



**SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION  
AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA**

**СЕКРЕТАРИАТ СОВЕЩАНИЯ ПО ВЗАИМОДЕЙСТВИЮ  
И МЕРАМ ДОВЕРИЯ В АЗИИ**

**№ 14-11/181emb**

The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Embassies of the CICA Member States in Ankara, Beijing, Moscow and Nur-Sultan; and has the honour to circulate the enclosed program and organisational information of online workshop on *"Promoting Cohesion: Learning from Volunteerism in disaster risk management"* to be organised by Bangladesh on 5 April 2021. The meeting link for the workshop is provided below.

*Enclosure:  
on 9 p.*

Registration Start: 01:30 PM (GMT +6.00 Nur-Sultan, Dhaka)

Workshop Start: 02.30 PM (GMT +6.00 Nur-Sultan, Dhaka)

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/95213669886?pwd=Y1ZiaEt2MExmcEd1UGhTcU1Ebm1Kdz09>

Passcode: 945182

Or,

Webinar ID: 952 1366 9886

Passcode: 945182.

Technical Support - Mr. Jahangir Khondkar- +880 1738-699008

The Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Embassies of the CICA Member States the assurances of its highest consideration.

Nur-Sultan, 04 April 2021

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN  
AND  
EMBASSIES OF CICA MEMBER STATES  
Ankara, Beijing, Moscow, Nur-Sultan**





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И МЕРАМ ДОВЕРИЯ В АЗИИ**

**№ 14-11/181emb**

Секретариат Совещания по взаимодействию и мерам доверия в Азии (СВМДА) свидетельствует свое уважение Министерству иностранных дел Республики Казахстан и посольствам государств-членов СВМДА в Анкаре, Москве, Нур-Султане, Пекине и имеет честь препроводить прилагаемую программу и организационную информацию по онлайн-семинару *«Содействие сплоченности: уроки волонтерства в управлении рисками стихийных бедствий»*, который будет проводиться Народной Республикой Бангладеш 5 апреля 2021 года. Ссылка на семинар приведена ниже.

*Приложение:  
на 9 л.*

Начало регистрации: 13:30 (GMT +6.00 Нур-Султан, Дакка)

Начало семинара: 14.30 (GMT +6.00 Нур-Султан, Дакка)

Пройдите по ссылке ниже, чтобы присоединиться к вебинару:

<https://zoom.us/j/95213669886?pwd=Y1ZiaEt2MExmcEd1UGhTcU1Ebm1Kdz09>

Код доступа: 945182

Или

Идентификатор вебинара: 952 1366 9886

Код доступа: 945182

Техническая поддержка - г-н Джахангир Хондкар - +880  
1738-699008

**МИНИСТЕРСТВО ИНОСТРАННЫХ ДЕЛ  
РЕСПУБЛИКИ КАЗАХСТАН**

**И**

**ПОСОЛЬСТВА ГОСУДАРСТВ-ЧЛЕНОВ  
СВМДА**

города Анкара, Москва, Нур-Султан, Пекин

Секретариат пользуется случаем, чтобы возобновить Министерству иностранных дел Республики Казахстан и посольствам государств-членов СВМДА уверения в своем высоком уважении.

город Нур-Султан, 04 апреля 2021 г.







No. 19.00.0000.305.61.000.21/57

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in Nur-Sultan and with reference to the former's Note Verbale of even number dated 28 March 2021, regarding CICA Plan on Implementation of Confidence Building Measures for 2021, has the honour to forward the meeting link for the workshop on "Promoting Cohesion: Learning from Volunteerism in Disaster Risk Management" to be held on 5 April, 2021 at 14:30 (GMT+6).

<https://zoom.us/j/95213669886?pwd=Y1ZiaEt2MExmcEd1UGhTcU1Ebm1Kdz09>

Passcode: 945182

Or,

Webinar ID: 952 1366 9886

Passcode: 945182

The concept paper, programme agenda and keynote paper are enclosed. The Ministry has further the honour to request the esteemed secretariat to kindly circulate the meeting link and related documents among the CICA Member States for participating in the virtual workshop.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in Nur-Sultan the assurances of its highest consideration.

Encls: As stated.

Dhaka, 04 April 2021



Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia  
(CICA), Nur-Sultan



## **CONCEPT**

### **of the workshop on Promoting Cohesion: Learning from Volunteerism in Disaster Risk Management and a publication on DRR**

#### **I. Introduction:**

Bangladesh is a land of resilience despite being ranked as one of the most disaster-prone countries of the world. From climate vulnerability perspective, 100% of the population is vulnerable. Amid all these adversities, Bangladesh is one of the top five countries in the world which has the highest tier of economic growth rate. The country has set a new example of agility. People in this country are often affected by water-related disasters, including floods, riverbank erosion and cyclones. In addition, recent rapid urbanization has increased the risk for earthquakes as well as other human induced disasters. Managing disasters has been a major focus, with investments in Disaster Risk Management (DRM) significantly decreasing disaster mortality in recent decades. The context, however, is changing - Bangladesh is highly at risk from climate change and earthquakes which pose a challenge for its rapidly growing cities.

Despite these challenges, Bangladesh has made major recent socio-economic gains, achieving a lower middle-income country status. Nonetheless, significant economic losses due to disasters continue to occur and the industrial sectors are highly vulnerable. However, the country is known as Role Model of Disaster Management internationally because of its well functional regulatory framework. Since independence Bangladesh has started to make disaster risk reduction part of its culture. The Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman paved the way. He brought back the volunteerism of the nation in an institutional model, popularly known as Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP). Inherent *Bengali* culture of social capital (supporting neighbours without expecting any return) has been retained and contributing to the nation for decades.

Since poverty, sustainable development, disasters and climate change are interlinked, it is an imperative to integrate Disaster Management (DM) measures in development initiatives. Development and investment plans should be risk-informed based on disaster risk assessments and avoid generating new risks or exacerbating the existing ones. Hence, the country has been working on integrating Disaster Impact Assessment for development planning and project formulation. In the last two five-year plan of Bangladesh, risk informed development model is being promoted. Since 2015 Bangladesh is also promoting inclusive DRM which is upholding the spirit of whole of society approach. It is vital to involve all parts of the society in business of the government for the disaster management of this country.

Disaster risk management is also related to environmental sustainability with emphasis on peace and human security. To ensure that we need to focus on disaster risks arising from regional and global perspectives. Emphasizing the importance of common, comprehensive, cooperative, sustainable, indivisible and equal security based on the common understanding that has been reached so far and recognizing the need for developing dialogue on a regional security architecture, the regional co-operation, information and knowledge sharing is vital in managing natural and human induced disasters. National level learning will be an inspiration for regional practice and promote harmony in the region. This year we would like to focus on volunteerism, how it is





increasing social cohesion and agility of nations. The Member States of Conference on Interaction & Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) recognize that the confidence building measures are vital for regional security and disaster risk management. Exchange of information on hydro-meteorological and industrial hazards and disasters on their territories which in their view may affect their neighbors. The Member States would identify a coordination body, authorized to organize interaction of disaster management and search and rescue services, and creation of a system of assistance in case of natural disasters and emergency situations. Bangladesh is a member of CICA while India as neighbor and Sri Lanka as SAARC country have common interest in managing disaster risk for its similar risk landscape.

## II. Name, Date and Place of Event

- A workshop on Promoting Cohesion: Learning from Volunteerism in Disaster Risk Management, April 5, 2021, Virtual Platform
- A Preparation Meeting for the workshop, March 20, 2021, Virtual Platform
- Publication on DRR, November 2021, Online Publications

## III. Organizers

Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and CICA.

## IV. Goals and tasks


- Develop a plan of action that is aligned with country risk landscape from disaster and climate change;
- Establish and strengthen the regional disaster management system to reduce risks and to improve best practices and lessons learnt from disaster risk reduction efforts at national levels;
- Establish a system of exchanging information on prevention, preparedness and management of natural disasters;
- To share the priority of the actions for enhancing cooperation on knowledge and information sharing among the member states of CICA;

## V. Suggested list of participants

- ✓ For the workshop on DRR, April 5, 2021, Virtual Platform & A Preparation Meeting for the workshop, March 20, 2021, Virtual Platform  
Representatives from government and non-government organizations of members states of CICA
- ✓ For the Publication on DRR in new-normal situation  
Collect write-up on DRR from member states of CICA.

## VI. Expected Results:

- A SMART work plan for the region;

  
২০/০৫/২০২১  
কাজী তাসমীন আরা আজমিরী  
উপসচিব  
দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা ও ত্রাণ মন্ত্রণালয়  
সংস্কৃত প্রতিষ্ঠান বাংলাদেশ সরকার

**Conference on Interaction & Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)**

**Virtual Workshop on**

**Promoting Cohesion: Learning from Volunteerism in Disaster Risk Management**

**05 April 2021 at GMT+6 (Bangladesh Time)**

**Program Agenda**

**Chief Guest:** Dr. Md. Enamur Rahman, MP

Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief,  
Government of Bangladesh

**Special Guest:** Mr. A.B Tajul Islam MP

Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Government of Bangladesh

**Chair/Moderator:** Mr. Md. Mohsin,

Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief  
Government of Bangladesh

Time	Description	
13:30-14:30	Registration	
14:30-14:35	Welcome speech	Mr. Md. Moyazzem Hossain Additional Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
14:35-14:50	Keynote Presentation	Ms. Kazi Tasmin Ara Ajmery Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
14:50-14:55	VIDEO Clip on Flood	

14:55-15:05	Discussants/Speakers (Total-02)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mr. Muhammad Saidur Rahman, Director, Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre (BDPC).</li> <li>2. Expert from CICA member states</li> </ol>
15:05-15:10	VIDEO Clip on Cyclone	
15:10-15:20	Discussants/Speakers (Total-02)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Expert from CICA member states</li> <li>2. Dr. Raquib Ahsan Professor, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET)</li> </ol>
15:20-15:50	Open Discussion	
15:50-16:00	Sum up and Sharing the Draft Plan of Action by Chair/Moderator	Mr. Md. Mohsin Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
16:00-16:10	Speech by Special Guest	Mr. A.B Tajul Islam MP Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Government of Bangladesh
16:10-16:25	Speech by Chief Guest	Dr. Md. Enamur Rahman, MP Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief Government of Bangladesh



**Conference on Interaction & Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)**  
**Keynote Paper for**  
**Virtual Workshop on**  
**Promoting Cohesion: Learning from Volunteerism in Disaster Risk**  
**Management**  
**Date: 5<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

Globally, 1.76 billion people are affected by disasters every year, 90% of disasters are caused by weather and climate-related events according to the Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2019 published by UNESCAP.

Located in the Ganges delta and the trans-boundary river basin pockets with dense population, Bangladesh needs to manage climate-induced disasters on a regular basis. According to the Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2019, 77.6% of the population of Bangladesh is living in high-multi-hazard risk area which is the highest rate among the region (UNESCAP). Bangladesh is ranked as one of the most disaster-prone countries. In addition, Bangladesh is world's 7th position from affecting climate related disasters in last one decade according to the Climate Risk Index 2020 published by German Watch. The possible affected number of populations is the highest among the Asia-Pacific countries.

Bangladesh is globally cited as a country with efficient disaster management. It has now become the source of global knowledge on disaster management and climate change adaptation. Having started with a relief centric approach in 1970, it shifted concentration to the increasing improvement in governance and institutional practice of disaster management including volunteer based community led disaster management. Disaster management has become a development & political priority from a marginal development priority in the 1970s and 1980s. Each major disaster and subsequent lessons translated into the improvement of the system. However, the bitter learning from one million death caused in Cyclone in 1970 geared to establish Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) that led by the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the beginning of his tenure as Prime Minister of the Government Bangladesh. The history of CPP is aligned with the independence of Bangladesh.

The UN CDP recently gave confirmation of Bangladesh to become a Developing Country from a Least Developed Country (LDC). Reducing disaster risk is key element within economic and environmental vulnerability indicator for a qualifier of LDC graduation. Disaster risk reduction contributed significantly for qualifying the required score through protecting development gain and increase the gross national income. This recognition indicates the stronger development path of Bangladesh through managing the risk of disaster and climate change. It is worth mentioned that promotion cohesiveness through volunteerism are recognized as catalytic force for community resilience as well as building a resilient nation. Bangladesh has given utmost importance for cohesiveness among SDG, Sendai Framework for DRR and Climate Change Agreement. The country is keen and seeks regional and international cooperation for building resilience.

In Bangladesh there are 4.7 million volunteers from CPP, Urban Volunteer, Bangladesh Scouts, Girls Scouts, Bangladesh National Cadet Core (BNCC), Bangladesh Ansar and VDP, Red Cross and Red Crescent. They are the first defense for response from community closely working with first responders of Government of the Bangladesh. Volunteerism is the cornerstone for building community resilience which recognized global best practice, especially in CPP. The journey has started with birth of Independent Bangladesh.

A glimpse of the shift of disaster risk management went through symbolic four generations over last 50 years is given below:

**First generation (1971-1979)** disaster management focused on life saving and relief distribution in post disaster response with some experimentation on the use of technology and technical solution to disaster. The major contribution of this phase was the creation of foundation of Bangladesh's disaster management i.e. development of cyclone preparedness programme (CPP) in 1972, conceiving idea of cyclone shelters, early warning dissemination and voluntarism in disaster management. The CPP programme is the foundation of disaster preparedness and response that experienced in Bangladesh many year ago establishing the global platform/institutions like UNISDRR (now called UNDRR)

**The Second generation (1980-1989)** can be broadly categorized as scaling up phase started following devastating flood in 1987 and 1988. Major national scale flood and cyclone protection was conceived at this stage. Throughout the country, many physical infrastructures were built to control flood with varying success. Community based approach to disaster management got priority but still that is a marginal concept in this phase.

**The Third generation's (1990-2000)** major characteristic was institutional preparedness. This phase was shaped up by the lessons of 1991 cyclone and focus shifted to the institutional preparedness at the national level, reforms in administrative procedures, capacity building of local NGOs and the local govt. and development of approaches for disaster management. This phase gave birth to **community based disaster preparedness** and acknowledged the importance of role of community and governance in disaster management. The Standing Orders on Disaster (SOD), published in 1997 that carried the whole of government approach. Through the campaign against Flood Action Plan (FAP) this phase generated indigenous knowledge and shaped Bangladeshi thinking on disaster management and often challenged the dominance of different paradigms. The perceived conceptual division between relief and development became slender and importance of making the development process disaster resilient received policy attention in mid-nineties and onward. The local NGOs through their associations and forums played strategic role in this phase and international NGOs were not influential actor in shaping policies and approaches.

**The Fourth generation (2000-2009), arguably the most important phase** of Bangladesh's disaster management shifted focus from institution to people by emphasizing on vulnerability, capacity and increased role of the vulnerable community. This phase can also be termed as the raise of globalized disaster management ideas and concepts in Bangladesh. CDMP formed in this phase which worked on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Major contribution of this phase was the acknowledgement of differential impacts of disaster in the form of gender, generation and physical ability. This phase also developed sectoral approach to disaster management such as education in emergencies, as well as other sectoral approaches such as agriculture, water and sanitation and mass casualty management. The disaster management approach in this phase adopted future risks and created array of climate change adaptation approaches and solid knowledge in Bangladesh. DRR approach was nationally scaled up. Relationship between the humanitarian actors entered to new phase throughout this phase. The aid centric humanitarian idea e.g. UN Humanitarian Reforms, aid coordination became influential idea. This phase witnessed an increase in number of NGOs dealing with disaster management often competing with each other. Local NGOs became passive actor in the decision making.

**The Fifth generation (2010-2020)** of Disaster Management can be defined as more formalization and making the development procedure precise. Addressing risk management as a core development issue is also one of the prime concerns of fifth generation DM. The major policy and planning documents related to disaster and development are prepared in this phase. The Disaster Management Act 2021, DM Policy 2021, National Plan for Disaster Management (NPDM) 2016, SOD 2010, and SOD 2019 are instrumental for DRM. Delta Plan 2100, Five Year Plan, Perspectives Plan 2021 and 2041 are aligned with the disaster risk management. Hotspots in Delta Plan assist in localization of DRR plan with development nexus for risk informed investment in building resilience. In order to make disaster management system operation effective and efficient a lot of initiatives have been taken. For example: different policy legislation, guidance, strategies and plans for Disaster Management were put in place. In this phase focus was given on disaster risk reduction through in-depth studies and dissemination of knowledge. However, the risks have become complex while risk-informed developed is still overlooked. Mainstreaming disaster and climate change issues in different sectors and in the development process are challenging tasks of 5<sup>th</sup> generation. Disaster and climate change is not an external issue – rather, it must be internalized by all sectors; which needed a whole of society approach.

The recent effects of COVID-19 pandemic brought new challenges with pre-existing vulnerability from disasters. However, the country successfully managed to overcome the effects of Cyclone Amphan and five times flood in 2020 in the prevalence of COVID-19. The dedicated volunteers, civil society, institutions, infrastructures and community-based disaster management contributed to managing such natural disasters in the pandemic situation. 8007 new temporary shelters were built alongside already existing 4071 shelters. A total of 2.4 million people evacuated, that resulted lowering the mortality which is the first target of Sendai framework. To provide humanitarian assistance to the affected people



cash money, drinkable water, medicines and other equipment to protect against the corona virus were distributed.

Local government institutions and community volunteers are in the forefront in combating the pandemic which minimized damages and loss through the whole of society approach, while over 74 thousand CPP volunteers were mobilized for the response and played the key roles for safe evacuation and protect from cyclone and pandemic

The Dhaka Declaration 2015 + suggests a set of concrete actions to rollout Sendai Framework in an 'inclusive' manner through joint efforts of public and private sectors for protecting persons with disabilities that link with SDG message for leaving no one behind. The risk of disaster for persons with disability remains unfolded to the majority of the society. Inadequate disability related information, lack of awareness about disability and disaster, scarcity of assistive technology, accessibility & universal design of infrastructure are the major challenges for their inclusion in risk reduction and emergency response. In addition to that, inadequate physical accessibility, loss or lack of mobility aids or appropriate assistance limit their timely evacuation, rescue and access to their required services during and post disaster situation. Bangladesh is the pioneer for inclusive disaster risk management and the global campaigner on the disability inclusive disaster risk management.

The core principle and action of volunteerism to encourage the enhancement of 'whole of society' approach is the integration of local knowledge with science and technology of early warning generation & dissemination for better response preparedness to reduce the loss and damage. The Standing Orders on Disaster 1997 revised in 2010 and now SOD 2019 is the key policy instrument for decentralized disaster risk management with a functional institutional arrangement. There are 17 local disaster management committees (DMC) aside 16 national level disaster management committees. Volunteers are the integral part of local DMCs through their representation and closely work with DMC in preparedness, response, rebuilding and recovery. The country has been working to form a National Volunteer Organization to keep the volunteer under one umbrella to enhance cohesiveness with community and institutions for resilience

The workshop seeks to drive action through CICA states, complementing the Race to Resilience, which catalysis action through non-state actor like NGOs, civil society organization, UN and other stakeholders' engagement. The event would highlight disaster risk reduction strategies in different geographies and contexts and would seek to share knowledge & information, real time data in among transboundary nations, also provide technology to provide support to countries on the integration of disaster risk reduction in planning processes in Asia.

The online workshop will share the success of Bangladesh and looks to learn from other countries regarding the cohesiveness for community led disaster management with the setting knowledge and information sharing for future cooperation through CICA.