



eBulletin

SEP-OCT 2022

Pre-Departure Meeting
Delegates and Party



Summary

This eBulletin highlights DPNet's proactive engagement and strategic initiatives in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and management from September to October 2022, highlighting a period of intensive preparation, reflection, and advocacy on both national and international platforms. The journey commenced with the APMCDRR Official Statement Finalization Meeting on September 4, 2022, organized by the Disaster Preparedness Network Nepal (DPNet). The meeting aimed to consolidate Nepal's official statement for the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR), drawing insights and feedback from over 2500 stakeholders to craft a comprehensive reflection of Nepal's DRR landscape. The finalized statement, enriched with contributions from various sectors, underscored Nepal's vulnerability to natural hazards, the learnings from the 2015 Gorkha earthquake, and the nation's strides in legal frameworks, international collaboration, and DRR capacities.

Further preparatory meetings facilitated by DPNet ensured Nepal's cohesive and informed representation at the APMCDRR, emphasizing the nation's achievements in reconstruction, resilience, and the integration of indigenous DRR practices. These sessions culminated in a pre-departure meeting on September 17, 2022, rallying prospective APMCDRR participants around Nepal's DRR narrative and strategic presentations planned for the conference.

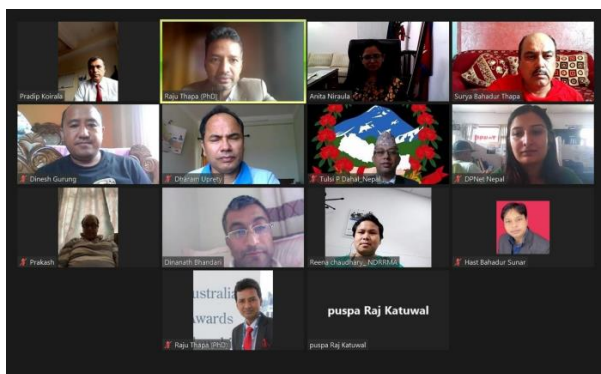
The post-APMCDRR Review and Reflection Meeting on September 30, 2022, offered a platform for participants to share their experiences, key learnings, and the impact of Nepal's engagement at the conference. Discussions highlighted the significance of indigenous knowledge, community involvement, low-cost DRR technology, and an inclusive approach to DRR that addresses the needs of all community segments. Insights on resilience culture, anticipatory actions, and the importance of community-driven DRR investments further enriched the discourse.

Simultaneously, Nepal observed the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction on October 13, 2022, with a focus on "Multi-Hazard Early Warning System and Early Action for All." This observation, organized by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) and NPDRR in coordination with DPNet, highlights the critical role of early warning systems in effective disaster management. A national symposium convened stakeholders to delve into the current practices, challenges, and opportunities in developing a comprehensive early warning system for Nepal. The discussions highlight the necessity of enhancing local community capacities, the role of community-centric early warning systems, and the imperative for increased investment in DRR and preparedness.

Throughout these engagements, DPNet's commitment to building a resilient society, capable of mitigating and responding to disasters, was evident. The period was marked by a collective effort to advocate for DRR on a global scale, reflect on the learnings, and reinforce the national DRR agenda. By emphasizing indigenous practices, community engagement, and inclusive strategies, Nepal continues to pave the way towards a disaster-resilient future.

APMCDRR Official Statement Finalization Meeting

The APMCDRR Official Statement Finalization Meeting was organized by DPNet Nepal in 4th September, 2022 via zoom. The main objective of the meeting was to finalize Official Statement to present in APMCDRR. The program was attended by Chief of Disaster and Conflict Management Division of Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr. Pradip Koirala, Joint Secretary of National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority Ms. Anita Niroula, representatives from various organizations and expert.



Dr. Raju Thapa, Vice-Chairperson of DPNet

The Official Statement submission deadline is 5th September. We had shared the draft official statement via mail to more than 2500 individuals and organizations to collect feedback. After getting feedback from the stakeholders relevant and appropriate comments were incorporated. Special thanks to Mr. Dinanath Bhandari and Mr. Tulsi Prasad Dahal.

Mr. Pradip Kumar Koirala, Chief of Disaster and Conflict Management Division, MoHA

Shared draft has accommodated every aspect of disaster management in Nepal. This time we have a word limit of 2000 with some guiding questions to prepare a draft. Still we can accommodate various issues that we want to

share among the international community. The statement should have the basis essence of Nepal's DRRM acts, plans, policies and midterm review of SFDRR. We should be aware about focusing on international partnership and relations further.

Mr. Tulsi Dahal shared an official statement

The official statement from the Government of Nepal, Ministry of Home Affairs at the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2022 will be delivered on APMCDRR 2022. The statement includes the disaster status, 2015 Gorkha earthquake, COVID -19 and other climate induced risks. Since Nepal is susceptible to various hazards such as heavy rain, floods and landslides affecting lives and properties. The statement has the learnings and experiences of 2015 Gorkha earthquake, legal frameworks regarding DRRM and capacity of Nepal in DRRM. The work done by Nepal in reconstruction and resilience, international collaboration and NPDRR platforms is explained in the paper. The paper includes about strengthening the understanding of risk, hazard observations, vulnerability assessments and risk mapping as well.

Dr. Raju Thapa, Vice Chairperson of DPNet

It's better to mention the contribution of NPDRR nine thematic groups' DRR effort and approaches in disaster management to make a resilient society. As per the provision of National Policy on DRR, 2018, Nepal adopts inclusive DRR policy. Special attention should be given to accommodate the vulnerable community status and their effort on DRR.

Mr. Dinanath Bhandari, Technical Advisor of DPNet

The civil society's perception is included in the position paper. Some of the contents have been removed and important achievements have been added in the statement.

Dr. Dharam Uprety from Practical Action

We should include hydro-metro related issues linking it with climate change. It would be better if we said other financial resources instead of climate funds. It would be also good if we could quantify the loss and damage caused by disaster over the last 20 years and more severe over the last 10 years. As per Bipad portal, 40 billion USD loss is mentioned, so we could put that reference. NDRRMA has initiated impact based EWS in 4 districts and plans gradually in other districts so we should include this. Nepal's Climate change policy 2019, and NAP 2021 are also rolling out at different levels and can be instrumental in reducing climate induced disaster.

Mr. Dinesh Gurung, Technical Advisor of DPNet

The loss and damage is already happening now despite risk reduction efforts. So there is the need for more resources that can be linked. It

would be better if we add about the school based DRR as well.

Ms. Anita Niraula, Joint Secretary of NDRRMA

We should be very clear about how the international agencies will further help technically and financially in Nepal in upcoming days with this Official Statement. The content should reflect the disasters that occurred during the past year such as flood, landslides and so on with reference. It's better to include the work done by NDRRMA in GEDSI, SRSP, anticipatory actions, DRR financing and DRRM fund. NDRRMA has done lot of remarkable works such as accessibility to disability should be showed case. The further action plans such as multi hazard early warning system of NDRRMA in should be added and made the statement more concrete.

Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Chairperson of DPNet

The important efforts and achievements should not be missed in the official statement and we should learn to grab the opportunity in APMCDRR. Everyone is requested to give feedback written till 5 PM. The statement will be finalized today and submitted tomorrow. He then gave a vote of thanks to everyone and closed the meeting.

APMCDRR Preparatory Meeting

APMCDRR Preparatory Meeting has been organized to update the preparatory activities and to prioritize the remaining preparatory works. The meeting was Chaired by Chief of Disaster and Conflict Management Division of Ministry Home Affairs, Mr. Pradip Koirala and facilitated by Deputy Chair Dr. Raju Thapa of DPNet.

The meeting was attended by various stakeholders including National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), security sectors. Dr. Thapa highlighted the main points of the position paper and requested all concerned stakeholders to provide comments and feedback by 11th September. He also requested security sectors and specialized agencies like NSET to prepare some prototype, miniature, model to showcase in Nepal's Marketplace at Brisbane. Various participants provided some feedback to be incorporated. Some prominent suggestions were to include the learning and good practices of Gorkha earthquake in position paper and the issue of DRR localization, inclusion, indigenous practice in DRR. After brief discussion Mr. Pradip Koirala gave concluding



remarks. He informed that the position paper prepared after a rigorous discussion with stakeholders has been uploaded in the APMCDRR system. He further said that position paper has a word limit so any issues that need to be elaborated should be placed in position paper. So, stakeholders should go carefully on the draft position paper to include things to be incorporated. He further requested that DPNET as a Secretariat of NPDRR should collect feedback and prepare final draft by second week of September. He also requested DPNET to do necessary arrangements for Nepal's Marketplace and print approved position paper in both hardcopy and braille and concluded the meeting.

Pre-departure APMCDRR Meeting



Pre-departure Meeting to participate in APMCDRR event was organized on 12th September, 2022. The meeting was chaired by the Secretary of Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr. Tek Narayan Pandey and facilitated by Chairperson of the DPNet Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa. Around 50 prospective prospective participants of APMCDRR attended the program.

Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa informed that DPNet as secretariat of NPDRR has been coordinating rigorously to ensure the meaningful participation of Nepal in the upcoming APMCDRR. He emphasized that we have to be very careful on what we are presenting in the conference. We are attending there representing Nepal not a single agencies or individuals. He requested all prospective speakers of the conference to present briefly today on what they are presenting in the conference.

Mr. Pradip Koirala, Chief of Disaster and Conflict Management Division of Ministry of Home Affairs in his welcome speech highlighted the importance of the engagement of wider stakeholders in regional and international platform to showcase our best practices and lesson learned among international communities. He further highlighted that if we have any contentious issues we can sort out in such big round table and represent single Nepal in any international platform. He highlighted that we have finalized official statement and position paper accommodating the feedback of wider stakeholders. Now we should focus on Nepal Marketplace to showcase our effort.

Dr. Raju Thapa, Deputy Chair of DPNet presented about the APMCDRR event, preparatory works and future activities for the meaningful participation of Nepal delegation in the event. In his presentation he briefly

described history of APMCDRR, previous participation of Nepal and things to be considered by prospective participants. He informed that so far official version of position paper published and printed in both hardcopy and Braille. He requested participants to provide materials to be showcased in the APMCDRR marketplace by 14th September.

As requested, participants presenting in the APMCDRR various session shared the summary of their presentations. Dr. Raju Thapa shared that he is going to present on Nepal's effort to institutionalize and localize humanitarian standards. Mr. Pallav Pant shared that he is going to present on private sector's involvement in disability inclusive disaster risk reduction. Reena Bajrachrya of Youth Innovation Lab shared that she is going to showcase Viz-risk and IT to localize risk informed disaster risk reduction. Dr. Dharam Upreti from Zurich Flood Alliance said that alliances will have a marketplace to share efforts to mitigate flood risk in Nepal. Dr. Ramesh Guragain from NSET share that they will prepare miniature and prototype to visualize the earthquake risk in a various types of buildings.

Post-APMCDRR Review and Reflection Meeting Concluded

On September 30, 2022, DPNet organized a review and reflection meeting in Kathmandu to discuss the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR), which was held in Brisbane, Australia from September 19-22, 2022. The meeting was attended by 46 participants who shared their experiences and thoughts on the conference, with a focus on Nepal's participation. The Nepali delegate delivered an official statement at the conference, which included lessons learned from the 2015 Gorkha earthquake, legal frameworks for disaster risk reduction and

Chairperson of Asian Disaster Risk Reduction Network (ADRRN) Dr. Amod Dixit shared that in any GPDRR conference GNDR represents civil society whereas in any regional APMCDRR event, ADRRN represents civil society in a similar way. He has shared preparatory works of ADRRN in APMCDRR.

In a concluding remarks Chairperson of the program/ Nepal Delegation Head of APMCDRR and Secretary of Ministry of Home Affairs, thanked all stakeholders specially NPDRR and its secretariat DPNet for outstanding preparatory work for the meaningful participation of Nepal in upcoming APMCDRR. He emphasized on Dr. Thapa's presentation on strict bio security issues of Australia to cross custom and immigration and requested all to not carry agro, dairy and other prohibited items. He further requested all participants to present our best practices and learning there to import our DRR knowledge and experience among international stakeholders. He wishes all the best for the all prospective participants.



management (DRRM), and Nepal's capacity for DRRM.

Nepal also prepared a position paper for the APMCDRR 2022 in consultation with nine thematic groups of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR). The paper provided an overview of the impacts of disasters on Nepal's lives, natural resources, infrastructure, and economy, as well as an update on DRRM efforts. The paper was made accessible to visually impaired people by publishing a braille version and was covered by prevention web. Nepal also prepared information, education, and communication (IEC) and visibility materials for the Market Place, which focused on various aspects of DRRM.

During the reflection meeting, participants shared their learning from the conference. Some key takeaways included the importance of promoting and practicing indigenous knowledge in DRR, engaging communities in all aspects of DRR, using cost-effective and low-cost DRR technology, and focusing on inclusive DRR that considers the needs of

lactating mothers, pregnant women, youth, children, senior citizens, marginalized groups and communities, people with disabilities, and others.

Participants also shared other important learning on the need for a culture of resilience, exploring the possibility of anticipatory action, adopting a whole-of-society approach, and supporting resilient agricultural practices and durable food supply chains. They also shared their learning on the importance of promoting a "Do no harm" culture in humanitarian assistance, minimizing and addressing disaster displacement, supporting resilient infrastructure, and ensuring that DRR investments are community-driven and fit-for-purpose. Finally, the Chairperson of DPNet thanked all the participants specially AINTGDM, DCA, Habitat for Humanity, Oxfam, Save the Children, SDF and Tearfund who supported Nepal's participation in the APMCDRR event.

IDDRR Celebrated in Nepal



On October 13th, 2022, the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction was observed with a focus on the theme "Multi-Hazard Early Warning System and Early Action for All." This annual event aims to raise awareness about the importance of disaster risk reduction and promote efforts to minimize the risk of

disasters. To mark the occasion in Nepal, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) and the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) organized a national symposium in coordination with DPNet. Dozens of development partners also exhibited their major achievements in market place of the symposium.

The symposium brought together stakeholders from various sectors, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations, media, academia, and the private sector. It was chaired by **Mr. Anil Pokhrel, the Chief Executive of NDRRMA and Chairperson of NPDRR**, and the chief guest was Mr. Binod

Prakash Singh, Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The symposium covered various topics related to early warning systems and early actions for effective disaster management. One of the highlights was the presentation of the National Concept Note and Action Plan for a Multi-Hazard Early Warning System by Mr. Rameshwor Marhatta, Joint Secretary of NDRRMA, and Mr. Rajendra Sharma, Sr. Divisional Hydrologist of NDRRMA. The plan outlines the development of a comprehensive early warning system that integrates data from various sources to provide timely and precise warnings for various hazards such as floods, landslides, and earthquakes.

Mr. Sunil Pokharel, Senior Divisional Hydrologist of the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM), shared the current practices of early warning systems and the challenges and opportunities to achieve the goal of a Multi-Hazard Early Warning System. He emphasized the importance of enhancing the capacity of local communities to respond to early warnings and called for increased investment in the development and maintenance of early warning systems.

Dr. Dharam Raj Uprety of Practical Action discussed the community-centric end-to-end early warning system in Nepal, which aims to empower local communities to take proactive measures in response to early warnings. He stressed the importance of community engagement and the need to consider social and cultural factors when designing early warning systems.

Finally, **Mr. Madhav Uprety, the Asia Pacific Regional Advisor of Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre**, shared his experience and lessons on linking early warning to early action for effective disaster management. He highlighted the importance of integrating early warning systems with contingency plans and preparedness measures and called for increased investment in disaster risk reduction and preparedness.

Overall, the national symposium provided a platform for stakeholders to discuss and share their knowledge and experiences on early warning systems and early actions for effective disaster management. The presentations and discussions highlighted the importance of inclusive and accessible early warning systems that consider social and cultural factors and enhance the capacity of local communities to respond to early warnings.

The symposium featured notable participants, including **Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Chairperson of DPNet**, who shared his insights on community centric disaster risk reduction, and the Chief Guest, Mr. Binod Prakash Singh, Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, who discussed the government's efforts in promoting disaster risk reduction in Nepal. Mr. Anil Pokhrel, Chief Executive of NDRRMA and Chairperson of NPDRR presented the glimpse of NDRRMA to make the disaster resilient community and close the program.