

The UNISDR Asia Science Technology and Academia Advisory Group (ASTAAG)

1. Key Focus:

There are three specific focus areas:

- **Strengthening the Science, Technology and Academic [STA] community**
 - High level advocacy at the leadership level / higher authorities [Ministry level] to promote academic and professional education on DRR
 - Raising the awareness on the subject of DRR among the faculties and disciplines in the higher education and research institutions
 - Integration of DRR in to existing disciplines such as civil engineering, public administration, urban and regional planning and so on
 - Promote innovations in science and technology for DRR
- **Support governments in science based decision making**
 - Development of regional standards linking the global and national targets
 - Assessment of current status of DRR in each country in the region
 - Regional disaster risk mapping
 - Identify need based solutions
- **Enhance networking among academic community and other stakeholders**
 - Regional level DRR network analysis and mapping
 - Mapping of current status of science and technology in disaster risk reduction in the region
 - Collaboration and partnership with other stakeholder groups and networks

2. Objective of the advisory group

To strengthen / enhance the role and capacity of the Asia Science, Technology and Academia stakeholder group to respond to the needs of

the SFDRR implementation. The advisory group will strengthen, enhance and advocate science based decision making for DRR at all levels in Asia.

3. Core areas of interest

- Assessment of status of science and technology for DRR in the region as a biennial report published linked to AMCDRR
- Assessment of current status of DRR [mapping of institutional arrangement, progress in DRR during HFA implementation, sectoral and inter sectoral gap analysis, etc.] in identified countries in the region
- Recognition of networks of universities/ center of excellences and engage them in sharing knowledge and experience

4. Roles and responsibilities

The Asia Science, Technology and Academia Advisory Group [ASTAAG] consists of selected numbers of individuals. The group will work directly with the Science Technology Academia stakeholder group in Asia. To make a larger impact, the group will need a larger collaboration with other stakeholders. UN ISDR Asia-Pacific office will be key nodal agency for the advisory group, and IAP [ISDR Asia Partnership] or the AMCDRR [Asian Ministerial Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction] would be the annual and/or bi-annual regional platforms for regional activities and presence. Moreover, links to the national focal groups will be made at the country level to ensure science-policy linkage. Links among different networks will be required to share and disseminate information. Links to other stakeholders like private sectors, civil society, media will be important to bring the responsibilities forward.