

# **Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) 2024**

Venue: Manila, Philippines

Date: 14/10/2024 to 18/10/2024

*Back to Office report*

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*(G.O.(Rt)No.819/2024/DMD Dated 28-10-2024)*



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## Introduction

Asia Pacific region faces a multitude of challenges, including frequent earthquakes, typhoons, floods, and droughts, which are exacerbated by climate change and rapid urbanization. The APMCDRR 2024 addressed these pressing issues by providing a platform for sharing knowledge, best practices, and innovative solutions among nations. The conference is to focused on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, which emphasizes a proactive approach to disaster management, urging nations to adopt comprehensive risk assessments and invest in building resilient infrastructure.

Additionally, the APMCDRR 2024 facilitated discussions on the integration of disaster risk reduction into national and local development plans. This integration is crucial for ensuring sustainable development goals, particularly in vulnerable communities that often bear the brunt of natural disasters. The conference tried to explore the role of technology and data in enhancing preparedness and response mechanisms, highlighting the importance of early warning systems and risk communication strategies.

The Government of the Philippines partnered with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) to host the 2024 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) from 14 to 18 October 2024 at the Philippine International Convention Center in Manila. APMCDRR 2024 was held under the working theme

***“Surge to 2030: Enhancing ambition in Asia-Pacific to accelerate disaster risk reduction”.***

The conference focused on raising ambition through the sharing of lessons learned, identifying innovative ideas and practices to reduce systemic risk and cascading impacts, identifying practical financing opportunities for countries to reduce disaster and climate risk and build resilience, and advancing climate and disaster resilience, risk-informed development and humanitarian response preparedness, including anticipatory actions and early warning systems in Asia and the Pacific. As the region is the most disaster-prone in the world, and with the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals under serious threat, the conference provided an important opportunity to share experiences and best practices to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework. Built on the findings and recommendations from the Sendai Framework Midterm Review, the deliberations of the respective United Nations General Assembly High-level Meeting held in May 2023 and its Political Declaration and policy directives, the APMCDRR 2024 was focused on three main thematic pillars and four cross-cutting themes, they are

## THEMATIC AREAS

- Practical solutions to enhance DRR financing
- Leaving no one behind: gender responsive and inclusive disaster risk governance
- Localization and urban and rural resilience



## CROSS CUTTING THEMES

- Science, technology and knowledge
- Multi-stakeholder coordination and collaboration
- Convergence and coherence
- Full private sector engagement



### *Sessions and discussions*

**14/10/2024**

### ***Role of Science, Technology, and Innovation in the All-hazards Approach***

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030 required a broader scope of environmental, technological, and biological hazards and a more people-centered, all-hazards, and multi-sectoral approaches to disaster risk reduction. However, how or what needs to be done to implement such approaches has yet to be clarified. At the same time, the role of STI in the all-hazards approach is crucial and critical to our success in DRR. This event was focused on the significance of utilizing STI partnerships to strengthen disaster resilience. On this point, SFDRR advocates for better-coordinating mechanisms among science, technology, and other partners, facilitating the science-policy interface for DRR decision-making. This also sheds light on the institutionalization and standardization of DRR measures and human capacity building, which are all essential to materialize the target of SFDRR. Ms. Miho Ohara, Professor, Centre for Integrated Disaster Information Research, Interfaculty Initiative in

Information Studies, University of Tokyo/IRDR ICoE-Coherence Japan give an excellent talk on the contribution of science and technology in Japan especially in the case of earthquake disasters.

***Localization on Momentum: The Philippines is Responding to the Call for Localization. How Should the Humanitarian World Scale Up?***

Philippines recognised the role of local actors in disaster management and in the last five years they have constantly worked for increasing the momentum of localisation. Through efforts by non-government organizations, local governments, national government agencies, and humanitarian aid partners, localization in the Philippines is gaining momentum—despite systemic challenges that need to be addressed. Enabling factors for the localization of DRR measures include institutionalizing anticipatory actions through policy and law making, strengthening collaborations between international NGOs and grassroots and community-based organizations, and funnelling national and international aid for a localized DRR approach. In this session the panellists shared their experiences and best practices and inclusion in DRR.

***The Asian Local Leaders Forum for Disaster Resilience (ALL4DR) Awards***

The Asia-Pacific Local Leaders Forum for Disaster Resilience (APLL4DR) is a forum to recognise, enhance and link the power of local leadership to put localisation into action. It aims to identify and honour local champions from across Asia-Pacific has since become a source of inspiration for many more budding local leaders who live in communities that face significant disaster risks. The Asian Local Leaders Forum for Disaster Resilience is a culmination of two region-wide citizens' campaigns that started before the 2015 World Conference on DRR. APLL4DR selected four local champions from the Philippines, India, Indonesia, and Fiji. Mr. Sajeevan V.V., the Panchayat President of Valiyaparamba Panchayat, was chosen as the local champion from India. Valiyaparamba Panchayat has undertaken commendable work in disaster risk reduction. As a coastal panchayat, it faces ongoing challenges from coastal erosion and other extreme events. To address these, they have developed ecosystem-based approaches to stabilize coastal regions. The Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) documented these efforts in a short video, which was released at the UNESCO-INCOIS Tsunami workshop.



**15/10/2024**

### ***Welcome Ceremony***



### ***Practical Solutions to Enhance Disaster Risk Reduction Finance***

Scaling up disaster risk reduction and resilience demands sustainable and predictable funding. Yet, many countries grapple with disaster-related debt and inadequate disaster risk reduction financing. The session was chaired by Dr. Kamal Kishore, SRSG, UNDRR. He highlighted the need of framework for the financial flow in disaster management. The discussions were mainly centred around three key areas (1) making international financing more cohesive and accessible, including for smaller countries; (2) mobilizing domestic investments in disaster





prevention and preparedness; and (3) engaging the private sector to boost investments in both national and international disaster risk reduction investments.

### ***Diversifying Views of Risk Knowledge for Local Resilience***

The global approach to understanding risk tends to focus on natural sciences, yet they lived experiences of local communities reveal the value and potential of integrating local, Indigenous, and traditional knowledge (LITK) alongside social sciences for a more comprehensive understanding of risk. Furthermore, even when scientific risk assessments are communicated to communities, the responses are largely shaped by these communities own lived experiences. Community leaders from Asia Pacific regions shared their experience in the view of risk reductions.

***16/10/2024***

### ***Leaving No One Behind: Gender-responsive and Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Governance***

To accelerate progress in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, we must ensure that climate resilience and disaster risk reduction efforts are inclusive and leave no one behind. Policies and programs that do not explicitly address rising inequalities risk deepening these divides.

Sustainable and effective climate resilience, disaster risk reduction, and risk-informed development must be people-centered, gender-responsive, inclusive, and accessible to all. This approach promotes and safeguards the human rights, capacities, and leadership of women, people of diverse gender identities, persons with disabilities, Indigenous peoples, older adults, youth, and others who have historically been excluded from decision-making. panellists shared their views with respect inclusion in disaster management.



## ***Be Prepared for a Mega Earthquake: The Role of the Public-Private Partnerships on Science and Technology Against Seismic Disasters***



In an era of rising seismic activity and environmental uncertainty, the importance of resilience is paramount. While government agencies have traditionally led disaster preparedness and resilience efforts—and will remain central to these responsibilities—the active participation of the private sector crucial. Developing innovative technologies and fostering effective public-private partnerships (PPPs)

have become essential components in strengthening resilience efforts. Dr. Satortu Nishikave, Senior Advisor, Tohoku University moderated the session. The experts from Japan, India and Philippines presented the role of public- private partnerships in the context of disasters.

## ***Intersection of Open Science and Artificial Intelligence in the Context of Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience***

In a world increasingly shaped by unpredictable hazards, science and technology are our greatest allies in disaster risk reduction (DRR). From scientific inquiry to technological innovation, we are revolutionizing how we understand and respond to disasters. Open science practices break down barriers, ensuring vital knowledge is accessible to everyone—from



researchers to local communities. This session was themed around trailblazers in science, technology, and innovation (STI) to showcase how these advancements can build resilient, sustainable communities. The SM group, Philippines presented their earthquake AI warning systems.

**17/10/2024**

***Fail Forward Cafe: Turning Setbacks into Success Stories in Disaster Risk Reduction***

UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with the Humanitarian Advisory Group conducted a unique and innovative session in the APMCDRR 2024



Learning Labs: the "Fail Forward Cafe. This session provided a safe, constructive, and fun environment for the participants to share their experiences of failure, reflect on lessons learned, and explore strategies for turning setbacks into opportunities for growth and improvement in design and implementation of climate and DRR related policies and programmes. It was an engaging session where

experts from various fields shared their experiences, including challenges they faced while implementing disaster management activities. I shared our specific challenges related to issuing localized warnings especially in the context of landslides.

***Localization and Urban and Rural Resilience***

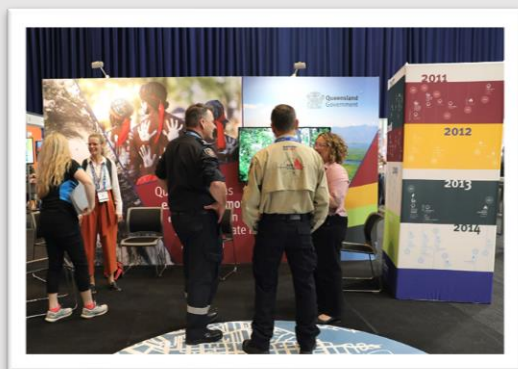


The Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction has underscored the critical need to enhance the involvement of local communities in disaster risk reduction efforts. It highlights that the localisation of disaster risk reduction is essential for achieving the Sendai Framework targets. The interventions done by the local leaders of Philippines was showcased in the event.



### ***Market Place***

The Marketplace is an interactive and positive experience where delegates can exchange knowledge, network, raise awareness, and promote multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to further accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Around 79 exhibitors from Asia Pacific regions were showcased their initiatives in the market place





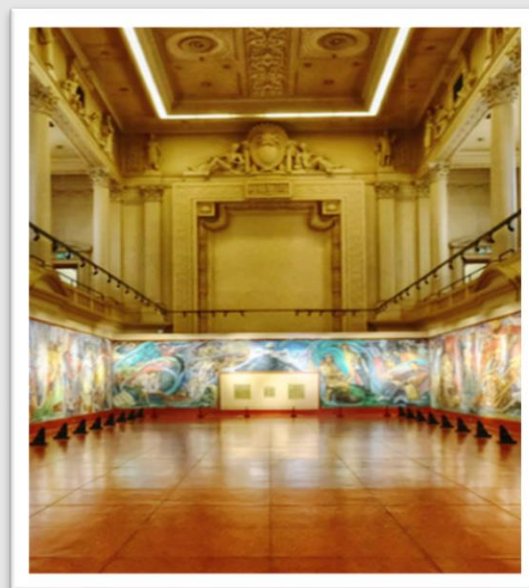
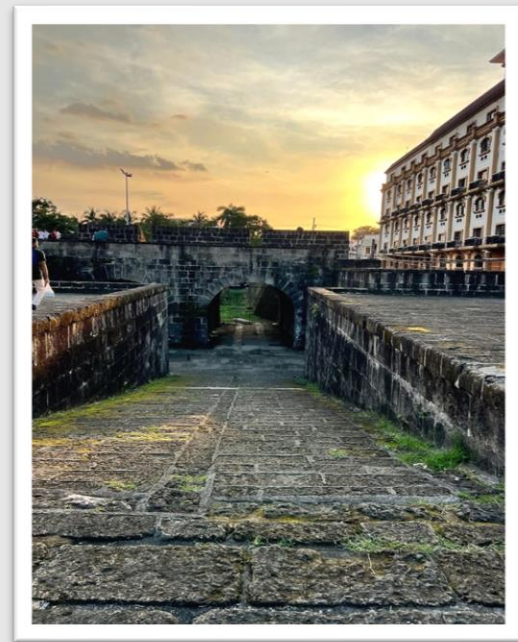
***18/10/2024***

***Field visit to Walled City of Intramuros in Manila and National Museum in Manila City  
organised by the Philippine government***

Intramuros is the holistic walled city in Manila. The name indicates Intra mean within and Muros means walls. Intramuros is preserved as a window to Manilas pasr and most visited urban heritage sites. Fort Santiago, San Agustin Church and Museum, Museo de Intramuros and Casa Manila. The san Augustin Church is the oldest surviving stone church in Philippines. Designs in the earthquake baroque style, and the church survived some of the strongest earthquakes to have hit in Manila in the past 450 years. It was only the church to survive 6the ravages of second world war sustain minor damages to roofs. The church was declared a UNESCO world heritage site in 1993.

National Museum of Anthropology

The National Museum of Anthropology stages the Philippines ethnographic and terrestrial and underwater archaeological collections narrating the story of Philippines from the past, as presented through artefacts as evidence of its pre-history.

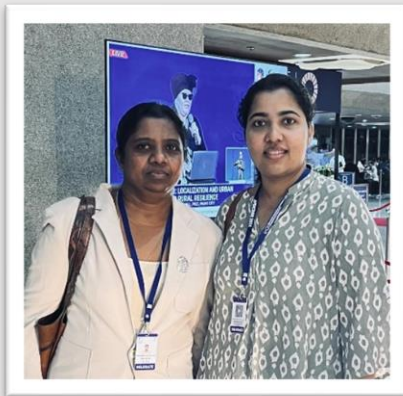


## Meetings and Interactions

The Indian participants from NDMA, SDMAs, and NGOs met with NDMA Head and Member, Shri Rajendra Singh. He appreciated the Kerala SDMA for its excellent work.



I had a discussion with Ms. Naya Ben, a transgender activist from Pakistan who is actively involved in disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts there. We talked about Kerala's Transgender-Inclusive DRR plan, and I requested her input to help streamline the program.



I had the opportunity to meet Ms. Anoja Seneviratne, Director of Mitigation, Research & Development at the Disaster Management Centre in Sri Lanka. We engaged in discussions on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction for resilience building in Sri Lanka, as the country is highly susceptible to hydro-meteorological disasters. I also shared some of our experience related to the resilience-building initiatives in the Alappuzha district.

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06/11/2024





# വലിയപറമ്പ ഗ്രാമ പഞ്ചായത്ത്

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വലിയപറമ്പ ഗ്രാമ പഞ്ചായത്ത്

സ്വീകർത്താവ്

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കേരള സംസ്ഥാന ദുരന്തനിവാരണ അതോറിറ്റി

തിരുവനന്തപുരം

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വിഷയം : APMCDRR 2024 -ൽ പങ്കെടുത്തത്- സംബന്ധിച്ച്

ഫിലിപ്പൈൻസിലെ മനിലയിൽ ഒക്ടോബർ 14 മുതൽ 18 വരെ നടന്ന APMCDRR 2024 കോൺഫറൻസുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട് ഏഷ്യൻ ഡിസാസ്റ്റർ റീഡക്ഷൻ ആൻഡ് റെസ്പോൺസ് നെറ്റ്വർക്ക് എന്ന സംഘടന പ്രാദേശിക നേതാക്കൾക്കായി നടത്തിയ മത്സരത്തിൽ വലിയപറമ്പ ഗ്രാമപഞ്ചായത്ത് പ്രസിഡന്റായ എന്നെ ലോക്കൽ ലീഡർ ചാമ്പ്യനായി തെരഞ്ഞെടുത്തിരുന്നു. പുരസ്കാരം ഏറ്റു വാങ്ങുകയും കോൺഫറൻസിൽ ഒക്ടോബർ 14 മുതൽ 18 വരെ ഫിലിപ്പൈൻസിൽ പങ്കെടുക്കുകയുമുണ്ടായി.


ഈ കോൺഫറൻസിൽ പങ്കെടുക്കുക വഴി ഏഷ്യൻ ലോക രാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ വിവിധ ഏജൻസികളും വിവിധ സർക്കാരുകളും മുൻകൈയെടുത്ത് നടപ്പിലാക്കുന്ന ദുരന്ത ലഘൂകരണ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളെ കുറിച്ച് കൂടുതൽ മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാൻ സാധിച്ചു. കേരളത്തിലെ ഒരു ഗ്രാമ പഞ്ചായത്തിൽ നടപ്പിലാക്കിയ സുസ്ഥിരമായ വികരണ മാതൃകകൾ ലോകത്തിന് മുൻപാകെ അവതരിപ്പിക്കാനുള്ള ഒരു അവസരമായി കൂടി ഈ അവാർഡ് ദാന ചടങ്ങിൽ പങ്കെടുക്കുക വഴി എനിക്ക് സാധിച്ചു.



ഫിലിപ്പൈൻസിലെ വികലാംഗരുടെ ചാമ്പ്യനായ മരിയ വികലാംഗരുടെ ക്ഷേമത്തിനായി നടത്തിയ പ്രോഗ്രാമുകൾ ഉപജീവന പരിശീലനം ദുരന്ത നിവാരണത്തിനും പ്രതികരണത്തിനും വൈകല്യമുള്ളവരെ സജ്ജരാക്കുന്നതിനും നടത്തിയ വ്യത്യസ്ത പ്രവർത്തനം പഠിക്കാനും ഇന്തോനേഷ്യയിലെ മാനസികാരോഗ്യത്തിനും ദുരന്തസുരക്ഷയ്ക്കും വേണ്ടിയുള്ള ചാമ്പ്യനായ യൂസ്റ്റീന വർദ്ദാനി നടത്തിയ ഭൂകമ്പം അഗ്നി പർവ്വത സ്ഫോടനം വെള്ളപ്പൊക്ക സാധ്യതയുള്ള ഗ്രാമം എന്നിവയിൽ പ്രതിരോധ ശേഷി വളർത്തുന്നതിനായി ഇവർ നടത്തിയ ഇടപെടൽ ഫിലിപ്പൈൻസിലെ തദ്ദേശീയരെ ശാക്തീകരിക്കുന്നതിന് ചാമ്പ്യൻപട്ടം നേടിയ സെനിത്ത് ബല്ലേർത്തയുടെ തദ്ദേശീയരായ സ്ത്രീകൾ രോഗ ശാന്തിക്കാരായും സംരക്ഷകരായും ഇവർ നടത്തിയ പ്രവർത്തനം ഇങ്ങനെ വ്യത്യസ്തമായ രാജ്യങ്ങളിലെ ദുരന്ത ലഘൂകരണ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളെ കുറിച്ച് നാല് ദിവസങ്ങളിലായി നടന്ന മിനിസ്റ്റീരിയൽ കോൺഫറൻസിൽ നിന്നും പുതിയ അനുഭവ പാഠങ്ങൾ ലഭിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. ഇങ്ങനെ ലോകത്തിന്റെ വിവിധ കോണുകളിൽ നടക്കുന്ന ദുരന്ത ലഘൂകരണ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട് മനസ്സിലാക്കുകയും വലിയപറമ്പ് പോലുള്ള ദീപ് ഗ്രാമ പഞ്ചായത്തിന് ഉതകുന്ന പല പദ്ധതികളെ പറ്റി മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാനും ഈ യാത്രയിലൂടെ സാധിച്ചു. വലിയപറമ്പ് ഗ്രാമ പഞ്ചായത്ത് നടപ്പിലാക്കിയ ദുരന്ത ലഘൂകരണ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ മറ്റ് രാജ്യങ്ങളിലെ ഡെലിഗേറ്റസിന് മുന്നിൽ ഇന്ത്യാരാജ്യത്തെ പ്രതിനിധീകരിച്ച് അവതരിപ്പിക്കാൻ അവസരം ഒരുക്കിയ സംസ്ഥാന ദുരന്ത നിവാരണ അതോറിറ്റിക്ക് പഞ്ചായത്തിന്റെ പ്രത്യേക നന്ദി അറിയിക്കുകയാണ്. ഇത്തരം രാജ്യാന്തര കോൺഫറൻസുകളിൽ എല്ലാ ജനപ്രതിനിധികളെയും പങ്കെടുപ്പിക്കുന്നത് രാജ്യത്തിനും സംസ്ഥാനത്തിനും ഗുണപ്രദമാകും. ഒരിക്കൽ കൂടി ലോക്കൽ ലീഡർ ചാമ്പ്യൻ പുരസ്കാരം ഏറ്റെടുത്താണെന്നും ദുരന്ത ലഘൂകരണവുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ടുള്ള വിവരങ്ങളായ പരിശീലനത്തിൽ പങ്കെടുക്കാനും യാത്ര ചെലവ് ഉൾപ്പെടെ അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സംസ്ഥാന സർക്കാരിനും സംസ്ഥാന ദുരന്ത നിവാരണ അതോറിറ്റിക്കും വലിയപറമ്പ് പഞ്ചായത്തിന്റെ പ്രത്യേക നന്ദി അറിയിക്കുന്നു.



വിശ്വസ്മൃതയോടെ

  
**V.V. SAJEEVAN**  
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