Strengthening Financial Resilience to Disasters in Asia: Exploring Regional Solutions

A partnership between the World Bank Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance Program and the Rockefeller Foundation to explore options and assess the feasibility of establishing a regional disaster risk finance facility in Asia. This note provides an overview of the activities carried out, and the documents prepared: August 2017

Disaster Risk Finance helps countries respond immediately and effectively following a disaster—minimizing the human, economic, and fiscal costs that increase rapidly when response is delayed or inadequate.

There is currently an active international dialogue on establishing a joint regional mechanism for disaster risk finance in Asia, taken up in many regional and global policy forums. Often, however, there are parallel discussions, and countries face challenges to move from political commitment to implementation.

Asian countries are highly exposed to disasters and have seen some of the deadliest and most costly disasters in history, with flood a particularly persistent and rising hazard across the region.

Facing Natural Hazards:

- Cyclones
- Tsunamis
- Droughts
- Floods
- Earthquakes
- Volcanos
The World Bank Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance Program and the Rockefeller Foundation partnered to bring together various ongoing discussions, identify key questions surrounding potential regional risk financing solutions in Asia, and explores preliminary options for the institutional, financial and operational design of a regional facility as part of national financial protection strategies.

The project carried out analytical work along three lines:

- Assessing disaster risk finance policy priorities and political demand for a regional facility in Asia.
- Reviewing current catastrophe risk models available in Asia and determining prerequisites to build the required risk data tools for regional solution.
- Exploring and testing new satellite technology to provide near real-time flood monitoring and inform financial decisions for disaster response.

Outputs:

For all outputs and data: www.financialprotectionforum.org/asiaregional

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Disaster Risk Financing & Insurance Program