



RIS
Research and Information System
for Developing Countries
विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

GDC
GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE



Launch of Special Issue of Development
Cooperation Review (DCR) on
DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

Friday, 5 February 2021
6.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. (IST)



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Context

The Special Issue on Disaster Risk Management (DRM) of the Development Cooperation Review (DCR) was launched on February 5, 2021 in a webinar under the GDC initiative incubated by RIS.

Disaster preparedness and mitigation have become two necessary conditions for sustainable development of a planet reeling under effects of climate change. With Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in place, India's knowledge, expertise, experience, institutional capacities, infrastructure around natural disasters resilience has evolved substantially over the decades. India has emerged as a first responder in such calamities and the country has been a pioneer in setting international standards. Regional cooperation on Disaster Risk Reduction has picked up speed particularly since the Tsunami of 2004.

GDC seeks to promote such initiatives from India and other developing countries. It aims to showcase evidence of leadership globally through development cooperation by the way of sharing of knowledge and experience to boost resilience. This will be leveraged for building partnerships with different institutions like Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) in the areas of governance, policy and emerging technologies etc.

Introduction to the Event

The launch and the dialogue were steered by Ambassador Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow, RIS. The insights and leadership of RIS Director General, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi and steadfast commitment and erudition of Prof. Milindo Chakrabarti, brought this special issue to fruition. The contribution of the Co-Editors, who invested their expertise and time for a cause so critical for the Global South, was gratefully acknowledged.

This Special Issue's value proposition was endorsed by distinguished invitees like:

- (i) Mr. Akhilesh Mishra, Additional Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India
- (ii) Mr. Kamal Kishore, Member, National Disaster Management Authority, Govt. of India
- (iii) Mr. Rajeev Issar, UNDP, Crisis Bureau, Global Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Team
- (iv) Dr. A. Subbiah, Director, Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES), Bangkok
- (v) Dr. Emily Wilkinson, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), London
- (vi) Mr. Gatkuoth Kai, Technical Coordinator for DRR, Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, Africa Union Commission
- (vii) Dr. Mona Chhabra Anand: Director, Research & Knowledge Management, CDRI

They extended their support in taking the agenda forward.

Key Outcomes

- India's proactive role as a first responder in the neighboring, ASEAN and small island countries in response, recovery, and rebuilding after natural disasters empowered nations to put their own resources to sustain efforts for redressing vulnerabilities to human life and infrastructure.
- India needs to carry out due consultations with each of the countries of the region to assess their “needs” for enhancement of national extreme weather forecast and support service. Only then the single hazard Early Warning System (EWS) will transition to Multi-Hazard and Regional Early Warning Service in the Indian Ocean serving a number of nations from Asia to Africa.
- DRM is getting addressed with shift of focus from deterministic EWS and episodic response to probabilistic impact centric consequences of natural disasters whose patterns are known over different time scales.

- Further new emerging disasters such as pandemics, cyber tsunamis, chemical-oil spills etc. are compelling to build integrated holistic view on value setting in place of advanced preparedness and optimization of resources to greater planned development than just withstanding abrupt dislocation of resources to restore lives and livelihood.
- Such disasters including the new emerging ones like COVID are also bringing to forefront the need for understanding the connection between development and disaster. As the poorest are the most vulnerable, there is need for a broader inclusive matrix for the policy planners and they should examine the matter in a holistic and long-term manner to have fuller understanding of disaster resilience.
- COVID has equally dislodged nations across the world and to restore normalcy a global collective partnership and collaborations should seem as a credible solution to bring in tangible impact in favour of resilience and sustainability in DRR, DRM.
- With COVID, it has been learnt that the way we respond to disasters normally will not be relevant in addressing futurist uncertainties. There is an emerging concern in poor nations that futurist management can be leading towards nationalistic approach in vaccine supply. To prevent such nationalism, the futurist management needs to adopt better strategic measures with more multilateral and bilateral approaches to make vaccines accessible and affordable.
- Given the increasing nature of disasters, new mechanisms cannot be developed every time to address disaster risks and hazards; instead optimally utilise existing mechanisms, make them much better and robust and keep improving them to respond to neo-hazards.
- Innovative solutions around Disaster Resilient Infrastructures (DRI) needs to be supported and CDRI as an international initiative being spearheaded by Govt. of India would embrace solution providers across Asia, Africa.
- Mr. Akhilesh Mishra and Dr. Mona Chhabra Anand echoed their appreciation and looked forward to closer interaction both bilaterally and multilaterally on DRR, underlining the importance attached by GOI to this important SDG.
