

(200 words Messages from the priority theme on Water-related Disaster Management)

The Asia-Pacific region is the most vulnerable to water-related disasters. Even under the current conditions, the level of Water-related Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is far from sufficient and many vulnerability factors are ever-increasing. It is anticipated that the consequences resulting from Climate Change may put extra burdens to already vulnerable Asia-Pacific countries which might hinder sustainable development, poverty reduction and other important goals/targets in the region.

To cope with these new and common challenges posed by climate change, Asia-Pacific countries should share knowledge, technologies and resources to ensure the achievement of a positive change in the way water-related disasters are managed. Having this recognition, the following key messages and recommendations are agreed by the participants of the session as follows.

- Integrate water-related Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into national development plans, recognizing adaptation to increasing risks from climate change as a “highest” priority issue.
- Recognize the importance of IWRM for water-related DRR and the need to strengthen comprehensive structural and non-structural measures
- Establish national and local goals/targets for water-related DRR, taking the impacts of climate change into consideration
- Develop preparedness indices for water-related DRR for the Asia-Pacific region
- Develop water-related disaster warning systems and human capacities
- Establish regional knowledge hub for Water-related DRR

To fulfill above issues, all organizations, nations and localities, men and women, need to work together. A new collaboration program between ADB and ICHARM was announced.