky Huong, Corporate Services and Partnerships Coordinator Country Cluster for Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam, IFRC
11:05–11:45	List of confirmed speakers: 1. Ms. Molly Nielsen, Manager & RC – NEOC Secretariat – DAC, Disaster Management Office, Government of Samoa 2. Professor Yuichi Ono, Tohoku University, Japan	Moderated by WMO and UNDRR

Time (BKK)	Topic	Presenter / Moderator
	3. Ms. Arya Regmi, Senior Officer, Disaster Management Department, Nepal Red Cross Society National Headquarters 4. Ms. Letizia Rossano, Director, APDIM, UN ESCAP 5. Mr. Aslam Perwaiz, Deputy Executive Director, ADPC	
11:45-11:55	Audience interaction	Onsite and online audience
11:55-12:00	Closing remarks	Ms. Tiziana Bonapace, Director of ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, UN ESCAP