

Climatic Hazards Programme

Launch of the Kuala Lumpur Multi-hazard Platform

Joy Jacqueline Pereira & Nurfashareena Muhamad

SEADPRI, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

The Malaysian and UK partners in the Newton-Ungku Omar Fund (NUOF) Project on Disaster Resilient Cities from Malaysia and United Kingdom, together with several other bodies, convened a workshop on Building Disaster and Climate Resilience in Cities on 15-16 October 2019 at the InterContinental Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. The other partners at this workshop were the Asian Network on Climate Science and Technology (ANCST), the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) and the International Science Council Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ISC-ROAP). This event was held together with the National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA) Malaysia, the Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Malaysia (MESTECC), the Academy of Sciences Malaysia, UNDRR Asia-Pacific Science, Technology and Academia Advisory Group (APSTAAG) as well as the City Hall of Kuala Lumpur.

This was the final workshop for the NUOF Project since its inaugural debut two years ago in 2017. The inception workshop was held in March 2017 to mark the launch of the project and the midterm workshop was conducted in June 2018 to present the progress of the work. The workshop coincided with a meeting of experts from the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, so that the findings can be shared with the wider Asia Pacific region. It has also been contextualised to deliver to the future programme of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). This provides a pathway for the findings of this NUOF Project in Kuala Lumpur, to be relevant to both the disaster management and climate change communities worldwide.

The workshop involved 141 participants from multiple disciplines representing 14 countries. Early career researchers were exclusively targeted as participants, and a few were selected to present posters on their ongoing work. It began with officiating remarks from the CEO of the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology -

(MIGHT) and followed by the launching of the Kuala Lumpur Multi-hazard Platform.

The launch was a major highlight of the event because the Kuala Lumpur Multi-hazard Platform is an output of the NUOF Project administered by Innovate UK and MIGHT. This project has adapted carefully selected meteorological, atmospheric and hazard models for tropical conditions in Malaysia and Southeast Asia; and integrated those onto a common platform - the Kuala Lumpur Multi-hazard Platform - which is designed for managing and communicating risks and enhancing disaster resilience. In addition, there were experts working on Asian issues who shared their latest findings in multiple dimensions of cities covering modelling of geophysical and atmospheric hazards, pathways for building disaster resilience as well as critical infrastructure resilience.

The workshop has identified some significant pathways in terms of research focus such as systems thinking, interdependencies of the infrastructural networks, urban-rural linkages, and community involvement. It also contributed significantly by connecting researchers, institutions, policymakers, and practitioners in sharing research advances. The initiative to bring young scientists into the research domain and to connect them with experienced researchers can yield a prolific output, if data and information sharing is properly executed.

The NUOF Project on Disaster Resilient Cities has the capacity to incubate and deliver new innovative business models for disaster risk reduction, driven by consortiums with multidisciplinary and multi-sector representation. Such consortiums could directly contribute to national aspirations for socio-economic well-being and climate resilient development to ensure sustainable development.



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The Kuala Lumpur Multi-hazard Platform was launched by a representative of the Mayor of Kuala Lumpur, supported by the CEO of MIGHT, Malaysia and UK Project Leaders together with all NUOF Thematic Leaders.



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Dr. Ahmad Azlan (second left), the Multi-hazard Platform Thematic Leader explaining the system to VIP guests using the replica of Kuala Lumpur Multi-hazard Platform.