

# APP-DRR Forum

Asia-Pacific Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction

1 – 2 December 2020

[<https://www.undrr.org/event/asia-pacific-partnership-disaster-risk-reduction-app-drr-forum-0>]

## THE STATE OF PLAY

The Asia-Pacific region has made considerable progress in disaster risk reduction, enhancing the resilience of countries and communities. All the countries in the region have a guiding document on disaster risk reduction, in several cases backed by regulatory provisions, and structured institutional mechanism for disaster risk management. Inclusiveness has increased and the role of managing disasters and disaster risk has expanded from the sole remit of governments to the civil society and the private sector. Preparedness measures have seen high progress in particular, which has resulted in a decline in disaster-related mortality, and in several cases, decline in affected populations.

However, despite these remarkable achievements, challenges remain. Economic losses continue to rise, exacerbated by an insinuating nexus between disaster risk, poverty and inequality. Exacerbated by climate change, the frequency and magnitude of disasters have increased with extreme events becoming the norm. Unplanned urbanization and environmental degradation continue to act as risk drivers. COVID-19 has already demonstrated that a narrow focus on a small set of hazards, by one or two government agencies, is not enough to prevent or even respond to complex disaster risks.

Despite being a once-in-a-century crisis, COVID-19 is only a symptom of a larger set of risks that are systemic in nature, which, if not addressed, may lead to more such crises in the future. The need of the hour, hence, is to understand the interconnected and cascading nature of disasters and disaster risk – a systemic risk needs a systemic action. This, in turn, requires a fundamental shift in risk governance at the national and local levels. Stronger leadership, active engagement of all sectors, and multi-stakeholder participation must feature prominently if countries are to mitigate the disasters of today and tomorrow. The post-COVID recovery process offers unique opportunities to rebuild and reshape risk-informed socio-economic development processes.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE 2020 APPDRR FORUM

The APP-DRR Forum will be organized against the backdrop of these challenges and opportunities, as the key event in the run-up to the next Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. To meet the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework by 2030, a fundamental transformation must take place to ensure disaster risk is scaled up in every sector, including planning at regional, national and sub-national levels. The APP-DRR Forum will:

1. Share and review the regional progress in disaster risk reduction.
2. Discuss key regional priorities in Asia-Pacific.

### The APP-DRR Forum

The Asia-Pacific Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction (APP-DRR, formerly, ISDR-Asia Partnership – IAP) is a multi-stakeholder forum for disaster risk reduction focused on the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the associated Asia Regional Plan and sub-regional plans. The forum includes governments, regional inter-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, UN and international organizations and donors.

The forum serves as the main consultation forum for the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conferences. Collectively, the APP-DRR and AMCDRR form the regional platform for disaster risk reduction in the Asia-Pacific region.

### Format of the Event

In 2020, the APP-DRR Forum will be organized virtually on 1-2 December. During these two days, the Forum will recapitulate progress made so far and discuss key policy priorities for the region.

After the APPDRR Forum, a few rounds of thematic consultations will be organized where participants can deep-dive into specific actionable areas as agreed at the Forum. The results of these thematic consultations will be shared virtually with all participants for feedback and form key inputs into a series of sub-regional and stakeholder consultations that will be organized in the run-up to the APMCDRR.

The Forum and consultations will be conducted in English.

# PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

[The schedule follows the Bangkok time zone: UTC +7:00]

## Day 1: Tuesday, 1 December

09:45 – 10:00 **Sign-in to the meeting**

---

10:00 – 10:30 **Opening Session**

- **Statement**  
Mami Mizutori, UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction
  - **Opening Remarks**  
Rebecca Bryant, Assistant Secretary, Humanitarian Response Risk & Recovery Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia
  - **Keynote Remarks**  
Hon. Ifereimi Waqainabete,  
Minister, Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Fiji
- 

10:30 – 11:00 **Session 1: Setting the Stage**

Status of implementation of the Sendai Framework and Action Plan 2018-2021 in Asia-Pacific

*UNDRR Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific*

---

11:00 – 12:00 **Session 2: Panel Discussion: Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance**

- **Moderator:** Amanda Leck, Executive Director, Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience
- Krishna Vatsa, Member, National Disaster Management Authority, India
- Jerry Treñas, Mayor, Iloilo City, Philippines
- Nelly Caleb, National Director, Vanuatu Disability, Promotion and Advocacy Association
- Emily Ying Yang Chan, Professor, Faculty of Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

*Q&A / Discussion*

---

## Day 2: Wednesday, 2 December

09:45 – 10:00 **Sign-in to the meeting**

---

10:00 – 10:30 **Session 3:**

- **Keynote Remarks**  
Hiroko Oura,  
Deputy Division Chief, Financial Sector Assessment and Policy, IMF
- **Overview presentation on the high-level themes of the APMCDRR**  
Presentation: Government of Australia and UNDRR

*Discussion*

---

10:30 – 11:45 **Session 4: Reflections from the Governments and Stakeholders [2 mins each]**

Key priorities of action to strengthen disaster risk governance

---

11:45 – 12:00 **Closing and Way Forward**

- Closing Remarks: Government of Australia and UNDRR
-