

**National Seminar on Disaster Risk Reduction in North-Western India**  
**(March 6-7, 2017)**  
**Venue: ICSSR North-Western Regional Centre, Panjab University, Chandigarh**

**Introduction**

Sendai Framework (2015-2030) on disaster risk reduction envisages the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries. It is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015 building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters. It is the outcome of stakeholder consultations initiated in March 2012 and inter-governmental negotiations held from July 2014 to March, 2015, which were supported by the UNISDR upon the request of the UN General Assembly. It is a 15-year voluntary, non-binding agreement which recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government and the private sector.

The following seven global targets of Sendai Framework shall be deliberated in the seminar in the context of North-Western India:

- (a) Substantially reduce disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower the average mortality rate per lakh population in the decade 2020-2030 compared to the period 2005-2015;
- (b) Substantially reduce the number of affected people by 2030, aiming to lower the regional figure in the decade 2020-2030 compared to the period 2005-2015;
- (c) Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to gross domestic produce (GDP) by 2030;
- (d) Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030;
- (e) Substantially increase regional and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020;

- (f) Substantially enhance international and national cooperation to states through adequate and sustainable support to complement their actions for implementation of the present Framework by 2030;
- (g) Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030.

### **North Western Region**

Disaster risk is the potential loss in lives, health status, livelihood, assets and services, which could occur to a particular community or a society over some specified future time.

North-western of India in this context is vulnerable not only to natural hazards but also man induced hazards. While the north western region is prone to earthquake, the majority area fall under seismic zone V or IV. The states of J&K and Himachal Pradesh experience avalanche, snow storms etc. Further, the Himalayan states are also vulnerable to landslides, forest fires, floods due to cloud burst.

Border States are prone to man induced hazards. Preparation against chemical biological, radiological and nuclear threats is essential. Similarly, there is a need to prepare against riots, stampede, and mass destruction by protesting mobs. Transmission of diseases from animal and birds to human beings is on rise and emerging as a cause of mass causality across the world.

The seminar will provide an opportunity for scientists, disaster managers, policy makers, teachers and students to share knowledge and benefit from the experts in the field.

### **Objectives**

- To educate, aware and enhance knowledge of the stakeholders in the area of disaster management, and risk reduction.
- To expose the stakeholders about the latest state of art of technology (equipments and tools) in disaster forecasting, risk reduction and disaster management.
- To mobilize the stakeholders towards reducing disaster risk by exposing to successful disaster management models.

- To update administrators, managers and policy makers about the role of institutions such as United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), NDMA, NDRF, NIDM etc. for seeking assistance during and after disasters.

### **Target audience**

The young faculty members of universities, colleges, research institutions, research scholars, planners, young bureaucrats, disaster managers, school teachers and public representatives shall be benefitting from this seminar. In all 40 persons will be selected from various relevant and concerned departments.

The technically sound and experienced resource persons from the region and a few from Delhi (NIDM, NDMA) shall be invited who have practical knowledge and strong understanding in the field of disaster management.

### **Significance**

This seminar will make the participants not only aware about the disaster management principles but prepare them as disaster managers. The knowledge shared will help in replicating successful disaster risk reduction models. The increase in knowledge regarding the latest technology and institutions will improve the coordination during disaster managers and various stakeholders.

### **Note to the Speakers/Paper Presenters**

The Centre of Advanced Study, Department of Geography, Panjab University, Chandigarh invites seasoned scholars for a Two-day ICSSR sponsored Seminar on Disaster Risk Reduction in North-Western India. Eminent scholars doing intensive research on any relevant disaster related theme that pertains to North-Western India (Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Chandigarh) and who can submit full paper by February 28, 2017 may send their consent to Prof. Krishna Mohan at [krishnamohan291967@gmail.com](mailto:krishnamohan291967@gmail.com). Abstract (maximum 500 words) should be submitted by February 22, 2017. The selected eminent speakers will be provided free boarding & lodging and their travel expenses (maximum 2<sup>nd</sup> AC train fare) will be borne by the organizers. There is no registration Fee.