

**INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON
MITIGATION OF DISASTERS DUE TO SEVERE CLIMATE EVENTS:
FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE**

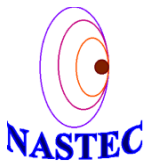
March 10 – 13, 2016

Colombo, Sri Lanka

Organised by



**Centre for Science & Technology of the Non-aligned and
Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre),
New Delhi, India**



**National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC),
Colombo, Sri Lanka**

Introduction

Most countries in the world, especially the tropical islands, are highly susceptible to the impacts of severe climate events, most often originated with atmosphere related conditions. Their susceptibility is principally based on the geographical, geological and socio-economic characteristics. If we are to minimize the risk of disaster due to severe climate events in a given region, many factors should be studied in depth in an integrated context before the development of risk mitigation plan. Once the information is available on geological, meteorological, sociological, technical and economic aspects of the possible severe climate events, the disaster prevention and risk reduction process should be done in a sequential path.

During the past decade, many countries have developed natural disaster prevention policies at national level, in which severe weather hazards play a dominant role. However, irrespective of these existing policies, in actual disaster situations, the outcomes have deviated significantly from the expectations of the policy contents. The final objective of a disaster prevention policy is to minimize the human injuries/deaths and socio-economic losses in the event of severe conditions. However, such objectives could be achieved only through accompanying guidelines, action plans and implementation strategies augmented by a proper hierarchy of risk prevention and management mechanism. Many countries lack these essential consequential phases of the disaster prevention policy. In other words, a national policy is the vision of a country in preventing disaster. The other three phases come under the mission. Both vision and mission should properly be formulated to achieve the targeted outcomes.

During the last few years, due to the constant failure of implementing pre-planned strategies in actual disaster situations there has been a growing need for a solid platform to educate, train and network individuals and entities in the third world for working beyond the disaster management policies. There are various factors cited as the reasons of failure but remedial work is yet to be started in many countries. In regions with similar social and geographical structure it is much more effective to plan and execute management strategies as an integrated entity as such joint work expands the horizon of knowledge of each stakeholder. In this context, the Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) in partnership with the National Science & Technology Commission (NASTEC) and Industrial Technology Institute (ITI) of Sri Lanka announces the organization of an International Workshop on 'Mitigation of Disasters due to Severe Climate Events: From Policy to Practice' during March 10-13, 2016 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The prime goal of the event is to develop a platform for the relevant professionals and policymakers in third world countries to act appropriately and share the knowledge and experience.

Objectives of the Workshop

The main objective of the Workshop is to bring the stakeholders at national and international levels together, with participation of experts, to share experience and work together in a scientific manner for working out strategic interventions to mitigate the hazards due to severe climate events.

The specific objectives are:

- I. To bring the scientists, social activists and other professionals engaged in policy making, policy implementation, research and consultation on human disaster situations due to severe climate events to a common forum, so that they could

share their views and experience for the development of a road map for reducing the risk in real situations.

- II. To emphasize the message of the need of a realistic, well-formulated action plan for risk reduction in severe climate events to the policy makers, environmentalists and other related authorities on disaster management.
- III. To encourage researchers engaged in investigating the potential extreme climate events and rare climate extreme events at localized areas to identify hotspots so that development of human settlements, the implementation of new industries and expansion of power grids etc. could be done avoiding such hotspots.
- IV. To initiate a study group or working group at international level for developing a common action plan to practically minimize the risk at severe situations, which can be proposed to respective governments to be adopted with necessary amendments.

Topics of the Workshop

- I. Global warming and changing weather patterns
- II. Weather related extreme events in the last few decades
- III. Triggering factors of natural disasters
- IV. Existing national policies on natural disaster management
- V. Cases of successful and unsuccessful policy implementations
- VI. Applications of modern technologies in risk reduction
- VII. The role of stakeholders in disaster mitigation

Programme of the Workshop

A tentative programme of the Workshop is given below:

DATE	PROGRAMME
Wednesday, 9 th March 2016	Arrival of Delegates at Colombo, Sri Lanka
Thursday, 10 th March 2016	Inauguration and Technical Sessions
Friday, 11 th March 2016	Technical Sessions
Saturday, 12 th March 2016	Technical Sessions, Discussions and Adoption of Resolution
Sunday, 13 th March 2016	Field Visits & Sightseeing
Monday, 14 th March 2016	Departure of Delegates

The Workshop programme will include presentations by experts in the field, country reports and technical presentations by the participants, brainstorming and networking sessions and a technical excursion. A detailed Session-wise Programme will be made available before the Workshop. All proceedings will be conducted in English language.

Venue

The Workshop will be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The exact venue will be notified later.

Resource Persons

The resource persons for the Workshop will comprise eminent professionals from several countries in the field of Disaster

About the Organizers

NAM S&T Centre

The Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre; www.namstct.org) is an inter-governmental organization with a membership of 47 countries spread over Asia, Africa, Middle East and Latin America. The Centre was set up in 1989 in New Delhi, India in pursuance of recommendations of various NAM Summit meetings for the promotion of South-South cooperation in science and technology. The Centre undertakes a variety of programmes, including organization of Workshops, symposiums, meetings and training courses and implementation of collaborative projects. It also offers short-term research fellowships to scientists from developing countries in association with the Centers of Excellence in various countries. The Centre also produces technical books and other scientific publications in different subjects. These activities provide opportunity for scientist-to-scientist contact and interaction; familiarizing participants on the latest developments and techniques in the subject areas; identification of the requirements of training and expert assistance; locating technologies for transfer between the members and other developing countries, dissemination of S&T information etc. In addition, the Centre encourages academic-R&D-industry interaction in the developing countries through its NAM S&T-Industry Network.

About NASTEC, Sri Lanka

The National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC) is a policy formulating and advisory body to the government of Sri Lanka on matters pertaining to science and technology. It was established by the Science and Technology Development Act No. 11 of 1994.

The NASTEC has been functioning under the purview of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Research. H. E. the President of the Socialist Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka appoints the Commission members including Chairman with the recommendations of the concerned Minister.

NASTEC is mandated to formulate policies and plans for the development of science and technology and to review the S&T system of the country.

Participants

This International Workshop is primarily designed for scientists, meteorologists, engineers, policy makers, public health specialists, technologists and civil administration experts working in the field of disaster mitigation from different countries and industries across the world, to discuss the challenge of severe natural disasters related to climate, to formulate guidelines and strategic planning of mitigating severe climate events and to debate on the development, enhancement or amendment of related national policies.

The selection of the participants will be strictly based on merit and relevance of their current responsibilities to the subject of the Workshop as well as the quality of the extended abstract of the paper to be submitted by them along with the completed nomination form. A pre-condition for participation in the Workshop is that the participants must submit the final manuscript of their papers in **MS-word** format at least **14 days** before the commencement of the programme.

Submission of Application

Experts and scientists desirous of participating in the Workshop, except those from Sri Lanka are required to submit their filled-in nomination forms **electronically** directly to the NAM S&T Centre as early as possible, but latest by **Monday, 10th February 2016**.

Applicants from Sri Lanka should submit their requests directly to the NASTEC, Sri Lanka.

The Nomination Form should be completed in all respects, typewritten or in clear handwriting in capital letters, and no column should be left blank. The following documents must be submitted along with the Nomination Form:

- i) An extended (**about 2 pages**) abstract (**in MS Word format**) of the paper that would be presented at the Workshop
- ii) A short (**maximum two pages**) CV (**in MS Word format**)
- iii) Copy of the relevant pages of the passport

The documents at (i) and (ii) above must be in MS Word Format; .Pdf or image files will not be accepted. Hard copies of the Nomination Form and above attachments are NOT required to be submitted.

Presentation of Papers

Each participant will be required to present a research / scientific paper on one of the topics (given above) of the Workshop.

Publication of Proceedings of the Workshop

A publication edited by international expert(s) and based on the papers presented by the participants during the Workshop and also containing papers contributed by eminent experts in the field will be brought out in the form of a book as a follow up of this scientific programme. Therefore all participants are required to submit the manuscripts of their full papers in **MS-word** format well in advance, but at least 14 days before the commencement of the Workshop

Local Hospitality and Travel

Local hospitality in Sri Lanka including accommodation, meals and local transport for the participants will be provided by the local organisers, NASTEC, from **9th March (noon) to 14th March (noon), 2016** (i.e. from one day before to one day after the completion of the Workshop). The participants will have to make their own arrangements of stay beyond these dates and therefore they are requested to book their flights accordingly.

Financial Arrangements for Travel

This is being conveyed separately to each member country of the NAM S&T Centre and other developing countries.

Entry Formalities, Immigration and Health

Participants of the Workshop must be in possession of a current passport or any other internationally recognised travel document, which must have a period of validity of at least six months beyond the time of stay allowed in Sri Lanka and must be endorsed for travel to Sri Lanka.

Participants should have a valid visa for entry into Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan diplomatic mission located in the country of a participant should be approached for obtaining an entry

visa. If required, the organisers will facilitate the issuance of visa by providing the participants with an official letter of invitation.

Note.

- ***The governments / institutions of all the participants will be required to bear the following costs:***
 - *All expenses in the home country incidental to travel abroad, including expenditure for passports, required medical examinations, vaccinations and miscellaneous expenses such as internal travel to the airport of departure in the home country.*
 - *Salary and other related allowances for the participants during the period of the Workshop.*
 - *Cost of medical insurance to cover the period of participation in the Workshop.*
- ***The organisers will not assume responsibility for the following expenditure in connection with the participant's attendance in the Workshop:***
 - *Expenses incurred with respect to any insurance, medical bills or hospitalisation fees.*
 - *Compensation in the event of death, disability or illness of participants.*
 - *Loss of personal belongings or compensation for damage caused to them by climatic or other conditions.*
 - *Other costs, including airport tax and excess baggage.*

Contact Details

NAM S&T CENTRE

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NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION (NASTEC)

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E-mail: drnastec@yahoo.com, nastecsl@yahoo.com

Website: <http://www.nastec.lk>

In order to avoid confusion, interested scientists from countries other than Sri Lanka may in the first instance please correspond only with the NAM S&T Centre, and not with NASTEC. All these applications will be initially processed by the NAM S&T Centre. Scientists from Sri Lanka should however submit their requests to the NASTEC.

**CENTRE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE
NON-ALIGNED AND OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
(NAM S&T CENTRE)**

**INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON
'MITIGATION OF DISASTERS DUE TO SEVERE CLIMATE
EVENTS: FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE'**

**Colombo, Sri Lanka
10-13 March, 2016**

NOMINATION FORM

Please affix your scanned photograph

PLEASE TYPE OR USE BLOCK CAPITALS;

NO COLUMN SHOULD BE LEFT BLANK)

SECTION –A

(To be filled in by the nominee)

1 Name (Prof/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms):

(As in Passport)

2. Father's/Spouse Name:

3 Designation (Position held):

4. Nationality:

5 Date of Birth: Place of Birth (City) (Country).....

6 Passport No:Place of issue:

Date of Issue: Valid up to:

(Please attach copies of the relevant pages of your Passport)

7 Name of the Parent Institution (Employer):

Full Address (Office):

.....

Phone: Fax:

E-mail:

- 8 Full Address (Home):

 Phone: Mobile:
 Fax: E-mail:
- 9 Educational Qualifications: Highest Degree.
 Year of Award: University:
 Field of Study:
- 10 Brief Bio data (CV):
 (**Maximum two pages, in MSWord**; to be attached on separate sheet)
- 11 Abstract of your paper proposed to be presented in the Workshop.
 (**About 1-2 pages, in MSWord**; to be attached on separate sheet)
- 12 What in your opinion qualifies you for participation in this workshop?
 (To be attached on separate sheet)

Date: Signature:

SECTION -B

ENDORSEMENT BY NOMINATING AUTHORITY

(The Applicant in a member country of the NAM S&T Centre may get the following endorsement signed by the Focal Point of the Centre in his/her country, *if he/she wishes to take advantages accrued to the official nominee of the country*. For the list of member countries and names/addresses of the Focal Points please visit Centre's website www.namstct.org)

Signature:

Name (in full):

Designation:

Date:

SEAL

Enclosures;

1. Scanned copies of the relevant pages of Passport

2. Brief CV (maximum two pages, **in MSWord**)
3. Abstract of Paper proposed to be presented in the Workshop (about 1-2 pages, **in MSWord**)