



## Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

Third Session, Geneva, Switzerland  
8 - 13 May 2011

The world's foremost gathering on reducing disaster risk and building the resilience of communities

### Side event

**Title :**

Saving of Lives and Improved Coastal Risk Management through Regional Cooperation in Ocean and Marine Related Early Warning Systems in Asia

**Date and Time:** Tuesday 10 May, 13.15 – 14.15, Room 13

**Organized by:** World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), UNESCO-IOC, International Group on Wind-Related Disaster Risk Reduction (IG-WRR)

**Abstract:**

Coastal regions are recurrently affected by disasters induced from natural hazards, such as tropical cyclones, storm surges, tsunamis, and coastal flooding. Thus, tackling effective disaster risk management in the coastal regions requires a multi-hazard approach. Asia has been disproportionately affected by these phenomena, experiencing massive devastation which sets back socio-economic development of the countries and coastal communities by years if not decades. However, over the last few decades, significant number of lives and livelihoods were saved through cooperation between governments, regional centers and agencies, NGOs, private sector and the academic community in this region, particularly in the case of tropical cyclones, storm surges and tsunamis. This side event will demonstrate lessons learned and benefits realized through effective coordination and cooperation in early warning systems with a multi-hazard approach, promotion of effective risk management solutions, and education.

**Key Messages:**

- Early warning systems (EWS) must be developed with consideration for their sustainability linked with national policies, legislation, planning and budgeting processes
- Effective multi-hazard EWS require strong multi-stakeholder institutional coordination and cooperation across various ministries and agencies from national to local level
- Development of EWS is a development issue, requiring long-term institutional, coordination and capacity development commitment, and should be considered within the high priority development agenda of the countries and the region.
- National EWS and Disaster Risk Reduction initiatives must be supported with strong regional cooperation for monitoring, detecting and forecasting of large scale hazards such as hurricanes and tsunamis as no single country can build alone all the required capabilities
- Early warning systems are a component of a comprehensive risk reduction strategy and must be complemented with other risk reduction initiatives in the coastal zones, such as zoning, and strengthening of community resilience, of which an important aspect would be well designed infrastructure and buildings
- Building community resilience must be accompanied by educational and training programmes at all levels targeting the policy-makers, operational agencies, local government and the public in at-risk communities.

**Key Issues to be addressed:**

- Components of effective EWS and institutional coordination at national to regional levels, multi-stakeholder, multi-level, multi-hazard, multi-agency
- What are challenges with sustainability of EWS through linkage to related national and local legislation and policies defining roles and responsibilities of stakeholders, and budgeting? How can bi-lateral and multi-lateral cooperation projects consider the longer term development and sustainability issues of EWS? Who decides? Can you demonstrate how EWS are a critical component of effective disaster risk reduction in your country?
- What are some of the key lessons learned from effective EWS and national and regional cooperation related to marine and ocean related hazards (tropical cyclone and storm surges, tsunamis, etc.) in the region?
- What are other components of effective coastal zone management linked to reduction of risks associated with ocean and marine related hazards? How can communities build better resilience? What are the key elements? What is the role of public and private sectors? How about the general public?
- What are some of the opportunities and challenges for leveraging capacities and resources through better integration of coastal zone management and resilience building projects across local – national - regional? What are some of the opportunities and challenges for leveraging capacities and resources through better Integration of projects in support of EWS and coastal zone management and resilience building supported through bilateral and multilateral projects nationally and regionally?
- Importance and benefits of education at various levels and targeted at different stakeholders and awareness campaigns?

**Format:**

This will be an interactive session. The facilitator will open the session by providing the overall framework of the session, the key issues to be addressed and the format. After introductions by the facilitator, each panellist will make a 5-8 minute opening statement focusing on 2-3 key issues from the above list with their key messages underpinned by their national and regional experiences (32 minutes). This will be followed by targeted questions posed by the facilitator to the panellists and opening to the audience for questions and comments, while having a few of the audience (identified in advance) for reflections and comments.

**Facilitator and Rapporteur:**

**Dr. Maryam Golnaraghi** (WMO) and **Mr. Sam Sam Hettiarachchi** (coordinating for UNESCO/IOC)

**Panellists:**

1. **Dr B.Y. Lee**, invited expert, Hong Kong Observatory
2. **Mr. Atsushi Koresawa**, Executive Director, Asian Disaster Reduction Center
3. **Mr. Amir Mohyuddin**, Director Mitigation and Preparedness, Disaster Management Authority Pakistan,
4. **Prof. Yukio Tamura**, the chairman of IG-WRDRR

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