

Recommendations of High-level Expert Consultation on Disaster Information Management

Tehran, 18-19 December 2018

The High-level Expert Consultation on Disaster Information Management was held in Tehran from 18 to 19 December 2018. The meeting was organized by the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) in implementation of the work plan which was endorsed by the second session of its Governing Council in Tehran on 31 January 2018.

The expert consultation meeting was attended by senior officials and experts from ESCAP member countries from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste and Turkey. The meeting was also attended by UNISDR, UNDP/GCDS and JICA.

The meeting discussed issues of disaster information management in Asia and the Pacific, shared experiences, challenges and lessons learned in the development and management of disaster loss databases, including geo-referenced ones following the UN-GGIM framework, for disaster risk reduction and Sendai Framework monitoring.

Major conclusions and recommendations

The expert consultation meeting made the following recommendations for APDIM to consider implementing in 2019 and beyond.

The expert meeting appreciated the progress made in the development of the Asia-Pacific Disaster Atlas, and supported the operationalization of the data layers of the Atlas as the foundations of APDIM's online database repository.

The meeting also appreciated APDIM's approach on information management for slow-onset disasters including sand and dust storms and also supported the operationalization

of the sand and dust storm monitoring and alert system on APDIM's online database platform.

The expert meeting recommended that APDIM initiate capacity development programme on Sendai Framework Monitoring in 2019 with the first national activities in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan as the initial pilot countries, respectively with the NDMO of the Islamic Republic of Iran and NDMA of Pakistan, in partnership with UNISDR and in coordination with UNCTs. The national training would also include database development and management, including structure design and applications that are specific to country needs.

The meeting also recommended that a pilot retrofitting on disaster loss databases that would serve the purpose of monitoring the Sendai Framework and SDGs be undertaken in the Islamic Republic of Iran addressing country specific context and needs, in partnership with UNDP and GCDS.

Capacity development in disaster loss databases could also be carried out by APDIM in other countries. In this respect, APDIM could provide support to two on-going pilot countries of UNDP, namely Nepal and Sri Lanka. In addition, UNDP and APDIM would work jointly to support Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

APDIM could also support UNISDR and UNDP to further strengthen capacity of Afghanistan in disaster database for Sendai Framework monitoring. APDIM to also consider supporting UNISDR in expanding capacity development programme on Sendai Framework Monitoring to the PICs in the medium term.

The expert meeting advised that APDIM consider providing capacity development support to member countries upon request, for developing their national strategies on disaster risk reduction that would complement the strengthening of national capacities for Sendai Framework monitoring, in partnership with UNISDR.

The expert meeting also advised that APDIM carry out regional training programmes on disaster information management for multi-hazard risks. Such programmes could

include the Makran region tsunami risk assessment capacity development training to be undertaken in partnership with UNESCO/IOC and with the involvement the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and other relevant countries. The meeting also recommended the enhancement of cooperation mechanisms and instruments for data collection, data sharing and development of databases.

The meeting also suggested that APDIM develop customized training for decision-makers and hazard specific public education campaigns and training and support in development of awareness raising and advocacy programmes.

Expert group meeting recommended that technical working group be set up for the further development of disaster loss databases.

The expert meeting on disaster information management requested that the recommendations be brought to the attention of the Governing Council of APDIM.

Programme of APDIM events in Tehran, 18-19 December 2018

Day 1: Tuesday 18 December 2018	
High-level Expert Consultation on Disaster Information Management <i>(Venue: Espinas Palace Hotel)</i>	
08:00-09:00	Registration
09:00-09:45	<p>Opening session of High-level Expert Consultation on Disaster Information Management <i>(Room: Palace Hall, ground floor)</i></p> <p>MC: Mostafa Mohaghegh, Senior Coordinator, APDIM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome remarks and keynote speech by Dr. Mohammad Bagher Nobakht, Vice-President and Head of Plan and Budget Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran. • Welcome remarks by Dr. Seyed Hamid Pourmohammadi, Deputy Vice President, Plan and Budget Organization, Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairman of APDIM Governing Council. • Opening remarks by Mr. Ismail Najjar, Head of National Disaster Management Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran • Opening remarks by Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP • Opening remarks by Ms. Ugochi Daniels, UN Resident Coordinator, Islamic Republic of Iran
09:45-10:00	Break
10:00-11:15	<p>Session 1: Information management for disaster risk reduction <i>(Room: Parse 2 – 1st floor)</i></p> <p>Chair: Lieutenant General Omar Mahmood Hayat, Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Pakistan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction on APDIM information management framework for disaster risk reduction, <i>by Ms. Tiziana Bonapace, Director, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division and Officer-in-Charge of APDIM</i> • UN-GGIM framework for disaster information management system and prototyping spatial data infrastructure for disaster risk reduction, <i>by Mr. Payman Baktash, Head of Public Relations and International Affairs, National Cartographic Centre of Iran (NCC)</i> • Global Centre for Disaster Statistics initiative and regional linkages of disaster data and information, <i>by Mr. Rajesh Sharma, Programme Specialist (Global), Disaster Risk Information and Application, UNDP / Global Centre for Disaster Statistics (GCDS)</i>
11:15-11:30	Break
11:30-12:45	<p>Session 1: (Continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building APDIM database repository - Atlas of cross-border disasters with specific focus on slow onset disasters including sand and dust storms in South-West and Central Asia, <i>by Mr. Amin Shamseddini, Consultant, APDIM</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coalition to combat sand and dust storms, <i>by UN Coalition on Sand and Dust Storm, UN Environment (tbc)</i> • Reducing slow-onset disaster risk including sand and dust storm, a national experience, <i>by Department of Environment, Iran</i> • Disaster information management for slow-onset disasters including sand and dust storms, <i>by Mr. Sanjay Srivastava, Chief, Disaster Risk Reduction, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP (via videoconference)</i>
12:45 -14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:30	<p>Session 2: Sendai Framework monitoring (<i>Room: Parse 2 – 1st floor</i>)</p> <p>Chair: Dr. Yahya Jamour, Deputy Head for Technical Affairs, Iran National Cartographic Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaster information databases and spatial data infrastructure, <i>by Eng. Reza Ahmadiéh, Head of SDI, National Cartographic Centre and Mr. Mahdi Rahmatinejad, Head of Information Centre, Iranian National Disaster Management Organization</i> • Tools for developing national disaster loss databases, <i>by Mr. Rajesh Sharma, Programme Specialist, UNDP</i> • Sendai Framework Monitoring tools <i>by Mr. Timothy Wilcox, Programme Management Officer, UNISDR</i>
15:30- 16:00	Break
16:00-17:30	<p>Session 3: Regional cooperation mechanisms, ways forward (<i>Room: Parse 2 – 1st floor, Espinas Palace Hotel</i>)</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Tiziana Bonapace, Director, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division and Officer-in-Charge of APDIM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing country experiences in collecting data and developing geo-referenced disaster databases • Regional partnership network for capacity building in disaster information management • Cooperative capacity development on Sendai Framework Monitoring at national level
20:00-22:00	Dinner hosted by the Plan and Budget Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran (<i>Venue: Talar Ayvan Restaurant, Hotel Espinas Palace</i>)
Day 2: 19 December 2018	
08:30-09:30	<p>Closing session of High-level Expert Consultation on Disaster Information Management (<i>Room: Parse 2 – 1st floor</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presenting the recommendations of the meeting, by Mostafa Mohaghegh, Senior Coordinator, APDIM • Closing remarks by Mr. Mohammad Hadi Daryaei, Deputy International Affairs Centre, Plan and Budget Organization, Islamic Republic of Iran

09:30-10:00	Transfer of participants to APDIM Office (Sepand building)
Official opening of APDIM Office in Sepand building (Venue: Sepand Building, 11 th floor)	
10:00-11:00	Official opening of APDIM Office in Sepand building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cutting of ribbons and opening speeches of high level guests (11th floor) • Speeches by PBO and ESCAP (11th floor): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Mohammad Bagher Nobakht, Vice-President and Head of Plan and Budget Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran ○ Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP • Visit to exhibition, APDIM library and documentation centre and presentation on APDIM Website (8th floor)
APDIM Governing Council, Third Session (Venue: Conference Room of Sepand Building)	
11:00-12:30	APDIM Governing Council, Third Session <p>Item 1. Opening of the session</p> <p>(a) Opening statements;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome remarks by Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP • Keynote speech by Dr. Mohammad Bagher Nobakht, Vice-President and Head of Plan and Budget Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran • Statement by Dr. Gholamhossein Dehgahni, Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran <p>(b) Election of officers;</p> <p>(c) Adoption of the agenda.</p> <p>Item 2. Activities of the Centre since the second session of the Governing Council.</p> <p>Item 3. Report on the administrative and financial status of the Centre.</p>
12:30-13:30	Lunch in Sepand building
13:30-14:45	Item 4. Programme of work for 2019 and 2020. Item 5. Date of and venue for the fourth session of the Governing Council. Item 6. Other matters
14:45-15:15	Break
15:15-16:00	Item 7. Adoption of the report. Closing session