

Theme	1. Global Changes & Risk Management
Topic	1.3 Mitigating Disasters
Main Questions to be answered	<p>Question 1: <i>Do we need global-level target for actions and indices to monitor progress to reducing the loss of life and livelihood caused by water-related disasters?</i></p> <p>The correlation between poverty and population density versus the toll of human casualties highlights poverty, societal inequality, and a lack of political commitment to adapt to changing risks, resulting in increased vulnerability to water-related disasters.</p> <p>Steady progress in the provision of improved drinking water and sanitation clearly shows that targets to articulate the direction for global action could promote political will. Therefore, it is important to set realistic targets in mitigating disasters. The development of water-related disaster preparedness indices is required to monitor the implementation status and the effectiveness of existing actions and policies. The use of indices will stimulate the positive spiral of disaster preparedness building up at national and local levels.</p> <p>---</p> <p>Question2: <i>How should we optimize the limited human and financial resources to mitigate impact of water-related disasters?</i></p> <p>Comprehensive and integrated disaster management schemes must be sought for optimizing the use of limited available resources. These include the integration and best mix of both structural and non-structural measures for disaster management.</p> <p>IWRM is a broad concept promoting the integrated management of water in a sustainable and equitable manner and thus encompasses a wide variety of sectors such as physical, geographical, socio-economic, and cultural domains. The application of the IWRM approach, therefore, could be useful for mitigating water-related disaster risk with limited human and financial resources. As stated by the ministers of the Asia-Pacific region it is important to “promptly strengthen the comprehensive efforts from both hard and soft sides, based on the recognition that the measure is an important element of integrated water resource management, against water-related disasters.”</p> <p>---</p> <p>Question3: <i>How should we utilize existing technologies to mitigate the impact of changing risk caused by climate change and population growth? Is there still need for the development of new technologies?</i></p> <p>Loss of life and livelihoods triggered by water-related disasters are major impediments to sustainable development and poverty reduction. The probability of increasing extreme climatic events such as floods, droughts, and coastal flooding induced by global warming is likely to further aggravate the impact of disasters. In addition, new disasters such as glacial lake outburst floods have started to be witnessed. The expected population growth in urban areas, where people are vulnerable to water-related disasters, could make the situation worse.</p> <p>In some countries, local measures with indigenous technologies saved thousands of lives from devastating disasters, and continuous efforts in implementing proper technologies greatly contributed to sustainable national development. Various water technologies have to be properly</p>

	<p>combined, taking into account the regional characteristics, available financial and human resources in a timely manner.</p> <p>Technologies are keys to reducing and preventing loss of water-related disasters. It is important and useful to optimize existing technologies. However, it is also necessary to develop appropriate new technologies to adapt to changing risks of water-related disasters.</p>
Stakeholder/ interest groups	<p><Proposed partners></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International organizations: APWF, CPWC, EWP, ICHARM, ISDR, WMO, High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster, and others - National governments: Japan, France, Netherlands, and others - Donors: ADB, JBIC, JICA, World Bank, and others <p><Interest groups to be involved in the process></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NGOs, CSOs, local governments, gender group, and teachers
Specific perspectives of the stakeholder/ interest groups	<p>This section will be completed after the consultation process initiated with the partners and interest groups.</p>
Divides for which bridges must be forged	<p>There should be more dialogue between water-related disaster and development/poverty sectors.</p> <p>There are divides between water-related disaster experts and those who are implementing disaster prevention activities at the community level.</p> <p>There are also divides between Asia-Pacific region and other regions in their perspectives on the significance of water-related disaster risk reduction due to the differences in the frequency of water-related disasters.</p>
A proposed development process	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft 1 of topic scoping paper to be sent to proposed partners for comments 2. Improved draft with comments received to be discussed at the February coordination meeting to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Agree on key questions (2) Agree on the topic document so that it can be placed on the Forum web- site (3) Agree on proposed partners/interest groups to take part in the development of the topic (4) Agree on the consultation process to develop the forum session by identifying relevant meetings with proposed partners