

Proposal for Asia-Pacific Regional Platform for Disaster Communications Management and Capacities

**14th Meeting of the Regional Interagency Working Group (IWG) on
Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)
11th August 2010**

ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Agenda

Issues and Challenges

ITU Mandate

Regional Framework for Cooperation in Emergencies

National Emergency Telecommunications Plan

Issues and Challenges

Legal and Regulatory Constraints

- Disaster Management Act does not exist or it is outdated
- Little legal infrastructure for acquiring, applying, coordinating, and protecting telecom resources including personnel during emergency situations
- No national policy/strategy for critical information infrastructure protection which is vulnerable to disasters
- Emergency telecommunications are not seen as mandatory obligations for those holding telecom licences
- No inventory of telecom resources

Institutional Constraints

- No institutional/organisational setup with regard to communications in emergencies
 - Unclear chain of commands and mode of communications
 - Lack of or insufficient coordinated efforts among the government and private sector
 - Government agencies dealing with disaster management do not have well defined contingency plan and standard operating procedures when it comes to emergency communications
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Technical Constraints

- Limited capacity in using ICTs and telecommunications in emergencies
 - Although emergency telecommunications focus on existing and available infrastructure and facilities, some of them need upgrade and replacement (of malfunction)
 - Limited skills and knowledge in taking advantage of technologies and features
 - No (or little) awareness of international standards especially those of ITU-T
 - Limited organised historical data and/or database useful for emergency response (and humanitarian teams)
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Financial Constraints

- Insufficient (national) budget to build or strengthen or maintain government's capacity in communications particularly for emergency purposes
 - While international aid particularly for disaster-related purposes is most common in the five countries, it seems focusing more on human/institutional capacity building, i.e. not infrastructure
 - Some international projects do not address real needs
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International Cooperation

- Some regulatory barriers hinder movement of telecom resources (both cross-border and within countries) in emergencies
 - No good management of international assistance particularly at times of emergencies
 - Limited preparedness with international agencies for mobilizing telecom resources in emergencies
 - Little awareness of who, where, and how to acquire assistance from international community.
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Signatories

Signatories (Asia-Pacific only) to the Tampere Convention as at 19 July 2010

Country	Date of Signature	Definitive signature (s) ratification, accession (a), acceptance (A) or approval (AA)
India	29 Nov 1999	29 Nov 1999
Marshall Islands	11 Nov 1998	
Mongolia	18 Jun 1998	
Nepal	23 Apr 1999	
Pakistan		30 Jan 2009
Sri Lanka	5 Aug 1999	13 Oct 1999
Tonga		8 May 2003 a

ITU Mandate

ITU Development Programs (2011-14)



Programme 1

Information and communication infrastructure and technology development

Programme 2

Cybersecurity, ICT Applications and IP-based network-related issues

Programme 3

Enabling Environment

Programme 4

Capacity Building and digital inclusion

Programme 5

Least developed countries, countries in special need, emergency telecommunications and climate change adaptation

Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives (2011-14)

ASP RI 1

Unique ICT needs of least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing States (SIDS) and landlocked developing countries

ASP RI 2

Emergency telecommunications

ASP RI 3

Digital broadcasting

ASP RI 4

Broadband access and uptake in urban and rural areas

ASP RI 5

Telecommunications/ICT policy and regulation
in the Asia-Pacific region



Framework for Regional Cooperation in Emergencies

Regional Framework for Cooperation in Emergencies

Eminent Industry Champion

Technology Cluster

- Satellite operators and Land Earth station operators
- Telecom Operators
- GIS/Remote sensing service providers
- Radiocommunications Equipment Providers

Eminent Corporate Champion

Finance Cluster

- Governments
- Private Sector
- Development Banks
- Regional Economic Groups

Eminent Corporate Champion

Logistics Cluster

- Air Transport operators
- International Couriers

Deployable Stand-by Capacity for Emergency Response

Satellite terminal: (Voice and data communication)

- Mobile base stations
- Wi-Fi and WI-MAX equipment
- VSATs
- Handheld satellite phones
- Satellite broadband terminals



Personnel (Expert):

- Telecom/ICT expert
- Doctors, practitioners (medical team)

Resource deployment

- *Equipment will be dispatched to a disaster-hit area immediately after request*
- *The partnership platform bears costs of airtime and logistics*
- *Experts are ready to fly to the area for necessary assistance including training*



National Emergency Telecommunications Plan

NETP Model

NETP aims at:

- Identification of telecommunications needs in time of emergencies;
- Identification of vulnerabilities, and assessment of threats;
- Forging of partnerships;
- Forward-planning as part of preparedness

The NETP discusses arrangements for the planning and deployment of telecommunications resources at all stages of disaster management and thus covers the entire disaster management cycle including climate change adaptation.

“The NETP should be part of a national disaster management framework or plan”

National Assessment and Development of “National Emergency Telecommunication Plan” (NETP)

- Provide expert assistance
 - Facilitate local meetings and stakeholder participation i.e. national workshop
 - Provide technical assistance in early warning systems (subject to partnership)
 - Promote and facilitate ratification and implementation of the “Tampere Convention”
 - Organize regional training workshop on the use of telecommunications equipment & services in emergencies
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ITU Framework for Assistance in Development of the NETP

- Country assessment including policy and planning as well as telecommunication infrastructure
- Facilitate organization of stakeholder meetings and workshops
- Conduct human capacity building programme
- Assist in drafting the National Emergency Telecommunication Plan

Invitation for Partnerships

Role of ITU

- Joint secretariat of the regional platform
 - Repository of telecom resources (equipment & personnel)
 - Liaison with member countries especially in resource deployment when in emergencies
 - Expert assistance especially in NETP
 - Seed fund
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Expected Contributions

- Provision of telecom/ICT equipment both temporary and permanent for deployment in emergencies
 - Air-time for use of telecom services
 - Logistics supports
 - Expertise and personnel for assistance in development of NETP
 - Supports for seminars, training, workshops
 - Funding support
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ITU : <http://www.itu.int>
ITU Asia Pacific : <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/asp/CMS/index.asp>

