

# Building Regional Capacity for DRR



**Yuichi Ono, Ph D**  
Chief – Disaster Risk Reduction Section  
Information Communication Technology  
and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD)  
onoy@un.org

## WRDRR

**Filling a gap between  
academia and policy makers  
at regional and global level**

## How?

through

- trust building
- good dialogue
- information sharing
- goal sharing
- joint activities



ESCAP is the regional development arm of the United Nations for the Asia-Pacific region

62 Governments - from Turkey in the west to Kiribati in the east, and from the Russian Federation in the north to New Zealand in the south

The largest United Nations body serving the Asia-Pacific region with over 600 staff

ESCAP has more than **five decades of experience integrating disaster risk management with economic and social development** at the regional level.

**..Regional approach for cooperation specific focus on Asia Pacific Least Developed Countries (LDCs), SID, Landlocked Countries..**



## ESCAP Strategy: Disaster Management and Risk Reduction

### Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction (CDRR)

ESCAP resolution 64/1 established a Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction as a regional platform to assess existing challenges, formulate regional perspectives, and facilitate discussions on collective efforts and actions required.

Resolution 64/2: ESCAP was tasked by the Commission to work closely with UN/ISDR in supporting the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in the region.

## ESCAP Mandate

### Committee on Information and Communication Technology (CICT)

Strengthening regional cooperation for the improved management of disasters and associated socio-economic risks and to promote application of information and communications technology for socio-economic development in the ESCAP region.

Improved capabilities for integration of ICT in the field of multi-hazard assessment, preparedness, early warning and response to disaster risks

## ESCAP Roadmap

- Regional Cooperation

2009 – Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction

2008 - Committee on ICT  
- Focus on Disaster Management

2005 – ESCAP Tsunami Regional Trust Fund  
Established Regional Integrated Multi-hazard  
Early Warning System – RIMES (26 Countries)

1973- WMO/ESCAP  
Panel on Tropical Cyclone (PTC)  
8 Member Countries -Bay  
Of Bengal and Arabian Sea  
Focus on early warning

1994 - Regional Space Applications Programme  
for Sustainable Development (RESAP)  
- 22 Members; Focus on Disaster Mgmt Issues  
-Intergovernmental Consultative Committee  
Regional Working Groups

1968 - WMO/ESCAP Typhoon Committee (TC)  
14 Members from South East, East Asia  
Promoted Strategies to minimize the loss  
of lives and properties due to Typhoon

Disaster  
Management &  
Risk Reduction

1957 Mekong River Commission (MRC)  
Four members – Cambodia, Lao PDR,  
Vietnam and Thailand  
Implemented flood management



## ESCAP: Resource Mechanism for Regional Cooperation

Tsunami Regional Trust Fund (Administered by ESCAP)

Multi-donor Fund (Thailand, Sweden, Nepal, Turkey)

Grant funding to Governments, intergovernmental and other not-for-profit organizations

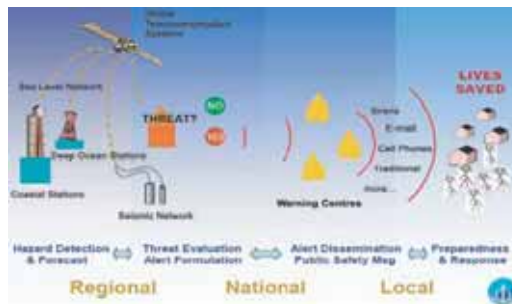
UN partners: IOC UNESCO, ISDR, OCHA, UNDP, UNEP, WMO

### Overall Framework

- End-to-end early warning
- Multi-hazard approach
- Regional focus
- Geographical scope – Indian Ocean and South-East Asia

Support a series of activities towards establishing a comprehensive, “end-to-end” early warning system in the region

Strengthen national and regional capacities in early warning



## ESCAP: Resource Mechanism for Regional Cooperation

### Priority Areas

Risk and vulnerability assessments

Standard Operating Procedures

Response capacity (through regional initiatives)

Public awareness

Drills—regulations and standards for evaluation

Improve effectiveness of warning messages

### Status of Fund Utilization

53 proposals received, with total budget of about US\$ 61 million

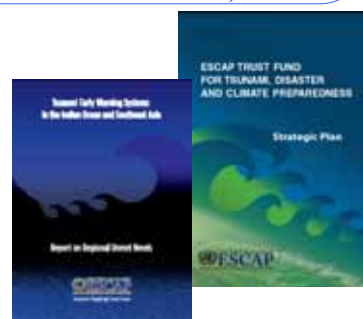
14 projects approved, with total budget of about US\$ 10.8 million (over 80%)

About US\$ 2.6 million available for programming

### Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES)

Regional Tsunami Watch, Disaster Risk Information, Capacity Building: Meteorological Agencies

...  
Established in April 2009 (USD 4.5 million from Trust Fund).



## 'Gateway' : Knowledge Sharing/Info Exchange

### -Targeted at:

- National Disaster Management Authorities
- Academic and research institutions
- Line Ministries working in DRR
- NGOs



### Objectives

The Gateway is a web portal that:

- promotes the mainstreaming of DRR into development planning at the national level
- focuses on the information needs of National Disaster Management Agencies and other ministries responsible for DRR
- consolidates existing online resources and provides value-added analytic capabilities

## **Asia Pacific Disaster Report (APDR)** - ESCAP UN ISDR Partnership Effort

**Central Focus: Protecting Development Gains – Reducing Vulnerability & Building Resilience**  
Input to Global Assessment Report 2011

**Contents – based on Practices, Policy Trends, Lessons Leant by member States as well as major initiatives at Global level**

- Disaster risk in Asia and the Pacific
- Socio-economic Impacts of Disasters
- Reducing Vulnerability, Socio-economic perspectives
- Making Recovery Resilient
- Capitalizing on New Technology
- Cooperating Across the Region
- Way Forward

## Partnership for DRR

- Economic and Social Issues of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)
- DRR as entry point to Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)



- Investment Tracking on DRR promoting investment
- Risk Transfer and Resilient Sectoral Development
- Emerging Issues related to CCA and DRR
- Asia Pacific Disaster Report

- Capacity building for Damage and Loss Assessment (DaLA) – Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)
- DaLA/PDNA for low impact & high frequency disasters –focused on high risk LLDC, LDCs and SIDs

- Asia Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Networks – support to DRR components, Regional Advisory Services
- DRR aspects of CCA – Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)
- Typhoon Committee, Panel on Tropical Cyclone

## Ongoing DRR Projects

**Regional cooperative mechanism on disaster monitoring and early warning especially for Drought**

**Capacity Building for Early Warning Systems for Extreme Weather Events in Central Asia**

### Supported by – PR China

#### Products (Drought-prone ESCAP region of Central, East, South East and South Asia)

- Information sharing for capacity building
- Satellite data sharing for routine drought risk monitoring and early warning
- Provision of detailed satellite products for areas under drought risks
- Human resources development

### Supported by – Russian Federation

- Focus on multi-hazard assessment, preparedness, early warning and response to disaster risks with regards to extreme weather events in Central Asian region

## ESCAP: DRR Strategic Pillars



### Regional Advisory Services :

Under the Regular Programme of technical cooperation (Section 22) for UN Regional Commissions

Activation of advisory services based on the specific request from ESCAP member States or Resident Coordinator, UN Country Team,

Advisory services request to be addressed to Executive Secretary, ESCAP

### DRR Regional Advisory Services for Capacity Development and Mainstreaming DRR

-Maldives, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Timor Leste, Nepal and Bhutan

## Future activities

### Planned

- Urban disaster risk reduction projects in Manila, Hat Yai, and Hanoi under the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee
- Post-disaster assistance for disaster risk reduction (Pakistan floods)

### In horizon

- Develop a mechanism to assemble regional disaster statistics --- based on official data sources
- Develop a tool to assess social vulnerability and risk factors for disasters
- Develop WMO/ESCAP Tropical Cyclone Committee in the Southern Pacific
- Develop wind hazard/disaster maps and storm surge maps over the Asia and Pacific
- Assess social and economic impacts of climate change in the region, including migration

*[The UN General Assembly resolution 64/L.10 of 29 Oct 2009 ...](#)*

*develop regional initiatives and risk reduction capacities of regional mechanisms .. and invites regional commissions to support the efforts of Member States in this regard;*

**Thank you**



**Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction Meeting, March 2009**

