



**ASEM HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT:
INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR RESILIENCE-BASED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

14 - 15 September 2016, Da Nang City, Vietnam

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

1. The ASEM High-level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management: Innovation and Technology for Resilience-based Sustainable Development – co-sponsored by the EU, Belgium, India, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, the Philippines and Viet Nam, was organised in Da Nang, Viet Nam, on 14 and 15 September 2016. This event was approved at the Twelfth ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Luxembourg in November 2015, with a view to provide a platform for ASEM partners to exchange best practices, consolidate proposals to enhance cooperation in application and utilisation of innovation and technology in disaster risk reduction and management to support the achievement of the goals of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030, the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Agreement.
2. It followed the commitment by Heads of States and Governments on the occasion of the Eleventh Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit (Ulaanbaatar - Mongolia - 15-16 July 2016) to encourage and further promote the development of the cooperation between ASEM partners in disaster risk reduction and management.
3. The Meeting gathered about 102 participants, including senior policy-makers, national and local government officials and experts from ASEM partners, disaster managers, researchers, practitioners and representatives from international and regional organisations, international humanitarian assistance organisations, NGOs and businesses which were welcomed by Mr Ho Ky Minh, Vice Chairman of Da Nang People 's Committee. The list of participants is attached as an annex.
4. The Meeting was opened by Mr. Hoang Van Thang, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam and by Mr Peter Petrovic on behalf of the Slovak Presidency of the European Union and the co-sponsors of this initiative. In his opening remark, the Vice Minister stressed that natural disaster would continue to be one of the most challenging threats to humanity in the 21th century and highlighted the importance of science, technology and innovation for understanding risk, especially, the emerging ones. Natural disasters have the potential to jeopardize efforts to improve quality of life and promote sustainable development. He stated that the integration of DRRM into every sector and socio-economic development programs and the strengthening of the Private Public Partnership on this issue are necessary. The Vice Minister also underlined the need

to strengthen cooperation between ASEM partners in disaster risk reduction, management, preparedness and relief through knowledge and experience sharing as well as best practices exchanges, especially in innovation and technology to promote resilience-based sustainable development. He called on the participants to explore concrete measures for tangible cooperation between ASEM partners for more effective DRRM. The EU Slovak Presidency recalled that Europe is committed to providing immediate civil protection and humanitarian assistance when disasters strike and when national response capacities are overwhelmed. He further underlined EU's strong commitment to disaster risk reduction and management. The EU has substantial expertise in the area of prevention, preparedness and response which it is willing to share amongst ASEM partners.

5. The Meeting honoured the victims of recent disasters across Asia and Europe, recalled the thousands loss of lives and the millions affected by these tragic events impacting in particular women and children and showed appreciation to all first responders and rescuers involved.
6. The Meeting was conducted in five sessions. During the Meeting, the participants discussed ways to enhance technical and scientific capacity and to raise awareness of ASEM partners in disaster risk reduction through sharing knowledge, skills, ideas, use of ICT, methodologies and models to assess disaster risks, vulnerabilities and exposures to all hazards, access to and sharing non-sensitive data and information to support national measures for successful management of natural or man-made disasters. Participants stressed the importance of enhancing cross-cutting collaborations among stakeholders in Asia and Europe through reinforcing existing networks and scientific research institutions in order to facilitate a science-policy interface for effective decision-making in DRRM. The Meeting underscored the need to bring together DRRM, climate change and sustainable development into a resilience framework with clear performance metrics. Examples of good practices, including bilateral, sub-regional and regional arrangements, were shared.
7. Participants discussed and proposed a number of non-binding recommendations to enhance the cooperation between ASEM partners in DRRM, including:

1 - Science and Technology for effective and transparent decision- and policy-making in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM)

- (i) Call on ASEM partners to integrate and link disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and mitigation, ensure a strong humanitarian action – development programming continuum and sustainable development, in line with the adopted international agreements in disaster risk reduction (Sendai Framework), climate (Paris Agreement), the UN's Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the commitments taken at the World Humanitarian Summit. Emphasize the role of science and technology in understanding and delivering risk reduction and highlight the importance of tangibly applying technology and science for identifying, addressing and responding to disaster risk. Reiterate the relevance of all ASEM partners to implement the Sendai framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- (ii) Call on ASEM partners to enhance technical and scientific capacity of local and national stakeholders in DRRM to enable the integration of relevant tools and to implement measures for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation at local, national and regional levels.
- (iii) Underline the importance of promoting risk informed planning and programming and ecosystem-based approaches and risk informed investments to support DRRM and resilience across ASEM partners .
- (iv) Address causal reasons of vulnerability and promote adequate risk monitoring and assessment systems.
- (v) Promote the availability and access to scenario-based capability analyses, multi-hazard early warning and risk assessment and monitoring systems.
- (vi) Call on national governments across ASEM to facilitate joint data collection and an open data sharing policy for transparent, accessible, accurate and reliable disaster risk information to enable successful disaster management. Accessible, accurate and reliable scientific data and information supported by the effective use of innovative science and technology are critical to underpinning well-informed policies and decisions across all sectors involved in DRRM.
- (vii) Underline that appropriate risk transfer from public authorities to the private sectors and related financial solutions provided by the re/insurance industry can complement, but not substitute, disaster risk relief and mitigation initiatives.
- (viii) Call on ASEM partners to develop robust and transparent milestones to monitor progress in DRRM.

2 - Strengthening Asia – Europe cooperation and dialogue on innovative tools for resilience-based sustainable development

- (ix) Call on ASEM partners to further enhance cooperation between networks, scientific communities, policymakers, disaster managers, emergency responders, government officials and partnership with the private sector and enterprises to enable a strong science-policy interface for effective, timely and informed decision- and policy-making across ASEM partners.
- (x) Call on ASEM partners to promote Asia – Europe connectivity through establishing a network of relevant experts, scholars and academia that carry out joint research, and cooperate in science, technology and innovation for disaster risk reduction and management focusing notably on early warning, data collection and processing exploitation, sharing and communication and risk modelling. The importance of facilitating transitions towards climate resilient communities including through the avoidance of food-security crisis and by reducing vulnerability of communities in deltas and their hinterlands was underlined.

Promote and strengthen policy dialogue and operational exchanges as well as, cross-disciplinary exchange, voluntary peer reviews and sharing of best practices relating to the use of ICT, new technology, methodologies and models to assess disaster risks, vulnerabilities and exposures to hazards notably to improve resilience in urban settings.

- (xi) Facilitate mutual learning and cooperation among research communities, practitioners and governments to address and overcome knowledge and technology gaps. Contribute to existing platforms for information sharing on Disaster Risk Management, including the EU's Commission Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre.
- (xii) Promote the development of Tangible Cooperation Areas in DRRM as endorsed by the Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit leaders.

3 - Strengthening cooperation on investment in innovative technology and raising awareness for Resilient communities

- (xiii) Call on ASEM partners to broaden the scope beyond natural disasters to include technological risks and man-made hazards into disaster and multi-hazard risk assessment and management.
- (xiv) Support the development of local and national disaster risk reduction strategies, with active engagement of all stakeholders including local communities, authorities and the private sector and enterprises. Support the development of inclusive and innovative community resilience as a critical first line of response, with the full and effective participation of all the community members.
- (xv) Promote the development and implementation of innovative and specific strategies for disaster risk awareness-raising to address and involve the whole society, including vulnerable groups, research communities, governments and emergency managers and relevant stakeholders.
- (xvi) Promote the use of new technology, digital connectivity and social media to drive transparency and accountability, to support the delivery of effective and inclusive risk communication.
- (xvii) Promote the development and mainstreaming of innovative land-use planning and building codes that take climate and disaster resilience into account.
- (xviii) Promote the full and equal participation and representation of women and girls in disaster risk reduction. Develop education, learning and skill development opportunities to increase girls' and women's participation in innovation and development of new technology for DRRM in ASEM member states.

4 - Innovative Disaster Risk Reduction Financing for Sustainable Development

- (xix) Underline the central role of national governments (States) in promoting, enabling and funding research and innovation, as well as technological development in DRRM.

- (xx) Enhance cooperation with the private sector to encourage business-driven innovation in all areas of disaster risk management.
 - (xxi) Promote resilient and responsible business environments and innovative financing facilities to leverage private sector financing and smart investments in disaster risk management, preparedness and resilience projects by providing incentives (e.g. financing and subsidies, market-based options for disaster risk sharing).
 - (xxii) Promote the use of effective mechanisms for disaster risk transfer and insurance solutions for vulnerable people and assets. To enable accurate risk estimates partnership with science and technology partners is essential.
8. The participants praised Viet Nam for hosting this ASEM DRRM Meeting and for organising, as part of the program, a visit to Cua Dai Sea wall (Hoi An) hence underlining specific disaster risk challenges and remediation measures.
The support provided by the co-chairs, co-sponsors and the organising committee was highly appreciated.
 9. The participants encouraged ASEM partners to organise and participate in future ASEM DRRM events.
 10. The participants recommended that the outcomes and recommendations of the Meeting be reported to the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Myanmar in 2017 and to the 12th ASEM Summit in Belgium in 2018 through the ASEM Senior Officials Meeting (SOM).

Da Nang, 15 September 2016