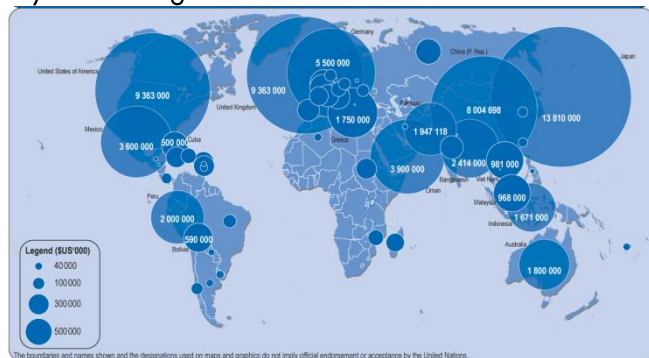


**PRE-SYMPOSIUM WORKSHOP ON
"SPACE-BASED INFORMATION FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND
RISK MANAGEMENT"
2-3 OCTOBER 2010, KATHMANDU, NEPAL**

Background

The Hindu Kush-Himalayan region is the youngest and the highest mountain range in the world. The weak geological condition, steep topography, strong hydrodynamic with short and intense seasonal monsoon rainfall and excessive human intervention have made the Himalaya region very fragile and unpredictable at times. The landslides, avalanches, floods, flash floods, debris flow from landslide dammed lakes and glacial lake outburst floods, wildfires, earthquake are the common hazard in the Himalayan range. The recent events - the earthquake in Sichuan, China, Nargis Cyclone in Myanmar, outbreak of Koshi barrage embankment with more than 2.6 million people displaced reminds us of the different manifestation of natural disasters having devastating and catastrophic effects in an unimaginable scale. The frequency and severity of natural disasters continue to increase and the risk factor is rapidly increasing due to climate induced disasters. The HKH region is considered as a major hotspot in a global disaster map.

Reducing the loss of life and property from natural and human-induced disasters requires access to wide range of information. The development of information products about disaster risk reduction and the number of organisations in this field including platforms are



exponentially growing. Utilization of space technology, including earth observation satellites are assuming greater significance for disaster risk reduction in providing vital information to improve the management of a broader range of natural disasters. Earth observation based tools and approaches can be used for better assessment of risk before the disaster, providing early warnings, assessing critical situation in the event of disaster and supporting the recovery process. The Hyogo Framework of Action has emphasized multi-hazard risk approach as one of the key elements for risk management.

The key to long-term risk reduction is a better understanding of the relationships between natural disasters and different components of environment, social, and economic aspects. The role of regional platform for disaster risk mapping and strengthening capacities of the national cooperation partners is a priority identified in ICIMOD strategy. Though the national capabilities in the use of space technologies in regional member countries are increasing at a significant rate especially in China and India, but there is still a definite need to support in a more direct way the transfer of these available technologies to other member countries of ICIMOD. At the same time, it is necessary to develop methodological approaches that are customized and appropriate to the specific needs of the mountain specific situations.

In this context, the pre-symposium workshop is being organized with the regional stakeholders coinciding with the international symposium “Benefiting from Earth Observation: Bridging the Data Gap for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region”.

Objectives

The main aim of the pre-symposium is to build synergies with national, regional and international initiatives for the use of space-based information for disaster risk reduction in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region. The workshop will also bring together national partners of ICIMOD member countries and explores the possibilities of hosting a regional platform for space-based information for disaster management for the Hindu Kush-Himalayas. More specifically;

- To share the efforts of ICIMOD in using space-based information for DRR and strengthen its position as a regional platform for space-based disaster management in coordination with regional and international efforts;
- To develop partnership to engage the support of Regional Space Agencies and International Charters in contributing to capacity building and institutional strengthening regarding the use of space-based information;
- To determine the types of information and communications needed in managing specific disasters and the extent to which they could be met by space technologies; and
- To increase the awareness of managers and decision makers involved in disaster management of the potential benefits and the cost-effectiveness of using space based technologies; and

The event will be the first of its kind in the region involving the regional member countries of ICIMOD and international experts to effectively address “**Space-based information for Disaster Management**”.

Expected Outcome:

The deliberations of the pre-symposium will be shared in the international symposium for wider consultation, discussion and adoption of a resolution. It is expected that, as a result of the pre-symposium, a regional framework for utilizing space-based information for disaster management will be developed. The partnerships will be strengthened with regional and international initiatives to foster regional cooperation through pilot initiatives.

Expected Participants:

25 – 30 participants from national partners involved in key disaster management organizations from ICIMOD member countries, namely – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan.

PARTICIPANT LIST

ICIMOD - Regional Member Countries

Afghanistan

1. Mr. Abdul Ghais Safi, Kabul University

Bangladesh

2. Md. Shahidul Islam, UNDP

Bhutan

3. Dr. Pankaj Thapa, Sherubtse College, Bhutan
4. Ms. Deki Pema, Department of Geology and Mines (DGM)
5. Chencho Tshering, Department of Disaster Management (DDM)

China

6. Mr. Wu Wei, National Disaster Reduction Centre of China (NDRCC)
7. Dr. Li Jing, Beijing Normal University²
8. Dr. Su Fenghuan, Institute of Mountain Hazard and Environment (IMHE)
9. Dr. Zhang Jianqiang, Institute of Mountain Hazard and Environment (IMHE)

India

10. Mr. Vivek Saxena, Ministry of Environment and Forest
11. Dr. Sreeja Nair, SAARC Disaster Management Centre
12. Mr. Gopalakrishnan Rajashekar, National Remote Sensing Centre

Myanmar

13. Mr. Tint Wai, Department of Meteorology
14. Mr. Aung Aung Myint, Department of Forest

Nepal

15. Disaster Management Cell
16. Department of Forest

Pakistan

17. Prof. Asif Khan, University of Peshawar
18. Mr. Amir Khan, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)
19. Mr. Mujeeb Alam, Earthquake Reconstruction & Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA)

International

20. Dr. Shirish Ravan, UN-SPIDER, Australia
21. Mr. Anisur Rahman, ADPC, Thailand
22. Prof. Hiromichi Fukui, Keio University, Japan
23. Mr. Shinichi Mizumoto, JAXA, Japan
24. Dr. Yousif Hussin, ITC, Netherland

25. Dr. Stefan Kienberger, Salzburg University, Austria* (Hotel Accommodation / Registration)

ICIMOD

- 26. Mr. Basanta Raj Shrestha, MENRIS
- 27. Dr. Hari Krishna, IWHM
- 28. Mr. Ghazanfar Khattak, MENRIS
- 29. Mr. Pradeep Mool, IWHM
- 30. Mr. Samjwal Bajracharya, MENRIS
- 31. Dr. Amarnath Giriraj, MENRIS