

6th

WORLD CONGRESS ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

28 November - 01 December, 2023

Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India

STRENGTHENING CLIMATE ACTION & DISASTER RESILIENCE

INNOVATION, COLLABORATION
& COMMUNICATION

With special focus on
MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEMS
& COMMUNITIES

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY

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SHRI. PUSHKAR SINGH DHAMI

Honorable Chief Minister, Uttarakhand



MESSAGE

It is a matter of great pleasure that the 6th World Congress on Disaster Management (WCDM) is being hosted in Dehradun during 28th November – 1st December 2023, jointly by Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA), Government of Uttarakhand, Disaster Management Initiatives & Convergence Society (DMICS), and Uttarakhand Council for Science & Technology (UCOST). I am delighted to note that the Government of Uttarakhand is actively engaged and is providing necessary support for smooth organization of this event in our state. This mega event provides us with a unique platform to exchange knowledge, share experiences, leverage best practices and collaborate on innovative solutions enabling vulnerable communities across the globe. The G20 under India's Presidency has endorsed a new working group on disaster risk reduction. This makes it well-positioned to prioritise disaster resilience and strengthen climate action.

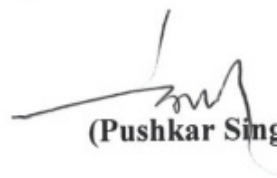
By joining hands and working together, we can build stronger, more resilient communities that are prepared to face the challenges of tomorrow. Our approach to disaster management must be multi-dimensional, encompassing various aspects of risk reduction, response, and recovery. Himalayas have always been at the centre stage of Climate change and I am glad to note specific focus on Uttarakhand and Himalayan ecosystem in this congress.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the delegates and participants from around the world to this 6th World Congress on Disaster Management. Your commitment towards strengthening climate action and disaster resilience is commendable, and I have no doubt that the discussions, deliberations and outcomes of this congress will contribute significantly to our collective journey towards a safer and more sustainable world.

Together, let us strive to build a future where disasters no longer disrupt lives and livelihoods, where communities are empowered to face challenges head-on, and where the resilience of our planet is safeguarded for generations to come.

Thank you, and I wish a grand success of 6th World Congress on Disaster Management in foothills of Himalayas.

Jai Hind!



(Pushkar Singh Dhami)

DR. SUKHBIR SINGH SANDHU, IAS

Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand



MESSAGE

I am pleased to know that the Government of Uttarakhand, Uttarakhand Council for Science & Technology (UCOST) and Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA) is collaborating with Disaster Management Initiatives & Convergence Society (DMICS) to organise the 6th World Congress on Disaster Management (WCDM) centred around the imperative theme of "Strengthening Climate Action & Disaster Resilience."

The World Congress on Disaster Management provides an ideal platform for these collaborations, enabling us to learn from each other's experiences and create synergies that will help shape a more resilient future. Governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia, and local communities across the world must come together to share knowledge, pool resources, and develop innovative solutions.

I urge each one of you to seize this opportunity to contribute your insights, expertise, and innovative ideas to the proceedings of this congress. Let us explore ways to leverage technology, enhance early warning systems, and strengthen community engagement. Let us share success stories, lessons learned, and practical solutions that have the potential to transform the lives of millions facing the impacts of climate change and disasters.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation and congratulations to the organizers and wish the participants fruitful and impactful deliberations.

Jai Hind!

(Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu)
Chief Secretary



CONTEXT

With the climate crisis looming large and looking real, we are witness to increasing occurrences of disasters that have adverse impacts on the life and livelihoods of marginalized sections of society. The latest in this trend is Cyclone Mocha, an extremely severe cyclonic storm that hit the coast of Bangladesh on the 14th of May 2023, wreaking havoc on the world's largest refugee camp at Cox Bazaar, besides affecting Myanmar. Disasters, both natural and anthropogenic, are major challenges to societies around the world.

The impact of disasters is often severe and results in loss of life, damage to infrastructure and properties, and disruption of economic activities. Disasters also have a profound impact on the mental health of the affected population, resulting in a range of psychological and emotional problems. To address these challenges, there is a need to strengthen disaster resilience through innovative approaches, collaborative efforts, community engagement, and integration of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Resilience in developmental planning. It is with the intent of addressing these challenges and reaching vulnerable communities that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) was formulated, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were agreed upon by the world community, as "a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future."^[1]

With just another seven years remaining to realize the SDGs agenda, things are still amiss as inequity is on the rise, climate change and biodiversity losses are rapid, and anthropogenic waste is tipping the balance catastrophically and unleashing disasters at an unforeseen scale and magnitude.^[2] Interestingly, the SFDRR with same timeframe (2015-2030) as that of the SDGs aims to reduce and prevent disaster risk through an inclusive approach that reduces vulnerability, enables rapid response & recovery, and strengthens resilience.^[3]

The Paris Agreement on Climate Change was also promulgated in December 2015, with most nations signing on to date.^[4] One has to recognize the interconnectedness and adopt a systemic approach that builds on synergies, recognizes trade-offs, and maximizes co-benefits if we are to meet the targets set out by the Sendai Framework, Paris Agreement, and the SDGs, which have human well-being as their focus.

[1] <https://sdgs.un.org/goals#implementation>

[2] 24797GSDR_report_2019.pdf (un.org)

[3] Sendai Framework at a glance (preventionweb.net)

[4] UNTC, viewed on 15-May-23



The Himalayan region, of which Uttarakhand is an integral part, is highly prone to disasters both natural and anthropogenic, and vulnerable to climate change, which is evident from the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. These disasters have significant impacts not only on the Himalayan region but also downstream, resulting in cascading impacts and multi-hazard scenarios.

Uttarakhand has witnessed devastating disasters in the recent past that include 2013 Kedarnath tragedy, 2021 Dhauliganga floods, 2022 Draupadi ka Danda avalanche and 2023 Joshimath land subsidence.

These disasters have had severe adverse impacts on the pace of growth and development in the mountains as also downstream regions. At this point, it is important to recognize that India continues to be the third most disaster-prone country in the world.

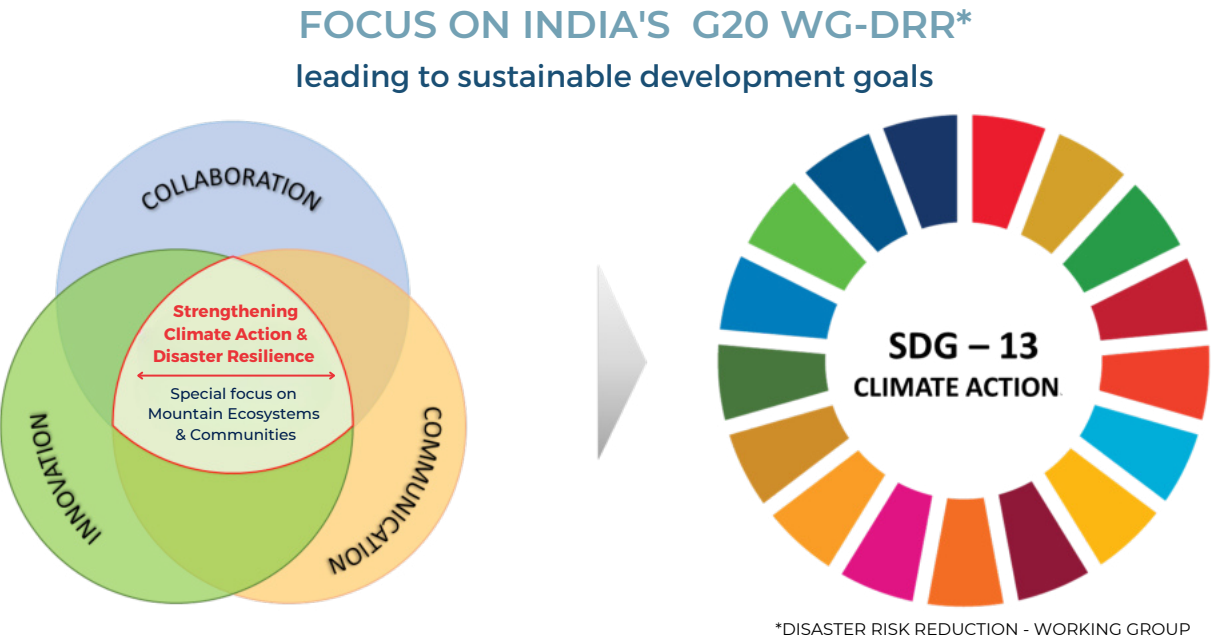
Addressing these challenges, mitigating the impact of natural and anthropogenic disasters, establishing disaster-preparedness measures including emergency response plans and identifying vulnerable communities are global priorities. These would need strengthening of existing emergency response capabilities tailor-made to the requirements of respective geographies.

It is worth re-emphasizing therefore the importance of building synergies, by recognizing interconnectedness and adopting a systemic approach that acknowledges trade-offs and maximizes co-benefits, to meet the targets set out by the SFDRR and the SDGs for human well-being.

The IPCC Summary for Policy Makers, IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6)^[5] recognizes the interdependence of climate, ecosystems and human societies, and states that there is a rapidly narrowing window of opportunity to enable climate resilient development, and that "multiple interacting choices and actions can shift development pathways towards sustainability."

[5] https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6syr/pdf/IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM.pdf

This is supported by the vision of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) for a world where disasters no longer threaten the well-being of people and the future of the planet. Sustainable Development and the 2030 Agenda, according to UNDRR, can not be achieved without the goal of building resilience.^[6] India's own National Disaster Management Plan recognizes this and envisages coherence and mutual reinforcement of all SDGs and COP21 mandates using SDG-13, Climate Action, to turn the levers.^[7]



Therefore, recognizing that 3.3 to 3.6 billion people are highly vulnerable to climate change owing to the context they live in and that climate change is fast enhancing disaster risk in the mountainous regions across the world, the 6th World Congress on Disaster Management (6th WCDM) places “Strengthening Climate Action & Disaster Resilience” with special attention to ‘Mountain Ecosystems & Communities’ as the central focus of deliberations. The 6th WCDM also acknowledges that SDG-13 Climate Action could serve as the window to integrate the targets of all SDGs with the goals of the SFDRR, which would improve the resilience of ecosystems and communities.

The 6th WCDM, therefore, focuses on a three-pronged Climate Action strategy to strengthen Disaster Resilience, namely:



[6] <https://www.undrr.org/about-undrr/our-work>
[7] NDMP; <https://ndma.gov.in/sites/default/files/PDF/ndmp-2019.pdf>

THEME OF THE 6th WCDM

STRENGTHENING CLIMATE ACTION & DISASTER RESILIENCE

Special focus on Mountain Ecosystems & Communities

Strengthening climate action and disaster resilience is a critical element of reducing the impact of disasters globally and enhancing adaptive strategies locally. This can be achieved in a number of ways, including improved disaster risk management, community-based DRR, local adaptation initiatives, investment in research and development, strengthening of social safety nets, building partnerships, and promoting international cooperation. Improving disaster risk management is critical for building resilience. This involves identifying and assessing risks, developing and implementing effective preparedness measures, and responding quickly and effectively to disasters.

Secondly, community-based DRR involves engagement with communities to build their capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters. These programs can help to raise awareness and increase understanding of disaster risks and facilitate the involvement of communities in disaster risk management.

Thirdly, investment in research and development can help to enhance disaster resilience by improving our understanding of disaster risks and developing new technologies and approaches to DRR. This can include research into the impacts of climate change on disaster risks, and the development of new technologies for disaster risk assessment, early warning systems, and response & recovery measures.

Fourthly, strengthening social safety nets, such as social protection programs and insurance schemes, can provide a vital safety net for vulnerable populations affected by disasters. This can help in reducing the negative impacts of disasters on affected communities and provide a foundation for recovery and rebuilding efforts.

Finally, building partnerships and promoting international cooperation is essential to enhance disaster resilience. This involves the building of partnerships between different stakeholders and organizations involved in DRR and promoting international cooperation and knowledge sharing. This can help in facilitating the transfer of knowledge and best practices as well as promote the development of coordinated approaches to DRR. Innovation, collaboration, and communication are therefore recognized here as the three key strategies for improving disaster risk management and strengthening both climate action as well as disaster resilience. These three are not mutually exclusive strategies, but rather complementary approaches for improving DRR and resilience.



Innovative
technologies and
approaches can
help in enhancing
disaster
preparedness,
response, and
recovery



Collaboration
ensures involvement of
multiple stakeholders,
including government
agencies, civil society
organizations, the
private sector, and
affected communities



Communication
with communities
and their
engagement helps
to build their
capacity to prepare
for and respond to
disasters

INNOVATION

Innovation plays a crucial role in strengthening climate action and disaster resilience, equipping individuals and communities with the means to mitigate the risks and impacts of climate change and disasters effectively. By helping to identify, assess and monitor disaster risks, respond effectively to disasters, and build resilience in the aftermath, innovations for early warning and mitigation can help reduce the impact of disasters on lives and properties. Investment in research and development can help to drive innovation and ensure that disaster management approaches remain effective and up to date.

COLLABORATION

Collaboration is essential in strengthening climate action and disaster resilience. By building partnerships and networks among stakeholders, enhancing preparedness and response capabilities, improving the efficiency and effectiveness of response efforts, and promoting resilience in the aftermath of disasters, collaboration can contribute to DRR and climate change mitigation/adaptation. Collaboration can also help to facilitate transfer of knowledge and best practices between different stakeholders and organizations.

COMMUNICATION

Communication is critical in strengthening climate action and disaster resilience. By increasing awareness and knowledge of disaster risks, enhancing community resilience, improving effectiveness and efficiency of response & recovery efforts, contributing to building sustainable and resilient communities through community engagement can contribute to DRR and climate action. Governments, communities, and businesses should continue to invest in these and work together to build resilient communities that are better equipped for disaster preparedness, response, and recovery to face the challenges of a changing climate and increasingly unpredictable environment.

STRATEGIES OF THE 6TH WCDM



driving

CLIMATE ADAPTIVE TECHNOLOGY

AI/ ML enabled, predictive, data driven, unmanned



developing

CLIMATE RESILIENT ECOSYSTEM

integration, skilling, governance & economic models



implementing

CLIMATE RESPONSIVE PRACTICES

interconnected, inclusive, synergized, community based

PLENARY SESSIONS

With the overall theme of "Strengthening Climate Action and Disaster Resilience" through Innovation, Collaboration and Communication, with a special focus on 'Mountain Ecosystems & Communities,' the 6th WCDM draws attention to India's current Presidency of the G20 and the convening of the first-ever DRR working group (G20 WG-DRR). As summarized by the United Nations special representative, Mami Mizutori, inclusiveness is important and it is critical to build lasting resilience, but this can not be done without financial support. Resilience is the ability to cope with shock and adapt to stress and ultimately transform through the crisis. The G20 WG-DRR has the mandate to include considerations for the SFDRR mid-term review, renew multilateral cooperation at all levels, and inform future global policies and initiatives related to DRR and resilience. Against these, the DRR Track of the G20 India Presidency with its three DRR Working Group Meetings has identified five priorities:

1. Global coverage of early warning systems
2. Increased commitment towards making infrastructure systems disaster resilient
3. Stronger national financial frameworks for DRR
4. Increased application of ecosystems-based approaches to DRR
5. Strengthening national and global disaster response systems

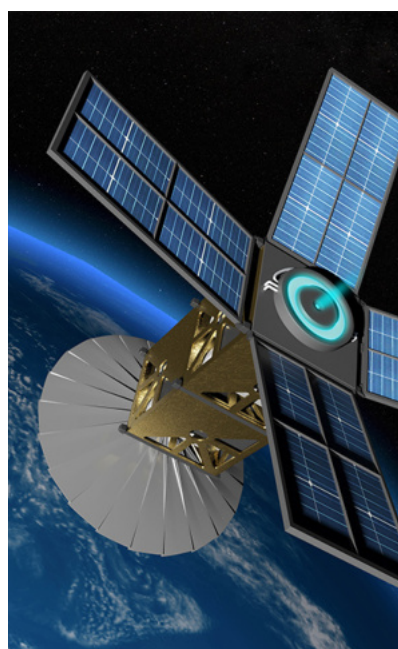
These five priorities have been adapted and re-aligned into the following four plenaries of the 6th WCDM:

PLENARY	THEME
INNOVATION	
1	Making infrastructure disaster resilient including global coverage of early warning systems <i>through Technological Advancements in Disaster Management and Climate Action</i>
COLLABORATION	
2	Stronger financial frameworks for DRR <i>through setting the scene and confirming business cases that can accelerate the speed and increase the scale of advancing disaster risk reduction</i>
3	Application of ecosystems-based approaches to DRR <i>focusing on Sustainable Tourism Development in the Mountains</i>
COMMUNICATION	
4	Strengthened national and global disaster response systems <i>through a Sustainable Model of Public Health Emergency and Disaster Management (PHEDM) Capacity Development Program - A Five-Tiered Approach from community to professional responders including sensitization of policy group</i>

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

The 6th WCDM will provide a platform for interested scientific, technical, research, and academic institutions to organize Special Technical Sessions of 2-3 hours each on specific issues related to the theme of the conference. These sessions would run parallel to other Technical Sessions. The organisers will be given liberty to decide the structure and format of the session, invite speakers /panelists and conduct the sessions.

The five key themes for technical sessions of the 6th WCDM are:



1. Innovations in disaster risk reduction and resilience



2. Mountain specific hazards and their management



3. Challenges in tackling DRR issues



4. Multidisciplinary research and best practices



5. Traditional risk reduction practices and voices from the grassroots

1. INNOVATIONS IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND RESILIENCE

The Sendai Framework was adopted in March 2015 and sets out an agenda for the period 2015-2030, with four priorities for action and seven targets. The goal is to *“Prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response & recovery, and thus strengthen resilience.”*

The four priorities of the Sendai Framework are:

1. Understanding disaster risk
2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk
3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience
4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and building back better in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction

The Sendai Framework targets substantial reductions in global disaster mortality, the number of affected people, economic loss (in relation to GDP) and damage to critical infrastructure/disruption of basic services, and substantial increase in the number of countries with disaster reduction strategies, international cooperation and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and information systems. With its guiding principles aligned with the SDGs, there is a lot of opportunity to bring about transformative change for sustainable development, by achieving the targets set out in the Sendai Framework.

The 6th WCDM Technical Session Theme of “Innovations in Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience” calls for papers that focus broadly on ‘Learning from Disasters’ and address one of the session topics listed below, without being limited to them:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Strengthening DRR and resilient systems | 7. Recovery and reconstruction |
| 2. Resilient social infrastructure, reaching the last mile | 8. People-centric development |
| 3. Resilient economic infrastructure | 9. Disaster response systems, grassroots approaches |
| 4. Resilient environmental infrastructure | 10. Social protection - informal economy, women, and the marginalized |
| 5. Resilient financial systems | 11. Community action including informal networks |
| 6. Risk assessment | 12. Sustainable natural resources management |

This 6th WCDM Technical Session theme of "Innovations in Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience" will include papers related to disaster risk reduction that align with SDG-13 or one or more of the other 16 SDGs and contribute to the Sendai Framework outcome of “substantially reducing disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities, and countries.”^[8]

[8] Sendai Framework at a glance (preventionweb.net)

2. MOUNTAIN SPECIFIC HAZARDS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

By virtue of their similar geo-tectonic evolutionary history and comparable meteorological conditions, most mountainous regions around the globe are highly vulnerable to a number of hazards. Lessons learnt in managing these hazards in one mountainous region can thus be highly beneficial to other mountainous regions.

The 6th WCDM is being hosted in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. The north-western Himalayas, including Uttarakhand, are especially vulnerable to disasters accelerated by the rapid rate of urbanization.

On a positive note, the state of Uttarakhand has the privilege of housing some of the premier institutions working on Disaster Risk Reduction and Mitigation (DRRM) including the Centre of Excellence in Disaster Mitigation and Management (CoEDMM) at IIT Roorkee, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), Forest Research Institute (FRI) and Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG).

Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA) is the apex body in the field of Disaster Mitigation and Management in the state. Leveraging the Uttarakhand experiences and lessons learnt from other Mountain ecosystems and communities, the 6th WCDM Technical Session Theme of “Mountain Specific Hazards and their Management” will focus on the three Ms - Mitigating disasters, Managing risks in fragile ecosystems, and Managing human-engineered conflicts (3M). Papers are invited that address one of the session topics listed below, without being limited to them:

1. Resilient infrastructure in the Himalayan ecosystem
2. Enhancing resilience and preparedness of mountain communities
3. Protecting mountain biodiversity and ecosystem services
4. Floods and flash floods in mountains
5. Seismic risks, earthquakes and mountain environment
6. Avalanche, snowstorms, blizzards and rockfall readiness
7. Glacial retreat and glacier lake outburst
8. Emergency preparedness and response in mountain landscapes
9. Community based disaster management and indigenous knowledge
10. Landslide and Land subsidence

The 3M approach includes people-ecology dynamics with the need to build the resilience of mountain ecosystems & communities through DRRM measures, so that the general direction is towards inclusive sustainable development including both climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.

3. CHALLENGES IN TACKLING DRR ISSUES

With due recognition to the imminent dangers posed by climate change, there is all-around agreement that accelerated climate action is needed and that everyone including governments, businesses and citizens have their roles to play. The IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) recognizes that support is needed for regions and people with the highest vulnerability to climate hazards and that integrating climate adaptation into social programs improves resilience.

The 6th WCDM Technical Session Theme of “Challenges in Tackling DRR Issues” recognises the implications of global climate change while focusing attention on local solutions that invest in building resilience in the light of SDG-13: Climate Action. Papers are invited that address one of the session topics listed below, without being limited to them:

1. Equity and inclusiveness, women-centric, people-oriented DRRM planning
2. Climate adaptation for resilience
3. Vulnerability to climate hazards
4. Multi-hazard early warning cooperation
5. Forecasting and early warning coverage & systems
6. Spatial technologies for DRM
7. India's G20 leadership – WG-DRR: Lessons on the way forward
8. Roads, railway, and bridges risk assessment and mitigation
9. Resilient aviation in a changing climate
10. Decarbonization and disaster-risk-reduction equation
11. Finance and/or technology challenges in DRR
12. Governance and policy issues in DRR

The 6th WCDM recognizes that transformative change contributing to the strengthening of resilience can only emerge by enabling coherence and mutual reinforcement of DRR and SDG objectives focused on accelerated climate action. This theme builds on these systemic interlinkages with a view to identifying challenges and defining concerted and coordinated approaches to disaster risk reduction that will help achieve all-around targets set out by the SFDRR and the SDGs.

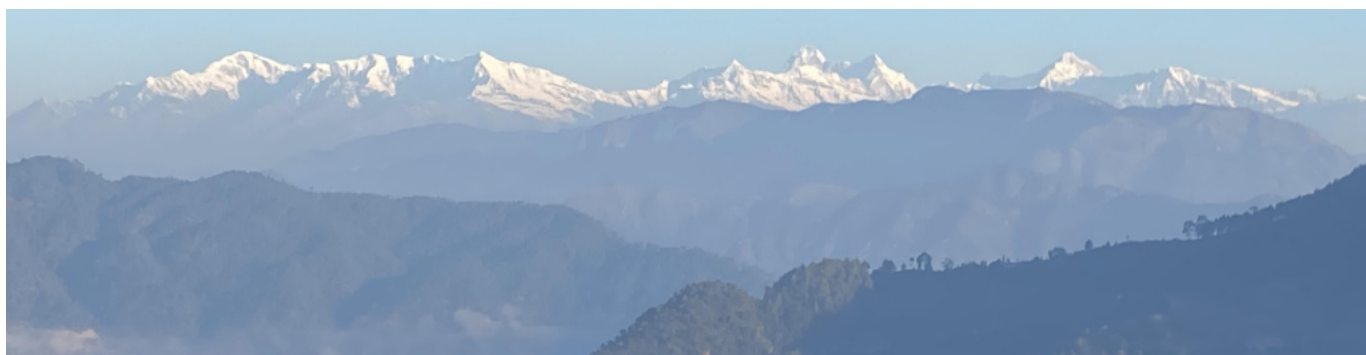
4. MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AND BEST-PRACTICES

The 6th WCDM Technical Session Theme of “Multidisciplinary Research and Best Practices” is aligned with the objectives of India’s G20 WG-DRR with the aim of contributing to its repository of collective work, multi-disciplinary research and best practices on DRR.

Examples of research could include the development of digital risk databases to enable decision-making for early warning systems (EWS) and mitigation on the ground, technological innovations for EWS, etc. Best practices could include standards, certifications, building codes and regulations, etc. Case studies that use data and narratives, and take a multidisciplinary approach and help strengthen existing DRR strategies are encouraged. The broad topics for sessions under this theme are:

1. Standards and Certification
2. Innovation and Emerging technologies including EWS
3. Methodologies and Frameworks for DRRM, Digital risk database (EWS)
4. Case studies / Best Practices – Legal and Policy
5. Case studies / Best Practices – Financing DRR
6. Case studies / Best practices – Nature-based solutions
7. Case studies / Best Practices – Cities, settlements, infrastructure
8. Case studies / Best Practices – Technology, finance, capacity building

Case studies could be from different countries and communities, or they could compare the different approaches in two or more regions, highlight innovative practices and action research approaches. The 6th WCDM recognizes the value of this session to the policy and practice of DRRM.



5. TRADITIONAL RISK REDUCTION PRACTICES AND VOICES FROM THE GRASSROOTS

The Technical Session Theme of “Traditional Risk Reduction Practices and Voices from the Grassroots” will aim to showcase “thinking globally but acting locally.” The Sustainable Development Goals adopted in 2015 call for a global partnership of Developed and Developing countries toward peace and prosperity for all on the planet. The aim is to reduce deprivation and inequities, enhance access to education and health, and foster economic growth while taking action towards climate change and preserving our forests and oceans.

There is a wealth of traditional knowledge among indigenous communities, accumulated over generations through long and continuous interaction with their surroundings. With their keen observation, experimentation and vast volume of traditional knowledge, they have not only been effectively and optimally managing resources but also minimising the impact of commonly occurring natural hazards in their respective regions.

A comprehensive approach that fosters both traditional knowledge and modern scientific research could lead to effective DRR strategies. Grassroots efforts have demonstrated that actions targeting one SDG could help meet other SDG targets. Lessons from traditional practices and holistic grassroots experiences could lead to the transformational change needed to achieve the SDG targets.

The 6th WCDM Technical Session Theme of “Traditional Risk Reduction Practices and Voices from the Grassroots” will cover bottom-up approaches of “building back better,” innovations through nature-based solutions, and investments in capacity building and knowledge sharing networks, with a focus on the most vulnerable communities including Small Island economies and LDCs. Technical sessions that fall under this theme (but are not limited to these) are listed below:

1. Community-based disaster risk reduction
2. Rebuilding in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic
3. Disaster Risk Management in Fisheries, Aquaculture
4. DRR development for small island economies and LDCs
5. Human-engineered conflicts (mitigation of)
6. Nature-based solutions for DRR
7. Traditional disaster risk reduction practices of the people
8. Traditional knowledge and innovations from the grassroots
9. Scientific validation of traditional knowledge
10. Constraints in promoting traditional practices

SPECIAL FEATURE EVENTS

Special Feature Events with public representatives, youth, scientists, innovators, and media would be organized. These could be curated by Universities, Technical institutes, and Media representatives. These can be in the format of round table panel discussions which can primarily take cues from the G20 WG-DRR discussion, as listed below:

1. Memorializing disasters: Stories, narratives, paintings, sketching, street plays, theatre
2. Learning from Case Studies of SAARC nations; G20 nations
3. Building back better: Stories from the building community
4. Investing in resilience: State Disaster Management Authorities
(*Aapda Pradbandhan Puraskar winners*)
5. Role of Major Group of Children and Youth (MGCY) in Resilience Building

PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS

A series of pre-conference events and workshops will be organised on various themes leading up to the main event. These events will be notified separately on the WCDM website. Persons interested in organizing these events may contact the conference organizers. A sampling of potential topics is given below:

1. G20 WG-DRR recommendations and the way forward
2. Lessons from Joshimath and a Himalayan Model of Development
3. Heat Resilience – heat waves, monitoring systems, and measures
4. SFDRR and SDGs - mid-term evaluations of progress so far

EXHIBITION

The 6th WCDM would provide space and facilities to national, state, and local government organizations and agencies, UN agencies, regional organizations, financial institutions, public sector undertakings, academic and research organizations, scientific institutions, non-government organizations, humanitarian agencies, private companies, publishing houses, media, and other organizations to display their products, services, activities on various aspects of disaster management, climate change, and sustainable development.

REGISTRATION & CALL FOR PAPERS

WCDM invites researchers, policy makers and practitioners to contribute papers for oral presentations in different technical sessions. All papers will undergo a peer-review process and will be evaluated for content, originality, creativity and presentation. Accepted papers will be published in a Scopus-indexed conference proceedings. At least one of the authors of the paper should register for the conference and be available for the presentation.

The registration link and call for papers will be announced shortly, and details will be available on the website of the 6th WCDM: www.wcdm.co.in

TIMELINES

DATES	EVENT
31 Oct 2023	Last date for abstract submission
1 Nov 2023	Intimation of acceptance of abstracts
10 Nov 2023	Last date to submit full-length papers
10 Nov 2023	Acceptance of full-length papers for publication

GUIDELINES FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

- Abstracts not exceeding 500 words to be submitted online at the WCDM website: www.wcdm.co.in
- Include Abstract title and select relevant Technical Theme and session topic. Include author's name, affiliation and contact details (email ID & phone number)

VENUE

The 6th WCDM will be held primarily on the premises of Uttarakhand State Council for Science & Technology (UCOST), Dehradun, Uttarakhand; along with other universities and reputed institutions in the vicinity.



ORGANISERS

The 6th WCDM will be organized jointly by Government of Uttarakhand, Disaster Management Initiatives and Convergence Society (DMICS), Hyderabad, Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA) and Uttarakhand State Council for Science & Technology (UCOST), Dehradun.

Besides several academic and research institutions would join as knowledge partners. Building on the experiences gained in the preceding Congresses, the 6th WCDM would involve national, provincial, and local governments, scientific and technical organizations, academia, professional bodies, industry, civil society, practitioners, and media from around the world, besides UN bodies and multilateral and regional organizations.

The 6th WCDM would provide a platform for sharing critical understanding, research, innovation, and good practices on disaster risk reduction and promoting interaction among scientists, policymakers, and practitioners, besides forging new partnerships and networks for building resilience to disasters. The 6th WCDM has been designed to be the largest assembly on disaster management outside the UN system.

AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

Awards will be given to recognize outstanding contributions to the 6th WCDM in the following categories:

- Three best papers (Cash Awards: Rs. 100,000, Rs. 50,000, Rs. 25,000)
- Three best papers by young researchers (Cash Awards: Rs. 50,000, Rs. 25,000, Rs. 15,000)
- Three best exhibitor stall design awards
- Three most innovative Startup awards
- All registered paper-presenters, exhibitors, startups and participants would receive Certificate of Participation

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