



SDMC(IU) Webinar

Enhancing Preparedness for Climate Related Disasters Using Space-Based Technologies

Date: 17th February 2021 | Time: (13:30 – 17:00 hrs IST)

Introductory Address

Good Afternoon everyone.

Distinguished speakers and Heads of Partner Organization (Dr. Mark Smith, Dr. Prakash Chauhan, Dr Shirish Ravan, Dr. R. Jenamani, Dr. Giriraj Amarnath, Mr. C M Bhatt), Esteemed Delegates from all the SAARC Member States, our eminent partners from UN-SPIDER, IWMI & CSSTEAP...

2. I am indeed very happy to extend a hearty welcome to all of you for this webinar on “Enhancing Preparedness for Climate Related Disasters Using Space-Based Technologies”.
3. We are grateful to all the SAARC Member States for nominating right participants in adequate number in this very important webinar.
4. The impacts of climate change are not limited to a single country. The changing weather patterns, rising sea levels, and extreme weather events are experienced beyond borders. According to the

UNDRR, flooding, drought, coastal erosion, and other climate-induced disasters affected nearly 1.7 billion people and caused \$127 billion worth damage from 1990 to 2019.

5. As we all know, South Asia is one of the most vulnerable regions towards natural hazards, and COVID19 further added to the historical risks that prevail in the SAARC Region. Moreover, during the pandemic there were major events like cyclones (Amphan & Nisarga), floods, locust attack, etc. that compounded the risk. Even the recent Uttarakhand Glacial burst tragedy that triggered floods in Chamoli district, cause of which is yet under investigation, can be linked to climate-induced events.
6. Globally, information technology sector is growing strong and has become indispensable part of the modern digital society. The availability of satellite data has enormous scope to provide real-time information in the event of a disaster. Technology-enabled early warning systems, risk assessment, monitoring of slow onset disasters have evolved to help manage disaster risks effectively. Use of space technology and GIS applications has become imperative tool for policy and decision makers.
7. Considering the same, SDMC (IU) jointly with partners is organizing this webinar with the aim to support efforts of the Member States to make effective utilization of space-based

information for providing early warning and risk information, which also contributes to achieve targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR). Our partner organizations have made significant contributions for the same.

8. Our partners have already shared various Procedural guidelines, articles and papers on the use of Space based information which is shared with you via drive. Using this knowledge and experience, we also intend to jointly develop Knowledge Products that can be useful for Member States.
9. I would also like to inform you that SAARC Disaster Management Centre (IU) has developed a web portal (www.covid19-sdmc.org/) and is operational since 21st March 2020. The aim of the portal is to disseminate reliable information and updates on the evolving situation relating to COVID-19 in the SAARC region, and to serve as a repository of best practices being followed by the member states in dealing with COVID-19 for the SAARC Region.
10. SDMC (IU) has also requested all the member states to share relevant information/ good practices related to management of COVID-19. The portal also compiles guidelines and best practices, made available by the member states. I would again urge all of you to share related information, best practices which shall further be uploaded on the portal.

I believe, it would be a great learning for all of us, since all the Member States would be sharing their experiences.

I once again thank all the Esteemed Delegates from all the SAARC Member States and distinguished speakers for participating in this program.

I humbly request you to give your valuable inputs (by email) and look for your maximum participation during the sessions.

Thank You...