ESCAP Fourth Disaster Resilience Week
Regional Learning Platform

Spotlight session 4
Building the resilience agenda through technology

Concept Note and Tentative Agenda

July 27, 2023
10.00-11:30 (Bangkok)

Hybrid (MR-F/Microsoft Teams)

Background

The increasing frequency and intensity of disasters and climate change impacts necessitate the exploration and utilization of innovative technologies to enhance resilience. Innovations in Artificial Intelligence (AI), satellite imagery, machine learning, and earth observation data have the potential to revolutionize disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation efforts. These tools can provide critical insights into disaster risk knowledge, as well as detection, observation, monitoring and forecasting of hazards, both of which are key pillars of early warning systems. Recognizing their significance, this session aims to explore the importance of these technologies and their application in addressing the challenges of disasters and climate change.

Objectives

The expert discussion will provide a platform for knowledge exchange, interactive dialogue, and the sharing of experiences and innovative solutions. It aims to generate actionable recommendations and strategies to address the challenges in leveraging technologies for disaster risk reduction, ultimately contributing to the overall resilience of communities and reducing the impact of disasters and climate hazards. The session aims to:

1. Identify the innovations in technology, including those in AI, satellite imagery, machine learning, earth observation data, etc. in building resilience to disasters and climate change.
2. Discuss strategies and best practices to strengthen the use of technology for effective reduction in the impact of disasters and climate hazards.
3. Identify opportunities, challenges, and potential collaborations in utilizing technologies for resilience-building efforts.

The target audience includes:

1. Government officials responsible for disaster management.
2. Experts and researchers specializing in technology for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.
3. Private sector stakeholders involved in technology for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

Tentative agenda	
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Organizer(s): ESCAP, APCICT, APCTT and UNOSAT	
10.00-10.05	*Opening and Keynote (1 min each, MC: Ms. Rusali Agrawal, ESCAP)* • Ms. Preeti Soni, Head, APCTT • Mr. Khaled Mashfiq, Regional Liaison Officer & Programme Specialist, UNOSAT • Ms. Nuankae Wongthawatchai, Programme Management Officer, APCICT
10.10-11.00	*Technical presentations (5 mins each)* • Mr. Manzul Kumar Hazarika, Director, Geoinformatics Center, Asian Institute of Technology • Ms. Clara Landeiro, Regional Manager, Asia-Pacific, Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN), UN Climate Change Technology Mechanism • Mr. Khaled Mashfiq, Regional Liaison Officer & Programme Specialist, UNOSAT • Mr. Soumya Bhattacharya, Economic Affairs Officer, APCTT • Mr. Hamid Mehmood, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP • Mr. Abhishek Modi, Crisis Response Lead, APAC, Google • Mr. Rahul Kumar Suman, ThinkBlue
11.00-11.25	*Moderated discussion (Moderator: Ms. Preeti Soni, Head, APCTT)* • Prof. Chandan Ghosh, Head of Disaster Resilient infrastructure, The National Institute of Disaster Management, Ministry of Home Affairs, India • Mr. Nathaniel Servando, Deputy Administrator, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAG-ASA), Department of Science and Technology, Philippines • Mr. Chai Wutiwiwatchai, Executive Director of National Electronics and Computer Technology Center (NECTEC), The National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation, Thailand
11.25-11.30	*Concluding remark* • Mr. Sanjay Srivastava, Chief, Disaster Risk Reduction Section, ESCAP