
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of
Disaster Information Management

Governing Council

Third session

Tehran, 19 December 2018

**Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific
Centre for the Development of Disaster Information
Management on its third session**

**I. Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought
to its attention**

1. The following decisions adopted by the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP):

Decision 1

The Governing Council of APDIM endorses the report on the activities of APDIM since the second session of the Council.

Decision 2

The Council endorses the report on the administrative and financial status of APDIM.

Decision 3

The Council also endorses the workplan of APDIM for 2019 and the deliverables of APDIM for the programme of work for 2020 as part of the subprogramme on information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction of the Commission.

Decision 4

The Council takes note of the recommendations of the High-level Expert Consultation on Disaster Information Management, held in Tehran on 18 and 19 December 2018, as contained in annex II to the present document, and recommends that APDIM incorporate these recommendations into its future programme of work within the scope and mandate given to it and taking into account the availability of funds.

The Council also takes note of the technical recommendations of the Expert Consultation Meeting on Regional Cooperation for Building Resilience to Slow-onset Disasters including Sand and Dust Storms and Information Management for Cross-border Disasters in Asia and the Pacific, held in Tehran on 5 and 6 November 2018, as contained in annex III to the present document. It also recommends that APDIM incorporate these recommendations into its future programme of work within the scope and mandate given to it and taking into account the availability of funds.

2. The Council expresses its appreciation to APDIM for initiating all the key programmes listed in its workplan for 2018 as endorsed by the Council at its second session.

3. The Council recommends that APDIM capitalize on the expanded partnership networks and advances made in the programmes that were initiated under its three thematic pillars for the implementation of the second phase of its programme of work in disaster information management for the period 2019–2021.

4. The Council expresses its appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its commitment and continuing generous financial contribution to APDIM. The Council also expresses its appreciation to the Government of Macao, China, for its additional voluntary cash contribution to APDIM.

5. The Council strongly encourages all ESCAP members and associate members to also provide financial contributions to APDIM and to participate and/or contribute to its programme of work.

6. The Council welcomes the operationalization of APDIM office in Tehran.

7. The Council notes that the term of the current Council will end in May 2019 and that the election of the Council members for the 2019–2022 term will be organized by the secretariat at the margins of the seventy-fifth session of the Commission, in May 2019. It encourages members wishing to seek re-election to submit nominations to the Secretary of the Commission.

8. The Council also notes the forthcoming independent evaluation of APDIM in 2019. It urges all members to participate in and provide support to the evaluation and to nominate a focal point to the secretariat for the APDIM evaluation exercise.

9. The Council expresses its appreciation for the offer of the Government of Pakistan to host the fourth session of the Council in 2019.

II. Proceedings

A. Report on activities of the Centre since the second session of the Governing Council (Agenda item 2)

10. The Council had before it the report on the activities of APDIM since the second session of the Council (ESCAP/APDIM/GC/2018/1). The Centre briefed the Council on the progress in the implementation of the decisions and recommendations made by the Council at its second session with regard to the workplan for 2018.

11. The Council noted that partnerships for establishing a cloud-based metadata platform under the information and knowledge repository pillar of APDIM were built at the regional level with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Research Institute of Disaster Science of Tohoku University in Japan, under the Global Centre for Disaster Statistics, and at the national level with the National Cartographic Centre of the Islamic Republic of Iran. A draft Asia-Pacific disaster risk atlas developed by APDIM will serve as the foundation for an online database repository of multi-hazard risk information related to cross-border disasters.

12. The Council also noted that partnerships with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and UNDP/the Global Centre for Disaster Statistics have been established for strengthening national capacities on the Sendai Framework monitor and disaster loss databases under the capacity development pillar. APDIM also contributed to the Indian Ocean tsunami early warning exercise organized by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and enhanced tsunami awareness and preparedness in coastal areas of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

13. The Council noted with satisfaction the progress made under the information services for cross-border disasters pillar. The ESCAP/APDIM report entitled *Sand and Dust Storms in Asia and the Pacific: Opportunities for Regional Cooperation and Action* provided a framework for establishing a partnership network for slow-onset and cross-border disasters and for initiating an implementation plan to build a regional network and sand and dust storm alert system. It also noted that ESCAP had joined a United Nations coalition on sand and dust storms, a global initiative led by the United Nations Environment Programme, and that partnership networks at regional and national levels had been scaled up.

B. Report on the administrative and financial status of the Centre
(Agenda item 3)

14. The Council had before it the report on the administrative and financial status of APDIM (ESCAP/APDIM/GC/2018/2).

15. The Council was briefed on the progress in the establishment of the Centre and the efforts to give effect to the host country agreement and the administrative and financial support agreement establishing APDIM as a regional institution of the Commission, in line with Commission resolution 71/11.

16. The Council expressed its appreciation for the opening of the APDIM office and its operationalization in Tehran.

17. The Council was also briefed on the Centre's administrative status, including current staffing capacity, which was set up in line with the recommendations of the evaluation of APDIM endorsed by the Commission in its resolution 71/11.

18. The contribution of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran comprised an additional cash contribution of \$978,515 in 2018 for the programme of work and institutional support of APDIM.

19. The voluntary cash contribution of the Government of Macao, China, in 2018, comprised \$10,000 for the institutional support of APDIM.

C. Programme of work for 2019 and 2020

(Agenda item 4)

20. The Council had before it the proposed workplan of APDIM for 2019 and 2020 (ESCAP/APDIM/GC/2018/3).

21. With regard to the elections of Council members for the 2019–2022 term, the secretariat will invite Governments of members and associate members desiring to seek election or re-election to submit nominations to the Secretary of the Commission.

22. With regard to the independent and comprehensive evaluation on the performance and sustainability of APDIM, members of the Council will be requested to provide information relating to the performance and sustainability of APDIM. The preliminary findings of the evaluation will be presented to the Council at its fourth session. The final evaluation will be submitted to the Commission at its seventy-sixth session, in 2020, for its assessment of the performance of APDIM and determination of whether it would continue to operate as a regional institution of the Commission thereafter.

23. The Officer-in-Charge of APDIM also briefed the Council on the second phase of the programme of work from 2019 to 2021; its activities would be guided by the strategic plan and three thematic pillars. Under the proposed workplan for 2019, key programmes comprised the operationalization of an Asia-Pacific disaster risk atlas as a regional repository of cross-border multi-hazard information; national training on the Sendai Framework monitor and disaster loss databases, with the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan as initial pilot countries, followed by other countries in subsequent years; and the development of an action plan to put in place a subregional cooperation mechanism for slow-onset hazards with a focus on sand and dust storms in South-West and Central Asia.

24. The Council noted the proposed deliverables to be produced by APDIM under the subprogramme on information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management of the Commission's programme of work for the year 2020. The deliverables will be submitted to the Commission at its seventy-fifth session for its consideration and possible adoption.

25. The Council also noted the expanded staffing of the Centre for the implementation of phase II of the programme of work of APDIM. It also welcomed the incoming Director of APDIM.

D. Dates and venue of the fourth session of the Governing Council

(Agenda item 5)

26. It was decided that the secretariat would decide the exact date of and venue for the next session of the Council in consultation with the Government of Pakistan at a later date.

E. Other matters

(Agenda item 6)

27. No other matters were raised.

F. Adoption of the report of the Governing Council on its third session
(Agenda item 7)

28. On 19 December 2018, the Council endorsed the matters calling for action or brought to the attention of the Commission. The Council reviewed and endorsed the draft of the proceedings that were circulated to its members after the conclusion of the session. The full report of the Council on its third session would be submitted to the Commission for its endorsement at its seventy-fifth session.

III. Organization

A. Opening, duration and organization of the session

29. The Council held its third session in Tehran on 19 December 2018. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP delivered brief welcome remarks. Mr. Gholamhossein Dehgahni, Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, Islamic Republic of Iran, delivered remarks.

B. Attendance

30. The session was attended by representatives of the following members of the Council: Bangladesh; Cambodia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Nepal; Pakistan; Sri Lanka; and Turkey.

31. Representatives of the following members and associate members of the Commission attended as observers: Afghanistan; Fiji; India; Kazakhstan and Timor-Leste.

C. Election of officers

32. The Council elected the following officers:

Chair:	Mr. Seyed Hamid Pourmohammadi (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Vice-Chair:	Lieutenant General Omar Mahmood Hayat (Pakistan)

D. Agenda

33. The Council adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening statements;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Report on activities of the Centre since the second session of the Governing Council.
3. Report on the administrative and financial status of the Centre.
4. Programme of work for 2019 and 2020.
5. Date and venue of the fourth session of the Governing Council.

6. Other matters.
7. Adoption of the report of the Governing Council on its third session.

E. Other events

34. The High-level Expert Consultation on Disaster Information Management and the opening ceremony of the APDIM office were held in Tehran on 18 and 19 December 2018 in conjunction with the third session of the Council.

Annex I

List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>General series</i>		
ESCAP/APDIM/GC/2018/1	Report on the activities of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management since the second session of the Governing Council	2
ESCAP/APDIM/GC/2018/2	Report on the administrative and financial status of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management	3
ESCAP/APDIM/GC/2018/3	Proposed workplan of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management for 2019 and 2020	4
ESCAP/APDIM/GC/2018/4	Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management on its third session	
<i>Limited series</i>		
ESCAP/APDIM/GC/2018/L.1/Rev.1	Annotated provisional agenda	1(c)
ESCAP/APDIM/GC/2018/L.2	Draft report	7
<i>Information series</i>		
ESCAP/APDIM/GC/2018/INF/1	Information for participants	
ESCAP/APDIM/GC/2018/INF/2	List of participants	1(b)
ESCAP/APDIM/GC/2018/INF/3/Rev.1	Tentative programme	1(a)

Annex II

High-level Expert Consultation on Disaster Information Management, Tehran, 18–19 December 2018*

1. The High-level Expert Consultation on Disaster Information Management was held in Tehran from 18 to 19 December 2018. The meeting was organized by the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) in implementation of the workplan which was endorsed by the second session of its Governing Council in Tehran on 31 January 2018.
2. The expert consultation meeting was attended by senior officials and experts from ESCAP member countries from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and Turkey. The meeting was also attended by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/Global Centre for Disaster Statistics (GCDS) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
3. The meeting discussed issues of disaster information management in Asia and the Pacific, shared experiences, challenges and lessons learned in the development and management of disaster loss databases, including geo-referenced ones following the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) framework, for disaster risk reduction and Sendai Framework monitoring.

Major conclusions and recommendations

4. The expert consultation meeting made the following recommendations for APDIM to consider implementing in 2019 and beyond.
5. The expert meeting appreciated the progress made in the development of the Asia-Pacific Disaster Atlas, and supported the operationalization of the data layers of the Atlas as the foundations of APDIM's online database repository.
6. The meeting also appreciated APDIM's approach on information management for slow-onset disasters including sand and dust storms and also supported the operationalization of the sand and dust storm monitoring and alert system on APDIM's online database platform.
7. The expert meeting recommended that APDIM initiate capacity development programme on Sendai Framework Monitoring in 2019 with the first national activities in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan as the initial pilot countries, respectively with the National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO) of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) of Pakistan, in partnership with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and in coordination with United Nations Country Team (UNCTs). The national training would also include database development and management, including structure design and applications that are specific to country needs.

* The present annex is being issued without formal editing.

8. The meeting also recommended that a pilot retrofitting on disaster loss databases that would serve the purpose of monitoring the Sendai Framework and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) be undertaken in the Islamic Republic of Iran addressing country specific context and needs, in partnership with UNDP and Global Centre for Disaster Statistics (GCDS).

9. Capacity development in disaster loss databases could also be carried out by APDIM in other countries. In this respect, APDIM could provide support to two ongoing pilot countries of UNDP, namely Nepal and Sri Lanka. In addition, UNDP and APDIM would work jointly to support Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

10. APDIM could also support the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and UNDP to further strengthen capacity of Afghanistan in disaster database for Sendai Framework monitoring. APDIM to also consider supporting the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) in expanding capacity development programme on Sendai Framework Monitoring to the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) in the medium term.

11. The expert meeting advised that APDIM consider providing capacity development support to member countries upon request, for developing their national strategies on disaster risk reduction that would complement the strengthening of national capacities for Sendai Framework monitoring, in partnership with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).

12. The expert meeting also advised that APDIM carry out regional training programmes on disaster information management for multi-hazard risks. Such programmes could include the Makran region tsunami risk assessment capacity development training to be undertaken in partnership with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)/Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and with the involvement the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and other relevant countries. The meeting also recommended the enhancement of cooperation mechanisms and instruments for data collection, data sharing and development of databases.

13. The meeting also suggested that APDIM develop customized training for decision-makers and hazard-specific public education campaigns and training and support in development of awareness-raising and advocacy programmes.

14. The expert group meeting recommended that technical working group be set up for the further development of disaster loss databases.

15. The expert meeting on disaster information management requested that the recommendations be brought to the attention of the Governing Council of APDIM.

Annex III

Expert Consultation Meeting on Regional Cooperation for Building Resilience to Slow-onset Disasters including Sand and Dust Storms and Information Management for Cross-border Disasters in Asia and the Pacific, Tehran, 5–6 November 2018*

1. Key experts drawn from ESCAP member countries, UN, international organizations, intergovernmental organizations, government officials, academicians, and practitioners attended the expert consultation meeting on regional cooperation for building resilience to slow-onset disasters, including sand and dust storms, and information management for cross-border disasters in Asia and the Pacific from 5 to 6 November 2018 in Tehran. The meeting aimed to review a draft cross-border Asia-Pacific Disaster Atlas developed by the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM), agree on the elements for information-sharing and capacity-building on slow-onset disasters, including sand and dust storms, and set up a partnership network for APDIM at the regional and global levels. The two-day expert consultation contributed to stimulating deliberations, exchanged experiences, and reviewed best practices as well as challenges and lessons learned and agreed on a set of recommendations for APDIM to consider implementing in 2019 and beyond. These recommendations are aligned with the strategic priorities of ESCAP's regional institute the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM).

2. The experts reviewed the Asia-Pacific Disaster Atlas, which was presented as a part of APDIM's key deliverables. The geospatial data that the Atlas comprises of is a beta version of APDIM's repository data of hazard, exposure and vulnerability. The experts also reviewed its online operations and recognized that it can deliver some of the key APDIM's information management services and serve as decision support tool for risk-informed policy decisions.

3. The experts while reviewing the APDIM's prototype regional cooperation mechanism for Building Resilience to Slow-Onset Disasters including Sand and Dust Storms, appreciated the progress made, since the High-level Expert Consultation on Regional Cooperation for Combating Sand and Dust Storms in Asia and the Pacific, 30–31 January 2018 in Tehran. In this regard, APDIM's flagship publication – *Sand and Storm in Asia and the Pacific: Opportunities for Regional Cooperation and Action* was highlighted as an excellent contribution to build on this prototype further in partnership with related UN organizations, operational agencies in ESCAP member countries and academia. Experts welcomed partnership of the China Meteorological Administration (CMA) – Beijing through its Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre (Sand and Dust Storm) and its technical support through the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)-Global Multi-hazard Alert System (GMAS), Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) environment monitoring networks in South-West Asia, International Water Management Institute (IWMI) through its South Asia Drought and Climate Risk Monitor, Asian Disaster Risk Reduction (ADRC), Geo-informatics Centre/Asian Institute of Technology (GIC/AIT), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

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4. Experts further highlighted a need for strong partnership and networking through a regional programme involving member States and collaborating agencies. In this regard, experts appreciated the APDIM's partnership initiative with UNDP Regional Hub through the Global Centre for Disaster Statistics (GCDS) to scale up disaster loss database projects, develop toolkits, information products and services including geo-referenced information. The experts welcomed the proposals from (i) World Meteorological Organization (WMO)/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclone to support its working group on disaster risk reduction, (ii) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization - Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO-IOC) and Oman Multi-hazard early warning system for strengthening the capacities in risk assessment and decision support in specific context of the Makran subduction zone, (iii) International Water Management Institute (IWMI) for capacity development in information management for flood and drought forecasting and early warning, (iv) Asian Disaster Reduction Centre – Kobe, and (v) Geo-informatics Centre, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok for joint information management related capacity development activities.

5. Experts while recognized the role of APDIM's current partners including Plan and Budget Organization (PBO), as a national reference for ESCAP in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Road Housing & Urban Development Research Center (BHRC), International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIEES), National Cartographic Centre (NCC) and Department of Environment (DoE), emphasized significance of the partnership with other Iranian institutions such as the Islamic Republic of Iran Meteorological Organization (IRIMO), Iranian National Institute for Oceanography and Atmospheric Science (INIOAS), Tehran University of Medical Science and other Iranian universities, Ministry of Health and Medical Education, National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO) and Iranian Red Crescent for their collaboration on APDIM work programme activities.

6. The experts carefully considered above consultations and made a set of recommendations to be submitted for further action to the APDIM Governing Council (GC) at its third session; and for APDIM to subsequently implement the decisions into activities with its strategic partners through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation modalities.

These recommendations are as follows:

Information management

7. Operationalize the Asia-Pacific Disaster Risk Atlas as APDIM's online database repository and platform in partnership with related institutions. In this regard, demonstrate a prototype at third session of the APDIM Governing Council (GC) on 19 December 2018 in Tehran.

8. In partnership with the National Cartographic Centre (NCC), organize stakeholders meeting in Tehran/April 2019 to define, prioritize and shape the information management products and services from this APDIM's online database platform.

9. Populate the APDIM's online database further with context specific attributes to deliver information management services in priority areas especially those related to the cross-border disasters. Capitalize on the offers from the partners, including those from China Meteorological Administration (CMA), Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), Japan Asian Disaster Risk Reduction (ADRC), Geo-informatics Centre/Asian Institute of Technology

(GIC/AIT), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), UNDP etc. To showcase its operational services, organize APDIM's workshop involving partners and the end users at the sidelines of ESCAP Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in August 2019.

10. Develop strategic plan for its sustainability by delivering innovative services in partnership with credible information management service providers including the intergovernmental platforms. Present its implementation road map at fourth session of the APDIM Governing Council in 2019.

Disaster loss databases

11. In partnership with UNDP, Global Centre for Disaster Statistics (GCDS) and other stakeholders, undertake a prototype pilot on disaster loss databases for the Sendai and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) monitoring in Islamic Republic of Iran jointly with the National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO) and work with partners to support ongoing activities in 2-3 priority countries to be identified by the GC.

Slow-onset disasters – including sand and dust storm

12. Build on the APDIM's flagship publication on the Sand and Dust Storms in Asia-Opportunities for regional cooperation and action, the Asia-Pacific Disaster Risk Atlas, and the partnership network especially the National Cartographic Centre (NCC), the Islamic Republic of Iran Meteorological Organization (IRIMO) and Department of Environment (DOE) among others, scale up the partnership network to include the China Meteorological Administration (CMA) Regional Specialized Centre for Sand and Dust Storm – Beijing, India Meteorological Department – Environment Monitoring Centre – New Delhi, Asian Disaster Reduction Centre – Kobe and Geo-informatics Centre of Asian Institute of Technology – Bangkok.

13. Drawing on the experience from the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Programme and the ESCAP Regional Drought Mechanism, consider developing an action plan to put in place the subregional cooperation mechanism for slow-onset disasters including sand and dust storm – involving member countries from the South-West and Central Asia and the key partners including the UN Environment, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), WMO, UNDP and other related members of the UN coalition on sand and dust storm.

14. Capitalize on the UN coalition on sand and dust storm to shape the regional and subregional cooperation activities through the work programme of ESCAP/APDIM and initiate the efforts on resource mobilization through member countries, potential donors including the Green Climate Fund, the UN South-South Cooperation Fund.

15. Capitalize on the support from Department of Environment (DOE), the Islamic Republic of Iran Meteorological Organization (IRIMO), China Meteorological Administration (CMA), Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), UN Environment, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), WMO, UNDP, International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and other related institutions and potential stakeholders to configure the prototype for subregional mechanism and organize a stakeholder's forum in 2019.

Capacity development activities

16. Develop an action plan for APDIM's capacity development activities in partnership with the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclone /the Islamic Republic of Iran Meteorological Organization (IRIMO) (impact-based forecasting), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization – Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO-IOC), and related Iranian organizations (Makran Zone), Road Housing & Urban Development Research Center (BHRC) (Bhutan/Nepal), International Water Management Institute (IWMI)/the Islamic Republic of Iran Meteorological Organization (IRIMO) (flood forecasting/scaling up South Asia drought and climate monitoring) UNDP and other UN agencies including member of UN coalition on sand and dust storm.

17. Capitalize on the offer from Asian Disaster Risk Reduction (ADRC), Geo-informatics Centre/Asian Institute of Technology (GIC/AIT) and International Water Management Institute (IWMI) to undertake joint capacity development activities in priority countries – including the upcoming Asian Disaster Risk Reduction (ADRC) information management capacity development activity in Tajikistan.

18. The participants at the meeting expressed their sincere thanks and appreciation to the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the warm hospitality and excellent organizing of the meeting.
