

Knowledge Resources for Comprehensive School Safety and Security in India



Photo: AIDMI.

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ABOUT THIS ISSUE

India is home to 1.5 million schools with more than 250 million students, making it a country with one of the highest number of students in the world. It is a well-known fact that India's vulnerability to natural hazards cascades down to its schools and adversely affects the safety and security of its school going children. Apart from natural hazards, the risk of violence, sexual abuse, exploitation and neglect also loom large on these children. In order to protect this large part of its demographic from various risks, many school safety initiatives have been launched in India.

This issue of *Southasiadisasters.net* is titled "Knowledge Resources for Comprehensive School Safety and Security in India." It focuses on the innovations in service delivery and the lessons learnt in carrying out the Comprehensive School Safety and Security Programme (CSSSP) in India. A collaboration between UNICEF and many state governments, the CSSSP is unique as it has focused not only on addressing disaster risk reduction (DRR) concerns but also child protection concerns.

As the CSSSP has been rolled out in 5 states of India, a lot of lessons on programme design, delivery, stakeholder management, scaling-up and sustainability have been learnt. This issue is a compendium of such lessons that have been captured as knowledge resources to aid other government and non-government actors who intend to start similar programmes in India to improve the safety and security of its children. ■

- Kshitij Gupta

INTRODUCTION

Emerging Knowledge on CSSSP in India

In recent years, India has emerged as a hub of knowledge and innovation in programming school safety and security initiatives. This is not surprising considering the fact that India has one of the highest numbers of children in the world (39%) as per the census of 2011. With massive challenges such in the sectors like health, education, nutrition and sanitation India has evolved several measures to protect its schools and students from all types of risks. The intent to protect the country's children is reflected in the Comprehensive School Safety and Security Programme (CSSSP).

A Round Table organized by Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM) in Gandhinagar in Gujarat in January 2018 highlighted the new knowledge on ways to bridge the gap between the policy makers, schools, and the middle level authorities and civil society leaders around climate risk and uncertainty. The discussion illustrated that ways of bridging the gap between these stakeholders – who to link up with, how to link, why, and when – is of great relevance to the other states of India.

GIDM Director General, Shri P.K. Taneja, pointed out to the Round Table participants that such emerging knowledge of bridging the gap must be made available to school children and the teachers so that its use can be mainstreamed in education itself.

According to the research on uncertainty in Indian cities done by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, we know far more on

safety and security than we previously ever did. There are several urban school safety initiatives in India, including those of Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group (GEAG) in Uttar Pradesh and Centre for Development Studies and Activities (CDSA) in Pune with UNICEF support. What is needed is consolidating emerging knowledge on making schools safer in large cities for sharing with India's metros. As Lyla Mehta, Professorial Fellow of Institute of Development Studies (IDS), UK, pointed out that transformation of urban India to green and clean economy is more likely if India uses its own experience of adaptation and mitigation to build resilience.

The Sunderbans are India's hotspot for both disaster risk and climate resilience efforts. The civil society organisations lead by Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR) discussed the ways to deal with diverse perspectives on CSSSP to make unified and direct impact on risks faced by communities. Dr. Tuhin Ghosh suggested, drawing from his recent book titled 'Natural Hazards Management in Asia'¹, that India has unique new knowledge on risk reduction and resilience building related to delta areas of Sunderbans that is of use to schools in coastal India and other deltas of Asia.

The above areas are key to inform next steps towards making CSSSP knowledge successful not only in India but also in other South Asian countries such as Nepal and Bangladesh. ■

- AIDMI Team

1 Pal, Indrajit and Ghosh, Tuhin (2018). *Natural Hazards Management in Asia*. New Delhi: SAGE Publication India Pvt. Ltd. 1-382.

Comprehensive School Safety and Security Programme: Legislative Framework and Further Actions



Photo: AIDMI.

State Level Workshop on Making Schools Safer in Uttar Pradesh, October 17, 2017.

How to make National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) work on the ground at the community level? One of the important steps is to start at school level. Comprehensive School Safety and Security Programme (CSSSP) has been designed and developed, aiming to make 15 lakh schools in India safe. AIDMI and UNICEF are taking initiatives with various programs and activities, including shaping and spreading the concept of School safety and Security.

Regarding to legislative framework, different Ministries of Government of India have issued and established guidelines or advisory boards regarding to School safety and security of schools, which has greatly assisted the implementation of CSSSP. To name a few, Ministry of Human Development established Advisory Board on Corporal Punishment in schools in March 2014, which is fairly widespread and includes activities on different aspects of CSSSP. The Central Board of Secondary Education focused on

School Bus as a useful start for school-level activities in School Safety Programs for students in March 2017.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) developed a Guideline for state and district authorities on Safer Schools in October 2014. In December 2014, the Ministry also issued Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on dealing with terrorist attacks on schools. This SOPs is considered to be inclusive for schools guidelines.

Table 1: Below is the Summary Table of Guidelines and Boards

Guidelines/Instructions/Framework	Issued by Ministry	Effective day
Advisory Board on Corporal Punishment	Ministry of Human Development	March 2014
School Bus	Central Board of Secondary Education	March 2017
Guideline for state and district authorities on Safer Schools	Ministry of Human Resource Development	October 2014
Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to deal with terrorist attacks	Ministry of Human Resource Development	December 2014
Guidelines on food safety and hygiene for school kitchens	Ministry of Human Resource Development	February 2015

In February 2015, Guidelines on Food safety and hygiene for schools kitchens under Child Day Meal Scheme was also developed by the Ministry to covers nutrition and safety aspects of schools

Towards this end, here are some points to be noted in CSSSP:

1. Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) must take a greater role in developing and advancing the concept of CSSSP.
2. The 13th Formation Day of India organized by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) witnessed a veritable gathering of key stakeholders who deliberated upon the key activities to be embedded in the CSSSP processes of the country. Among the key themes discussed were the challenges of lack of skills among teachers and students on topics of school safety and security.
3. Affirmative action is important to make education become inclusive and equal, but to what degree, the state authorities have to define it and take this ahead in DRR activities. A more focus on girl child in mock drills, for example, is one step ahead. Specific roles of disabled children in awareness raising campaigns is another step forward. Similarly, the role of media to comprise different



State Level Workshop on Making Schools Safer in Gujarat, November 7, 2017.

4. The school bus is an indispensable asset for schools as it helps students to commute from home to school and then back again. However, the legal liability in case of untoward incidents is not clear, making these buses extremely unsafe for the students when travelling.
5. Are we missing "Safety as a medium" of DRR learning at schools? There is an opportunity to teach math's through mock drills and geography through hazard assessments. At some points, safety as a medium must come in. In this regard, school-to-school exchange is important.
6. Role of Members of Parliaments is crucial in making schools safe. Each MP can have a review of the performance of private and public schools -in their agenda in making the students safe.
7. Information security is another important aspect. Children are more and more exposed to the Internet and virtual games. Without the supervision of adults, this can lead to different problems ranging from a neglect of studies to sexual and physical abuse along with anxiety and depression.
8. 'Gender' must be included in CSSSP. Safety of Girl Children is key and essential Women and Child Development Department must take a lead role to ensure gender based safety and security.



State Level Workshop on Making Schools Safer in Andhra Pradesh, December 19, 2017.

Some initial work on CSSSP has been successfully done in Kashmir, and there are clear indications that it is possible to upscale and broaden the CSSSP across India.

The time has come for State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) and State Education Departments to find ways to design and develop CSSSP for 2018. ■

- AIDMI Team

India and ASEAN: Partners in Making Asia Safer



ASEAN INDIA
Pravasi Bharatiya Divas
6-7 JANUARY 2018
MARINA BAY SANDS | SINGAPORE



The partnership between India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is critical for realizing the vision of the Asia Regional Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction that is guiding implementations of Sendai Framework. The idea of such a partnership and its details are hoped were taken up at the recently help Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas celebrated in Singapore on January 6-7, 2018. Similarly, AIDMI hopes has taken up at Indo-ASEAN Commemorative Summit, held on January 25, 2018 in Delhi.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is one of the most important annual celebrations organized by the government of India to commemorate the achievements and goodwill of the Indian diaspora across the world.

The Indo-ASEAN Commemorative Summit consolidated the 25 year old partnership between India and ASEAN as well as celebrated the millennia old human, maritime, cultural, commercial and religious bonds between the people of India and those of the ASEAN nations.

The Asia Regional Plan (ARP) for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) was accepted and launched at Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) in Delhi in India, November 2016, under the leadership of Shri Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs of India who is now energetically championing the implementation of ARP.

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) of the United Nations from Bangkok office is monitoring and facilitating the implementation of ARP. An Asia that is resilient to disaster and climate risks would be immensely beneficial

for both India and the ASEAN countries. As Asian economies scale newer rates of growth, it is important to protect that prosperity from the ravages of disasters. The partnership between India and ASEAN not only has the potential of making Asia resilient but also the potential of firmly putting its economies on a path to green growth and sustainability.

Apart from the obvious economic ties of trade, investment and business, India and ASEAN also share strong cultural and social links. Leveraging these links can offer co-benefits to both the parties at substantially lesser costs. All these factors have poised India and ASEAN to shape the future of economic prosperity and human progress in Asia.

The following are India's key five DRR Achievements:

- National Disaster Management Plan of India is in line with Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Disaster Management Guidelines for more than 25 disasters and cross cutting issues such as in school safety and CCDRR with UNICEF support.
- Disaster Management Plans at National, State, District and sub-district level such as in Assam.
- Well trained and well equipped National and State Disaster Response Forces such as in Andhra Pradesh.
- State of the art Emergency Operation Centres at all levels such as in Gujarat.

ASEAN's key five DRR achievements include:

- ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) for regional activity.
- ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) for joint action.

- ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management for direction.
- ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) for response.
- ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) for dialogue and informing decisions.

Singapore has a keen interest in national security (which includes making schools safer); promoting (and protecting from disaster and climate risk) trade and industry; and collaborative foreign affairs (including responding in humanitarian crisis).

India is keen to promote (and protect investments and assets) in shipping, transport and highways; show case Assam and North East as a destination for investment (and make such investment safe from disaster and climate risks); and invite investments in rapidly growing coastal economy of Andhra Pradesh (that is climate and disaster risk resilient).

What India and ASEAN can jointly take up as key areas for cutting edge action under ARP are: one, finding ways to address the increasing challenges of disaster related displacement in Asia; two, using digital technology to develop comprehensive school safety and security programme for Asia; three, encouraging local leaders to initiate local disaster risk reduction planning to reduce the loss of life and livelihoods in Asia; and four, ensure system wide penetration of risk transfer and insurance in Asia.

India's Foreign Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj and Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Shri Teo Chee Hean have played their historic roles in making Asia safer and more prosperous at these two events. ■ - AIDMI Team

Risk Reduction Opportunities for Indian Cities

Cities in India offer the biggest and best opportunity to implement risk reduction and resilience building measures as envisaged in the National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) of Government of India as launched in June 2016.

Since 2001, the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) has worked in at least 65 cities from 16 states and 2 union territories of India. The activities include emergency management exercises, community consultations, participatory risk assessments, school safety audit, hospital fire safety audit, capacity building activities through trainings, demonstrations and mock-drills; advocacy through round tables; community researches; gender studies.

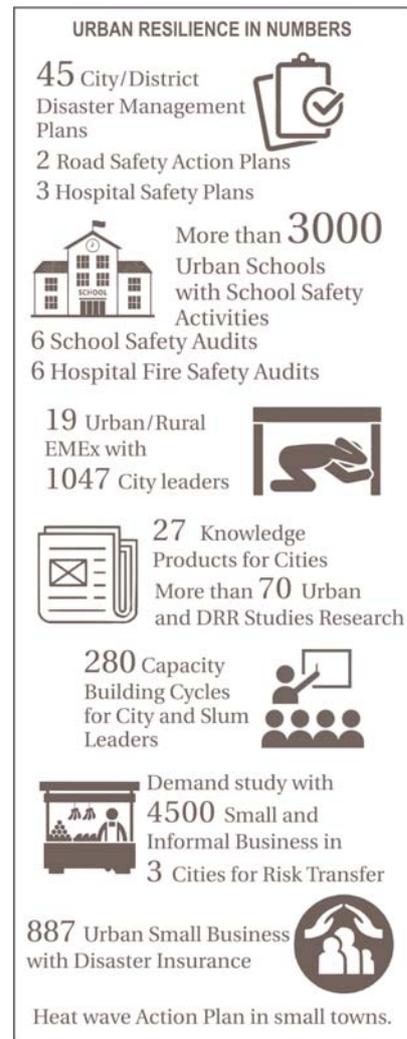
In addition AIDMI has worked on information dissemination; participatory shelter and urban school reconstruction activities; restoration of city livelihoods; micro-finance to businesses and risk transfer initiatives of slum dwellers. Several city drought management plans are made and in cases area based disaster risk reduction has also been taken up for special sectors as slums or *dargah* or temples. These activities support slum areas and the urban poor from marginalised communities.

The following is an overview of selected opportunities.

- Building Urban Resilience: 8th South-South Citizenry Based Development sub-Academy (SSCBDA), Ahmedabad, January 2016 by AIDMI suggested that city-to-city risk reduction is the best and most cost effective measure of collective widescale risk reduction in India. Cities

learns from other cities rapidly and concretely.

- Risk Transfer and Insurance: Demand Survey for Disaster Microinsurance in Guwahati in Assam, Puri in Odisha, and Cuddalore in Tamil Nadu, January 2016.
- City Disaster Management Plans: 45 city and district disaster management plans with NDMA, ASDMA, BSDMA, OSDMA and Government of Jammu & Kashmir. Through these efforts it has been learnt that it is the process of such planning that is far more important than the actual final one-time top-down product.
- City Wide Emergency Management Exercises (EMEx) is a key to urban disaster preparedness and planning. In this "area based approach" is for more effective when focus is on excluded groups and risk hotspots in cities.
- AIDMI with ASDMA conducted a Guwahati City-level review study on flood risk management. The study reviewed 25 key Guwahati focused documents of last 10 years to list out key recommendations for Guwahati city specific flood risk management.
- 624 schools have been audited from 14 Urban Areas - 8 States/UTs indicated that's schools in cities are fore-runners of disaster risk preparedness at school level as well as at home.
- Urban Small Businesses clearly indicated that citizens and private sector are keen to take action, put in time, and in cases resources to reduce risks they face with Disaster Insurance.
- In the end one of the lowest hanging fruit of NDMP is urban risk reduction.



In conducting the above mentioned work, AIDMI has developed and refined tools and methods that are of use to NDMP implementation process at the national and state level, such as Risk Review Tool for Urban Basic Services; Metro Flood Management Tool; Local Urban Employment Resilience Index; Resilient Ward Index; and Integrated City Risk Reduction Tool.

Time has come for Indian cities to become engines of disaster risk reduction activities. ■

- AIDMI Team

Shaping Green Climate Fund Policies

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is dynamic and evolving. After COP 23 in Bonn, Germany, what are the **best ways to keep the GCF relevant and responsive?** Three new and updated policies of GCF have been put up for public comments, viz. Environmental and Social Management System; Indigenous People's Policy; and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Policy and Action Plan. These three policies represent the first attempt to align GCF more directly with COP 23 Bonn outcomes.

Since 1995, the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI), has worked on integrating disaster risk with climate risk to engender resilient development. The following comments on all three policies have been made drawing from AIDMI's work in 65 cities and 89 districts in India to Integrate Disaster Risk Reduction with Climate Change Adaptation since Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) SREX report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation in 2012. These comments also draw from

over seven years of pioneering work of Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) in India. These comments are divided into four areas meant to shape the evolution of GCF into an effective and transformative global agent of green transformation.

One, there is a need to give more focus on the **sub-national initiatives** – may it be environmental and social policy or gender policy – as it is these initiatives that make a major difference in the lives of the people and their daily incomes.

Two, a greater focus is required on the **urban risks faced by women** and the girl child because such risks can be addressed and contained faster in the existing settlement and community patterns.

Three, investment must be made in **supporting initiatives around heatwave – either through focussing on farmers in tribal areas or women street vendors in cities** – as this is one of the fastest growing hazards and can be tamed with cost effective multi-purpose initiatives.

Four, a **direct focus on the loss and damage caused by floods and heavy rains** is needed. This is important because the unprecedented floods of 2017 affected the lives of over 35 million Indian citizens. Therefore, social and environment policies should adequately focus on and address the risks of flood and heavy rains related loss and damage.

In 2016 AIDMI, with CDKN support, held a series of local consultations after Paris Agreement – with groups of women, *tribals*, youth, corporate leaders, coastal farmers and state authorities – to consolidate what are the achievements of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and what are the opportunities that lie ahead. Through the course of these consultations, the above mentioned four areas came up in addition to ecosystem driven agriculture, sustainable forestry and diversified urban transportation related opportunities for GCF. The findings were offered to Niti Aayog within India and to a wide range of donors including the European Union and DFID, UK.

Civil Society Organisation (CSO) can give more detailed inputs in this process drawing from COP 23 Bonn achievements as well as play an active role in facilitating the use and implementation of these policies in GCF day-to-day work. CSOs can hold policy events with key partners among the women's groups and *tribal* leadership; organise capacity trainings on environmental and social policies; and develop pilots in schools and hospitals and offices or districts.

We have caused climate change and it is up to us to shape GCF policies in a way that will transform the development path ahead. ■

- AIDMI Team



Regional Capacity Development: Five Action Areas

Asia's regional capacity must be urgently enhanced to implement Asian Regional Plan (ARP) for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) better and faster. The following are some of the key areas that have emerged from the recent South Asia Disaster Report (SADR) 2016 published by Duryog Nivaran (DN) and focus on the principle and practice of *Build Back Better* (BBB).

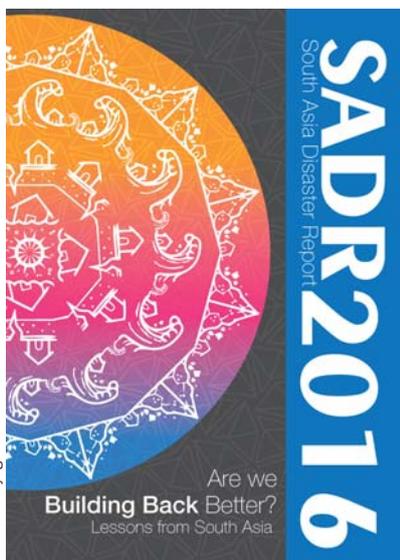


Photo: Duryog Nivaran.

Limited Sources of Funding for CSOs

Firstly, there is limited direct investment by donors and authorities in local civil society organisations (CSOs) in the region. According to the State of Civil Society Report (2015) published by Civicus Global Alliance it was found that only about 1% of all official aid, and an even smaller portion of humanitarian assistance, goes directly to the global south or to CSOs working at local level.

It is these organisations that reach out to communities and local institutions; it is these organisations that innovate and invent; and it is these organisations that leverage social capital of the victim and at risk communities. They are also the first responders and take the greatest risks. With adequate financial support from donors, local organisations in the urban and rural, as well as desert and delta areas of India can turn the many social challenges of this country into opportunities for transformation.

Investing in local organisation capacity is paramount in South Asia. For, a lot of donors cite the lack of trained manpower as one of the greatest challenges in providing funding to front line NGOs and CSOs. Given the potential for transformation and disruptive social change that such CSOs hold, perhaps it is time to fund capacity development for such organizations.

The Need for Resilient Water Resources

Secondly, big dams in Asia can be a serious threat. On September 20, 2017, a Rs. 389 crores dam near Bhagalpur in Bihar collapsed 24 hours before its inauguration by the Chief Minister of the state.

This incident has raised grave concerns about the status of safety and security of these dams in the region.

South Asia actually has a lot of potential for hydropower. More than

400 dams are planned or under construction China, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Bhutan. As the region is geologically young the potential for earthquakes is heightened. Earthquakes pose considerable risk to dam infrastructure and downstream communities.¹

The existing dams in India and other South Asian countries need to be audited for their safety, retrofitted for their sustainability and also be debated upon for their suitability. Towards this end, a lot of capacity building is required not only for dams but other water resources as well as for the larger agricultural sector in South Asia for effective disaster risk reduction. What is missing is what can be called micro-history of risk in water and agriculture sector.

The Role of Faith Based Organizations

Thirdly, given the hold of religion over the masses in the global South and South Asia in particular, Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) have a big role to play to Build Back Better (BBB) in South Asia.

At a recent Asia Pacific wide event attended by over 100 leaders in Colombo titled: Localizing Response to Humanitarian Need: The Role of Religious and Faith-based Organisations demanded more investment in building capacity for inter-faith humanitarian action so as to reach the victims effectively and urgently not only after a disaster but

¹ Earthquakes, Dams and Water in South Asia, <http://www.futuredirections.org.au/publication/earthquakes-dams-water-south-asia/>



also between two disasters. Work of CARITAS Nepal in earthquake recovery was presented at the above event and it showed that inter-faith work can reach out to all at risk.

Promoting Lateral Learning for DRR

Fourthly, there is limited investment in learning, from ongoing DRR activities in South Asia, especially learning among highly motivated learners and practitioners who may be from the civil society or local authorities. Also learning at scale remains a challenge in South Asia. Asia Pacific Network (APN) has initiated learning activities around

climate risk in the region. Similarly, the work of Saleemul Huq in delta areas in Bangladesh also shows that investment in local capacity to learn has large and long term gains for the communities. In fact there is an increasing demand from Africa to learn from Indian and the South Asian experience as the above photo shows the intern from Africa at AIDMI learning local DRR planning.

Sustainable Livelihoods in the face of changing Technology

Fifthly, there is a need to reconcile livelihoods in South Asia, especially the non-skilled one's with pace of

technology change and automation. The nature of work—employment and livelihoods—are going to rapidly change worldwide with the rise of robotics and digital economy and "block chain" as well as deskilling and de-capitalisations of work at the lowest level of income in almost all countries in Asia. Efforts are needed to not only build capacity to restore livelihoods and work but in fact to take a leap ahead into the future of just and decent work after a disaster.

H.E. Paolo Gentiloni, Honorable Prime Minister of Italy in his recent visit to India in October 2017 mentioned new thrust to Italy, The EU, and India agenda. He emphasised to build capacity of India in such a way that it can lead several, if not many, Asian countries to face global challenges of risk reduction and resilience building.

By addressing the aforementioned five areas, India and South Asia can indeed lead the way in tackling the challenges of risk and resilience for others to emulate. ■

- AIDMI Team



Financing Integrated Governance of Risks

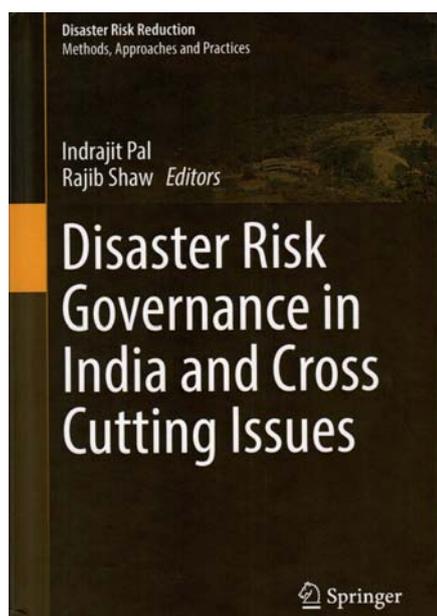
Financing integration of disaster and climate risk governance ought to be on COP 23 Bonn agenda.

Financing for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation cannot be two separate activities anymore. They need to be integrated with each other now. India initiated such integration in its INDCs and after the COP 21 Paris Agreement. This integration continues to rank high on the Government of India's agenda.

At the AMCDRR in Delhi in November 2016, Sam Bickersteth of CDKN chaired a key panel on "Integrated DRR, Response to Climate Change and Sustainable Development" which developed clear understanding and consensus on the advantages of such integration of risk governance in the Asian context.

The South Asia Disaster Report 2016 by Duryog Nivaran, which focuses on Building Back Better, argues that integration of DRR with CCA in disaster recovery process is important and possible in South Asia.

COP 23 in Bonn is one of the most important global policy events that encourages a wide range of actors to move ahead in reducing the negative impact of climate change on human life and nature.



COP 23 Bonn agenda is aimed at finding ways to improve and expedite financing climate change actions. However, the agenda does not directly pick up on integration between disaster and climate risk. A lot of effort is invested in understanding risks—scientific technological, or economic—but little effort is invested on integrated governance of risk across all levels.

The recent publication titled Disaster Risk Governance in India and Cross Cutting Issues edited by Indrajit Pal and Rajib Shaw (<http://www.springer.com/in/book/9789811033094>) offers some of the reasons for such integration.

The book offers a much needed balance between theory and practice of disaster risk governance in India. The evidence and actions that flow are of interest and use to COP 23 Bonn agenda.

Rarely before has such quality of data, research, conceptual work and practical cases on risk governance have been brought between the covers of a single book.

Drawing from the book and AIDMI's work on risk reduction and resilience building as a central element of local planning the following items can be taken up on COP 23 Bonn agenda.

First, it is important to develop national perspectives based on but not limited to global values and international efforts to move towards a green and clean economy. This will be a transformation agenda and each nation will select what Erik Olin Wright in his book titled, "Envisioning Real Utopias¹ calls "ruptural" or "intersitial" or "symbiotic" transformation. Such national perspectives will make financing more demand based.

Second, sub-national implementation processes are critical for this integration. Road corridors in Bangladesh, Wind parks in Sri Lanka, rupee linked bonds in India, or urban public transport in China are some examples where financing of such integration can take place with focus on sub-national processes.

"Local people in marginal environments such as drylands, wetlands and vulnerable coastal regions deal with disaster and climatic shocks regularly. Integrating disaster and climate governance and financing with long term development goals is the only way to help improve the wellbeing and life chances of poor people in marginal environments."

– Prof Lyla Mehta, project leader of Research Council of Norway funded project on climate change, uncertainty and transformation.

Chetan Vaidya, ex-director of School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi, has often said that urban areas are a good spot to start with such financing.

Third, linking risk governance with development—urban, post-disaster, delta and desert areas—across not only forestry and environment but across all sectors of economy is now most urgent.

Fourth, climate related knowledge and lessons integrated in school safety activities in order to make our children prepared against climate risks.

In Andhra Pradesh in India the authorities have initiated such integration with the support from UNICEF and UNDP in its DRR Road Map. Financing such Road Maps, including in another state, Bihar, remain a challenge.

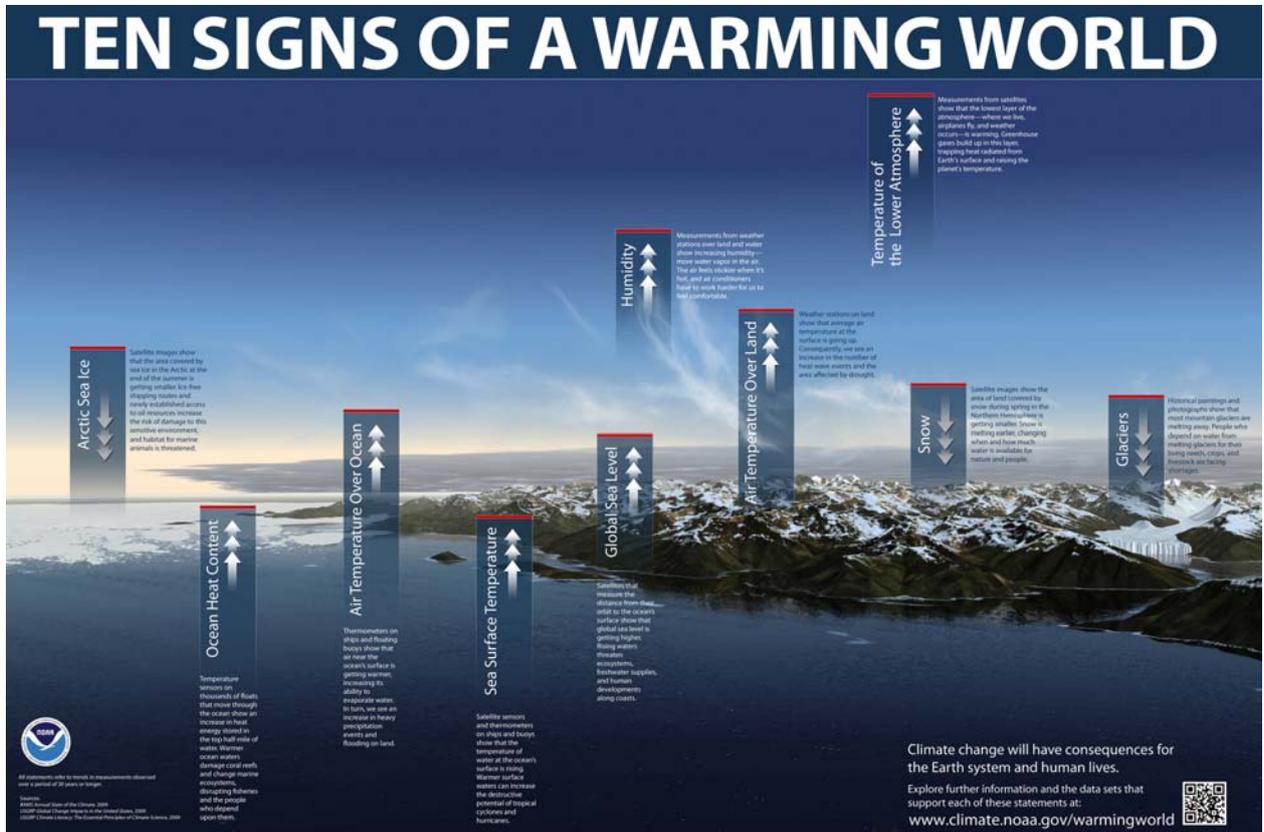
Perhaps such financing of integrated risk governance can help address what Asian Development Bank calls nexus of urbanisation, development, environment and unemployment in Asia. But this is not to say that what Jyoti Sharma calls "neoliberal trap" should not be avoided by such financing.

Time has come for the participants of COP 23 Bonn to be (as Wilton S. Dillion, cultural anthropologist and senior scholar emeritus at Smithsonian Institution in the USA calls) "loose, playful, and responsible" and not to be too burdened with the "business case" for such integration alone. ■

– AIDMI Team

1 <http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.152.6099&rep=rep1&type=pdf>

WMO, Climate Change and Children: A View



Source: www.climate.noaa.gov/warmingworld

It was Paris, 2015, when more than 1150 World Leaders came to 22nd Conference of the Parties, all with a common message. It was time to act to combat climate change. This gathering was unprecedented, having this many Heads of State speak on one day about one issue. All had witnessed the costly impacts of increasing frequency and intensity of weather and climate extremes, having devastating consequences for the health and safety of people, national economies, food and water security, and their ebbing capacity to cope with these extremes. They spoke of the need to act today and onwards to safeguard humanity by mitigating and adapting to these threats, especially for the most vulnerable and often least equipped, women and children, and the unborn.

Extreme events, including heat waves, tropical cyclones, monsoons, floods, droughts and wildfires account for 80% of the world's natural disasters. According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), annual damage costs are spiraling into the 100's of billions annually, and these extremes are expected to occur with even greater frequency and intensity as greenhouse gases continue to rise. For more than half of the world's population living in coastal communities, risks are escalating due to sea-level rise caused by melting of the world's glaciers and ice sheets, and thermal expansion of the world's oceans; other indicators of a warming climate.

While nations have uneven capacity to cope, disasters also impact people

differently. Women and children generally have higher vulnerability and exposure to hydro meteorological risks and are often least prepared to deal with their consequences, with coping capacity affected by physiological, social and cultural influences. Children can be more vulnerable to these dangers depending on their physical development, their understanding of the dangers, time of day, being together in school or delays in their education awaiting rebuilding of schools post disaster.

The WMO plays an important role in arming humanity with foresight and know-how to adapt to climate change. It is a specialized agency of the UN, formed to facilitate worldwide cooperation on monitoring and predicting changes

in weather, climate, water and other environmental conditions such as air pollution. WMO executes this responsibility by facilitating creation of scientific understanding, training, and exchange of information, products and services among nations. Through these functions, gaps in capabilities among nations are narrowed, having better access to the necessary knowledge, education and applications to support climate action and resilience at home.



Credit: Photographer Dinesh Malte, 1st Prize Winner for UNFCCC International Photo Contest 2012.

WMO is implementing a number of priority actions to support this capacity building objective.

- Global Framework for Climate Services is guiding the development of climate services at global, regional and national levels to strengthen resilience to climate-related natural disasters, health outcomes and support to key economic sectors. Regional climate outlook forums are one example where bringing climate specialists together with health practitioners has led to early notification to contain malaria outbreaks.
- Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS)

initiative is bringing resources and capacity to enable the most vulnerable countries to significantly improve their weather and climate services and alerting capabilities to protect their citizens, young and old.

- Roadmap for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems is guiding implementation of common alerting approaches and systems at the national levels to bolster resilience and preparedness.
- Educational materials and curricula are geared to children on number of topics related to understanding weather, climate and water services, related

extremes and climate change (<http://youth.wmo.int/>).

In conclusion, while WMO serves as a beacon for the world in monitoring and predicting the key signals of our changing climate, it is up to everyone to take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Through education and awareness, children will become advocates for taking action and will influence the older and future generations to make the necessary decisions to address this global challenge. ■

- **David Grimes**, President of the World Meteorological Organization and Assistant Deputy Minister of the Meteorological Service of Canada

Editorial Advisors:

Denis Nkala

Regional Coordinator, South-South Cooperation and Country Support (Asia-Pacific), United Nations Development Programme, New York

Ian Davis

Visiting Professor in Disaster Risk Management in Copenhagen, Lund, Kyoto and Oxford Brookes Universities

Dr. John Twigg

Senior Research Associate, Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering, University College London, London

Madhavi Malalgoda Ariyabandu

Sub-Regional Coordinator, Central Asia & South Caucasus, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), Kazakhstan

Mihir R. Bhatt

All India Disaster Mitigation Institute, India

Dr. Satchit Balsari, MD, MPH

The University Hospital of Columbia and Cornell, New York, USA

T. Nanda Kumar

Chairman, Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA), Anand, Gujarat, India



ALL INDIA DISASTER MITIGATION INSTITUTE

411 Sakar Five, Behind Old Natraj Cinema, Near Mithakhali Railway Crossing, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad-380 009 India. Tele/Fax: +91-79-2658 2962

E-mail: bestteam@aidmi.org, Website: <http://www.aidmi.org>, www.southasiadisasters.net