

ADRC Online DRR Seminar Series

18 October 2021 (Mon.)
15:00 - 16:30
 [Japan Time, UTC+9]

Fifth Seminar

Promoting Disaster Mitigation Strategies for Urban Resilience

► Objectives

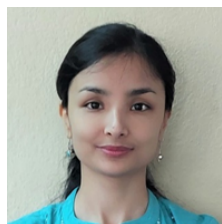
The seminar aims to facilitate discussions about new tools and approaches to enhance awareness among ADRC counterparts (focal points of promoting DRR in the government). It specifically aims to share: (i) current state of promoting mitigation strategies in urban areas, including achievements, challenges, and possible solutions to problems we are facing; (ii) recent strategies of mainstreaming DRR in urban development; and (iii) new approaches of working together to achieve urban resilience.

Mr. KORESAWA Atsushi



Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific
 UN-Habitat Regional Office
 Fukuoka, Japan

Ms. Pragya Pradhan



Country Programme Manager
 UN Habitat Nepal

Mr. Ibani Padao



Chief Monitoring and Evaluation Division
 Environmental, Land Use and Urban Planning and Development Bureau,
 Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD),
 Philippines

Mr. Christopher Rollo



Country Programme Manager
 UN Habitat Philippines

Ms. Pannapa Na Nan



Director International Cooperation Section, Research and International Cooperation Bureau, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Ministry of Interior, Thailand

Register <https://bit.ly/adrcseminar5>

YouTube <https://youtu.be/wnD1cJT3IDA>

 <https://acdr.adrc.asia/home/2021Seminar>



zoom

ADRC Online DRR Seminar Secretariat

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Agenda

- 15: 00 Opening**
Mr. NAKAGAWA Masaaki
Executive Director, Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) , Kobe, Japan
- 15: 10 UN-HABITAT'S WORK ON URBAN RESILIENCE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**
Mr. KORESAWA Atsushi
Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, UN-Habitat Regional Office Fukuoka, Japan
- 15: 25 HIGHLIGHTS OF UN-HABITAT'S URBAN RESILIENCE PROGRAMME IN NEPAL**
Ms. Pragya PRADHAN
Country Programme Manager, UN-Habitat Nepal
- 15: 35 MAINSTREAMING DRR IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT: THE CASE OF THE PHILIPPINES**
Mr. Ibani PADAÓ
Chief, Monitoring and Evaluation Division
Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), Philippines
- Mr. Christopher ROLLO*
Country Programme Manager, UN-Habitat Philippines
- 15: 50 PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION IN URBAN RESILIENCE IN THAILAND**
Ms. PANNAPA Na Nan
Director, International Cooperation Section, Research and International Cooperation Bureau
Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Ministry of Interior, Thailand
- 16: 00 Discussions**
- 16: 25 Closing**
- 16: 30 END**

Summary

Urbanization accumulates disaster vulnerabilities when more people settle in weak buildings, use poor transportation and roads, and are increasingly exposed to the threats of floods, landslides, and tsunamis. In this context, what actions have been promoted to mitigate disaster risks and prevent the loss of homes, livelihoods, and lives? At the Fifth ADRC Online DRR Seminar held on 18 October 2021, speakers presented various perspectives, tools, and approaches of promoting disaster mitigation strategies for urban resilience to 127 participants from 14 countries.

Regional-Level Mitigation Strategies. Highlighting UN-Habitat's programs on urban resilience in Asia and the Pacific, Mr. KORESAWA Atsushi (Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, UN-Habitat) introduced the Cities and Climate Change Initiative (CCCI) which has been implemented since 2009, and covering 256 communities in 53 cities across 19 countries. CCCI supports cities in responding to the negative impact of climate change by putting emphasis on participatory processes, sound analysis, sustainable urban planning, good governance, responsive leadership, and practical initiatives at all levels. In implementing these strategies, UN-Habitat developed a range of normative and operational guidelines that communities could adopt to assess their vulnerabilities and make risk-informed decision in planning and implementing their activities.

Mitigation Strategies in Nepal. In promoting urban resilience in Nepal, Ms. Pragya PRADHAN (Country Programme Manager, UN-Habitat Nepal) highlighted the recovery and mitigation strategies of preserving the heritage settlements, which were damaged during the 2015 Nepal Earthquake. One of the strategies is through "green-reconstruction" – an environmentally-sound practice of rebuilding heritage settlements that is linked with livelihood recovery. In the course of implementing the resilience programme, Ms. Pradhan pointed out two key lessons. First, development efforts must be complemented with disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts to safeguard life and investment through risk informed spatial development planning, infrastructure investments, and economic activities that caters to the need of all. Second, urban resilience is multi-dimensional that entails strengthening of social, economic, institutional, and spatial aspects.

Mitigation Strategies in the Philippines. One of the key mitigation strategies in the Philippines is mainstreaming DRR in urban development. Mr. Ibani PADAÓ (Chief, Monitoring and Evaluation Division DHSUD, Philippines) reported that DRR has been integrated in the National Housing and Urban Development Sector Plan (NHUDSP). Since the local governments are at the frontline in the implementation process, the national government has provided relevant tools and guidelines to resiliency planning. These include: Mainstreaming Guidelines for Local Land Use and Shelter Plans; Climate and Disaster Risk Assessment (CDRA) Tool; and National Guide for Climate Resilient Urban Plans and Designs. Regarding how these strategies and tools were utilized, Mr. Christopher ROLLO (Country Programme Manager, UN-Habitat Philippines) presented the case of Legazpi City in developing and implementing the adaptation strategy for flood hazard. Legazpi city utilized the government's resiliency tools/guidelines to come up with systematic and evidence-based structuring (e.g., designing sites and buildings that promotes structural resilience, safety of people and facilitates evacuation and rescue). In addition, Mr. Rollo reported the case of Rebuilding Marawi City following the Siege in 2017 through the "people's process". This process empowered and promoted social cohesion, resulting in faster, cheaper, acceptable, and better-quality reconstruction.

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Mitigation Strategies in Thailand. Ms. PANNAPA Na Nan (Director, International Cooperation Section, DDPM Thailand) reported that the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) has been constantly improving its disaster mitigation efforts, especially after the 2011 floods that greatly impacted the country. Following that disaster, DDPM was sued by various stakeholders and it faced about 500 cases in court. In improving the disaster mitigation strategy, DDPM leverages international cooperation support, particularly through the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and AHA Centre in implementing urban resilience projects (e.g., community-based flood management project). Based on past experiences and learning from other ASEAN countries, DDPM came up with a range of disaster mitigation strategies, including: integration of structural and non-structural DRR measures; promoting synergy and integration of efforts from all levels; single plan with clear line of command and control; localization, and one disaster management system.

As participants raised a number of questions during the discussions, Mr. NAKAGAWA Masaaki (Executive Director, ADRC), who moderated the event, noted them for his summary. He pointed that the phenomenon of people moving from city centres to the suburbs during the COVID-19 pandemic raises concerns on how to reconcile this momentum with the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and urban resilience while avoiding urban sprawl. Quoting UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres saying, “Today, we have the opportunity to reset our thinking on how we live, interact, and rebuild our cities”, Mr. Nakagawa mentioned that building disaster resilient society is the overarching theme of the upcoming Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) that will further provide an opportunity to discuss other initiatives and actions to promote disaster resilience.