

Kuala Lumpur Consensus on S&T for Disaster Risk Reduction

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Photo by SEADPRI-UKM

The main panelists of the Virtual Asia-Pacific Science and Technology Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (APSTCDRR) held on 15 October 2020. The outcome document can be retrieved at www.ukm.my/apstcdrr

On 15 October 2020, SEADPRI-UKM and the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM) partnered with the Asia Pacific Science Technology and Academia Advisory Group (AP-STAAG), Asian Network on Climate Science and Technology (ANCST) and other partners to convene the virtual 2020 Asia-Pacific Science and Technology Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction, under the aegis of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA) Malaysia. The Conference was officiated by the Director General of NADMA Malaysia, Datuk Dr. Aminuddin Hassim, with remarks from senior officials from the UNDRR Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, ASM and AP-STAAG.

The climax was the Kuala Lumpur Consensus on S&T for Disaster Risk Reduction, which documents the commitment of about 200 researchers, academics and other stakeholders from across the Asia-Pacific who participated in the Conference, to provide evidence-based research to inform the recovery process in the context and aftermath of COVID-19 to ensure long-term resilience. The Kuala Lumpur Consensus was formulated by AP-STAAG with support from the research team at SEADPRI-UKM,

involving Prof. Joy Jacqueline Pereira, Dr. Nurfashareena Muhamad and Dr. Sarah Aziz, who conducted the background work and coordinated the national and regional stakeholder consultation. It records four priority actions and an additional four measures to accelerate these actions. These take into account progress in science and technology for disaster risk reduction in the Asia Pacific, and due consideration from the Sendai Framework to “build back better” in this window of opportunity, as the region moves to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The UNDRR will now route the Kuala Lumpur Consensus on S&T for Disaster Risk Reduction to the Asia-Pacific Partnership Forum on DRR in 2020, Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDR) in 2021 and Global Platform in 2022. The Kuala Lumpur Consensus will also be formally published on the UNDRR website.

In the meantime, SEADPRI-UKM will continue to dedicate its efforts to support the implementation of the Kuala Lumpur Consensus in Malaysia and the region.

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