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Disaster Resilience: Early Warnings for All in Asia and the Pacific

16 May 2023, 12:45-13:45 Bangkok Time
Conference Room 3, Level 1, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok
Online connection via MS Teams

Event Page: https://www.unescap.org/events/2023/disaster-resilience-early-warnings-all-asia-and-pacific

At the COP27 climate change conference on 8 November 2022, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres unveiled the "Executive Action Plan on Early Warnings for All" aimed at ensuring that everyone on the planet is protected by early warning systems within the next five years.

Early warnings that reach all is a key adaptation measure that saves lives and livelihoods, minimizes loss and damage, and provides a tenfold return on investment. In countries with limited early warning coverage, disaster mortality is eight times higher than in countries with high coverage.

The realization of 'Early Warnings for All' is more critical in the Asia-Pacific region, the world's most disaster-impacted and populous region. The major disasters of 2022 and early 2023 have impacted countries across the entire development spectrum, for example, historic floods in Afghanistan and Pakistan, drought in China, Kiribati and Tuvalu, typhoons in the Philippines, heatwaves in India and Japan, the earthquakes in Türkiye, Indonesia and Afghanistan, dzud in Mongolia and most recently the back-to-back cyclones and earthquake in Vanuatu.

It is clear that the disaster riskscape in Asia and the Pacific is intensifying, expanding and cascading with climate change. There is an urgent need therefore for accelerated climate action in Asia and the Pacific to advance multi-hazard early warning systems as a priority. Special attention should also be provided to the varying riskscapes of each subregion and in particular to countries that are at the forefront of climate change: Landlocked Developing Countries, notably Mongolia faces heightened slow onset risks related to desertification, drought, dzud and sand and dust storms, and Small Island Developing States face more devastating typhoons and rising sea levels.

Considering the above, the Government of Mongolia and the Government of Fiji supported by UN ESCAP, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), the International Telecommunication





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Union (ITU) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) are organizing an event on the sidelines of the seventy-ninth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to advance implementation of the global "Executive Action Plan on Early Warnings for All" in Asia and the Pacific. The event will build on the regional thematic report of the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and recent WMO Regional Conferences of RA II (Asia) and RA V (South-West Pacific) and inform the proceedings of the upcoming 8th Session of the Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction in July 24-27, 2023.

Expected outcome: A high-level commitment to develop a coordinated Asia-Pacific risk-informed approach to advance early warnings for all, in support of implementation of the global initiative colled by WMO and UNDRR.

Audience: All participants of the Commission Session, representatives from National Disaster Management Offices, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, relevant sub-regional organisations (ASEAN Committee for DRR, BIMSTEC Weather and Climate Centre, SAARC, PIF, etc).

Place and time: 16 May 2023, 12:45-13:45 (Bangkok time) in Conference Room 3, Level 1, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand and virtually via Microsoft Teams.

In-person Registration¹: https://indico.un.org/event/1003482/

Virtual participation registration: https://forms.office.com/e/Q0MhnLcv3i

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¹ Please note that all participants attending side events in person are required to register online. Please select "side event participants" under Representation Type when you register. Kindly be advised that individuals who have already registered to attend the 79th Commission Session are not required to register again.





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Time Agenda Item 12:45 - 12:55 Welcome Remarks by Moderator H.E. Amenatave V. Yauvoli, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Fiji [3min each] Opening statement by Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of United Nations and Executive Secretary of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Opening statement by Ms. Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) [recorded] **High-Level Panel Discussion with statements from** 12:55 - 13:30 [5min/speaker] ■ H.E. Sainbuyan Amarsaikhan, Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia [recorded] Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna, Assistant Minister, Office of the Prime Minister, Ms. Fathimath Himya, Secretary General of the Maldives Red Crescent Society (for IFRC) [joining virtually] with Ms. Kathryn Clarkson, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Head of Office and Permanent Observer to UNESCAP, in the room Mr. Ben Churchill, Director of Regional Office for Asia and South-West pacific, World Meteorological Organisation Ms. Atsuko Okuda, Regional Director, International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific Mr. Hans Guttman, Executive Director of Asian Disaster Preparedness Mr. David Corbelli, Regional Manager in Asia and Pacific, United Kingdom Meteorological Office 13:30 - 13:45 Open Discussion moderated by H.E. Amenatave V. Yauvoli, Ambassador [15min] Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Fiji Closing of side-event by H.E. Mr. N. Ankhbayar, State Secretary of the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia