



Concept Note

18th Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC)

Venue: The Berkeley Hotel, Pratunam
Bangkok, Thailand

Sustainable Anticipatory Actions for Resilient Development Goals

23-24 January 2025

Version: 07 January 2025

The Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) was established in 2000 by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC). It was one of the early regional fora to promote consultation and cooperation in reducing disaster and climate change risk in Asia and the Pacific. In ADPC's transition to an international organization in 2018, the RCC has been adopted as one of its institutional organs, as stipulated in the ADPC's Charter, making it a permanent, non-binding mechanism for the following measures:

- Develop action strategies for disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate resilience (CR) in Asia and the Pacific region.
- Promote cooperative programs on a regional and sub-regional basis.
- Guide ADPC on its future work and strategies.

The RCC is part of ADPC's broader governance structure at the strategic level, providing the organization with key inputs and guidance from RCC member countries. It helps identify its members' needs and priorities, promote regional and subregional cooperation, and develop regional action strategies and programs for DRR and CR.

Traditionally, the RCC meeting is co-hosted by an RCC member country, and the RCC Statement is issued at the end of each annual meeting, requests ADPC to develop national and regional programs and projects and provide technical assistance to countries in pursuing their national DRR and CR strategies. The previous 17 RCC meetings were held in Thailand (2000, 2001 and 2020); India (2002); Bangladesh (2004); Viet Nam (2005); China (2006); Sri Lanka (2007); Philippines (2010); Cambodia (2011); Mongolia (2013); Myanmar (2014); Bhutan (2015); Pakistan (2016); Nepal (2018); Republic of Korea (2021); and the Philippines (2022).



The Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Ministry of Interior of Thailand has partnered with ADPC to advance its existing projects in Thailand, especially those related to capacity building for local communities who gained relevant knowledge to better prepare for, cope with, recover from, and reduce disaster risks. The RCC mechanism has also promoted Thailand's role as a regional disaster management center, which is in line with the government's policy to position the country as the base of international organizations in Asia.

Aligned with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR), the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and other regional and global frameworks, and reaffirming and promoting an all-of-society approach to DRR and CR, the RCC mechanism has created an enabling environment for sharing good practices, hosting policy dialogues and regional cooperation through the participation of government and non-government representatives from national and sub-national levels in a bid to harness peer advocacy and exchange of experience.

The 18th meeting of the RCC is proposed to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, co-hosted by the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) between 23-24 January 2025. The theme of the 18th RCC meeting is **Sustainable Anticipatory Actions for Resilient Development Goals**. Day 1 will discuss the technical aspects of advancing risk reduction through technology and innovative solutions, supporting the localization of priority actions, and exploring options for mobilizing disaster and climate financing from global, regional, and national mechanisms. Day 2 of the meeting will have the 5th Brian Ward Memorial Lecture, followed by the ADPC's Development Partners Forum 2025.

The 18th meeting of RCC will build on the key outcomes of the APEC 2022 meeting under the Thailand presidency and the recent Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) hosted by the Government of the Philippines in October 2024, The ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and the 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) held in Baku during 11-22 November. It will also draw insights from many events organized by Thailand and other countries to commemorate the 20th year since the devastating 2004 Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami.

The objectives of the 18th RCC meeting include the following:

1. Understanding the current state and challenges around systemic risks, emphasizing the need for increased funding, innovative approaches, and multi-stakeholder engagement to enhance resilience.
2. Accelerating existing national strategies for RCC member countries to access finance and enhance investments to support the implementation of priority actions of the Sendai Framework for DRR.
3. Highlighting the importance of systemic risk governance, risk analytics, and preparedness actions to achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs)
4. Exploring practical solutions such as integrating global frameworks into national planning, strengthening disaster risk governance, promoting climate change adaptation, and enhancing international cooperation.

Brian Ward Memorial Lecture

Col. Brian Ward was instrumental in the establishment of ADPC in 1986 and during his time as the director (1986-1992), he provided vision and insight, motivating all he worked with, but especially encouraging young professionals and seeking to enable government authorities to engage more productively in reducing possible disaster losses. He managed, taught and traveled widely, conducting numerous disaster-related technical advisory and liaison missions throughout Asia-Pacific.

The Brian Ward Memorial Lecture is annually held to honor the memory of Brian Ward for his vision of a safer Asia and the Pacific, as well as his outstanding personal dedication and commitment to the field of sustainable development through DRR and CR. The lecture features distinguished guests who share their experiences that would contribute to innovative resilience-building initiatives reduction in the region.

Mr. Saroj Kumar Jha, Global Director, Water Global Practice, the World Bank, will be the keynote speaker delivering the **5th Brian Ward Memorial Lecture** focusing on the meeting theme of ***"Sustainable Anticipatory Actions for Resilient Development Goals."***

The details are provided in the annex-1

Development Partners Forum 2025

The Development Partners' Forum is a strategic event to inform and engage in dialogue with ADPC member states and development partners on development priorities and issues that matter to them and where ADPC can play a collaborative role in addressing them sustainably. The overall objectives are to:

- Inform and update about ADPC's Strategy 2030 and the strategic action plans for ADPC member states.
- Align development partner strategies and priority actions with the ADPC 2030 strategy and strategic action plans of ADPC member states.
- Explore approaches for a more effective development partner's engagement and cooperation with ADPC and its member states.

Participants are representatives of embassies in Bangkok, development partner organizations, ADPC member states, and ADPC Board of Trustees members.

The details are provided in annex-2

Annotated Agenda

Day 1 : 23 January 2025 (Thursday)		
0900-1030	Inaugural Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Anutin Charnvirakul, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of the Ministry of Interior, Government of Thailand.(TBC) • Mr. Paisan Rupanichkij, Deputy Permanent Secretary, MFA, Thailand .(TBC) • Mr. Ariel F. Nepomuceno, Administrator Undersecretary, Office of Civil Defense (OCD) Philippine .(TBC) • Mr. Rajendra Singh, Chair, ADPC Board of Trustees
1030-1100	Tea Break	
1100-1230	High Level Panel	<p>Intergovernmental and International Organization on Regional Cooperation for Disaster Risk Reduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chaired by Thailand • Moderator: ADPC • Keynote presentation by DDPM, Thailand <p>High Level Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASEAN • BIMSTEC • SAARC • UNDRR • UNESCAP
1230-1400	Lunch Break	

1400-1500	Technical Session 1	<p>Advancing Risk Information – technology and innovation for decision-support systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chaired by China; co-chaired by ADPC • Keynote presentation by a renowned expert on risk information • Panel discussion on risk information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Risk information and technology producer such as hydro-met agencies, space agencies, etc. ○ Woman-led organizations on risk information and GESI
1500-1600	Technical Session 2	<p>Localization of Priority Actions – locally-led adaptation, anticipatory action and disaster risk management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chaired by an RCC member; co-chaired by ADPC • Keynote presentation by a well-known adopter of the localization concept or a local champion • Panel discussion on localization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local government ○ Community leader ○ Marginalized population representative
1600-1630	Tea Break	
1630-1730	Technical Session 3	<p>Financial Mechanisms and Investments – Climate Finance, Investments for Resilience Building, Disaster Risk Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chaired ADB; co-chaired by ADPC • Keynote presentation by a climate/risk finance expert • Panel discussion on financial mechanisms and investments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Multi-lateral banks ○ NDMO ○ Ministry of Finance
1730	Closing of Day 1	
1830-2030	Gala Dinner Reception	

Day 2: 24 January 2025 (Friday)		
0930-1030	5th BrianWard Memorial Lecture Mr. Saroj Kumar Jha , Global Director, Water Global Practice, the World Bank	
1030-1100	Tea Break	
1100-1200	UpFront Session 1	Regional and Transboundary Cooperation
1200-1330	Lunch Break	
1330-1430	UpFront Session 2	Innovation and Localization
1430-1530	UpFront Session 3	1. Gender and Social Inclusion in DRR
1530-1600	Tea Break	
1600-1730	Closing Ceremony	RCC Outcome Summary and Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Paisan Rupanichkij, Deputy Permanent Secretary, MFA, Thailand. • Mr. Rajendra Singh, Chair, ADPC Board of Trustee

Annex-1



Brian Ward

Memorial Lecture



ADPC is an autonomous international organization established for scientific, educational, developmental, and humanitarian purposes with the vision of safer communities and sustainable development through disaster risk reduction.

ADPC works with governments, other partner agencies, and communities in Asia and the Pacific region to advance disaster risk management and climate resilience by enhancing knowledge and skills, strengthening institutional systems, and facilitating the exchange of information, best practices, and applications.

The Brian Ward Memorial Lecture is a series of lectures held annually to honor the memory of Brian Ward for his vision of a safer Asia and the Pacific, and outstanding personal dedication and commitment to the field of disaster risk reduction and climate resilience.

The lecture features distinguished guest who shares their experiences on emerging issues and anticipatory actions for disaster and climate resilience and implores them to contribute advice for the future of the field in Asia and the Pacific.



Saroj Kumar Jha

**Global Director
Water Global Practice (GP)
World Bank Group**

**24 January 2025
09:30-10:30 hrs.**

The Berkeley Hotel, Pratunam
Bangkok, Thailand

2025 Brian Ward

Memorial Lecture

***"Sustainable Anticipatory Actions
for Resilient Development Goals"***

Mr. Saroj Kumar Jha is the Global Director for the World Bank Group's Water Global Practice (GP). In his current assignment, Mr. Jha leads the Global Practice senior management team, which drives the policy direction of the Practice, oversees a portfolio of \$27 billion in water-related investments, analytical work, multi-donor trust funds and global partnerships. Mr. Jha believes that solving the water crisis is central to the future of humanity on a livable planet, and this needs global, collective action to establish water security as a key pillar in national climate and development plans. Under Mr. Jha's leadership, Water Practice is accelerating global and county level water action agenda for green, resilient, and inclusive growth, creating good jobs, and to tackle the water-climate-conflict nexus in shared river basins around the world.

Mr. Jha, an Indian national, joined the World Bank in 2005 as a Senior Infrastructure Specialist in the Sustainable Development Network, after working for the Government of India (1990-2005) in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), and United Nations agencies (1999-2004) as a senior executive in the field of public sector management, infrastructure financing, natural resources management, natural disaster prevention, and environmental sustainability.

Annex 2: Concept Note ADPC Development Partners Forum

The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), together with the Government of Thailand and its other member states, is hosting the Development Partners Forum (DPF-2025), a strategic meeting to foster dialogue and collaboration among ADPC, its member states, and development partners, who are working in the broader Asia Pacific Region and the countries. This forum serves as a unique platform for the partners to discuss critical development and resilience-building priorities and gaps, positioning ADPC and its member countries to play a key role in addressing these issues sustainably. The forum offers a crucial opportunity to enhance synergy, collaboration, and coordination among the development partners, ADPC member countries, and the ADPC in advancing disaster risk reduction and climate resilience in the region. Through engaging in meaningful dialogue and aligning strategies, ADPC and its member states will be better equipped to tackle the pressing development challenges and resilience-building needs in a sustainable and cost-effective manner at scale. The outcomes of this forum are designed not only to inform ADPC member states but also to inspire collective action toward creating a safer and more resilient future for the region in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement, and other regional frameworks.

ADPC Board of Trustees, comprised of ADPC founder member countries, approved its 2030 strategy in July 2024, which has been developed in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and various other global and regional frameworks, as well as country-specific national strategies and priorities. This comprehensive approach has enabled ADPC to identify critical challenges and establish priority actions that member countries need to invest their resources and efforts in reducing disaster and climate risks. A key aspect of the development partners forum will be to ensure that ADPC's strategy remains in harmony with country priorities and the strategies and objectives of development partners, facilitating effective partnerships in tackling these pressing issues in a timely and sustainable manner.

Objectives of the Forum:

The Development Partners' Forum has three overarching objectives:

1. **Inform and Update:** The forum will provide participants with an overview of ADPC's Strategy 2030, including strategic action plans tailored to ADPC member states. This briefing will cover key priorities, initiatives, goals, and the anticipated impact of these strategies on disaster risk reduction and climate resilience across the region.
2. **Align Strategies:** A core purpose of this gathering is to facilitate alignment between the strategies and priority actions of development partner organizations and

ADPC's 2030 strategy. This alignment is crucial in optimizing resources and efforts to ensure that the initiatives supported by development partners effectively meet the needs of ADPC member states.

3. **Explore Engagement and Sustainable Partnership Approaches:** Lastly, the forum aims to identify and discuss methods for enhancing the effectiveness of partnerships between development partners, ADPC, and member states. By exploring innovative approaches to cooperation, stakeholders can find synergies that lead to more impactful results in disaster risk reduction and climate resilience.

Participants (by Invitations Only):

The forum will gather a diverse group of participants, including:

- Representatives from the Government of Thailand
- Representatives from Embassies in Thailand
- Representatives from Development Partner Organizations
- ADPC Board of Trustees Members
- Delegates from ADPC Member States

This diverse assembly of stakeholders will enrich the discussions, bringing various perspectives and expertise to the forum while establishing synergies and partnerships in advancing resilience-building efforts in the countries and the region.

Structure and Format:

The forum will be presided over by the Government of Thailand. The discussions will be conducted in a structured manner, ensuring that all participants have the opportunity to contribute their perspectives. This format is designed to facilitate an inclusive dialogue that remains focused and productive, aligned with the objectives of the forum.

Discussion Topics:

The structured and facilitated discussions are organized around the following key topics to drive the discussions during the forum:

- ADPC 2030 Strategy and its implementation priorities within ADPC member states.
- Areas of mutual interest and collaboration between ADPC, its member states, and development partners.
- Strategies for building stronger, more resilient communities through targeted interventions with impacts and scale.

- Opportunities for innovative partnerships and collaboration to advance disaster risk reduction and climate resilience initiatives in the region and specific countries.

Tentative Agenda of the Development Partners Forum:

24 January 2025

Time	Discussion Sessions
11.00 – 11.15 hrs	Opening Remarks by H.E. Mrs. Eksiri Pintaruchi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand.
11.15 – 11.45 hrs	Overview of ADPC 2030 Strategy and Strategic Priorities for 2025-2027 by Mr Aslam Perwaiz, Executive Director, ADPC
11.45 – 12.45 hrs	<p>Reflections and synergizing strategies, partnerships, and financing opportunities by the development partners, ADPC member countries, and ADPC.</p> <p>H.E. Ambassadors of ADPC Founding Member Countries Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka</p> <p>H.E. Ambassadors of Selected RCC Member Countries</p>
12.45 – 13.00 hrs	Closing Remarks by Mr. Rajendra Singh, Chairperson of the ADPC Board of Trustees