

Asia Pacific Disaster Law Field School

24 – 27 April 2017 Sydney, Australia

CONCEPT NOTE

Why Disaster Law?

As witnessed by recent events, such as the Nepal earthquake, tropical cyclones in the Pacific, and flooding and drought events across South East Asia, natural disasters continue to strike frequently and intensely across the Asia Pacific. Such events bring with them not only a devastating human impact but also have a huge economic cost as well. Having strong, inclusive and well implemented disaster laws underpins a well-functioning disaster risk management system. They provide the legal and institutional basis on which to undertake all aspects of disaster risk management from risk reduction, preparedness to response and recovery, and contribute to strengthening the resilience of vulnerable and disaster-affected populations

Strengthening disaster laws and their implementation particularly at the local level, has been identified as key priorities in global and regional multilateral commitments such as Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Asian Ministerial Conference for DRR, the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response and the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific.

The International Federation of the Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), together with National Societies, has been working with governments, the United Nations and other organizations for over a decade to identify, address, and overcome legal and regulatory issues in disaster management, response and, more recently, disaster risk reduction and regulatory barriers to shelter. Utilizing key tools such as the *Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance* (also known as the '[IDRL Guidelines](#)') and the [Disaster Risk Reduction and the Law Checklist](#), [Rapid Tenure Assessment Guidelines for Post Disaster Planning](#) many countries are assessing their domestic legal and policy frameworks to ensure they are fit for purpose in today's changing world.

The field school will be a mix of theory and scenario based learning. It will provide an overview of the key international and regional legal and policy frameworks for disaster risk management as well as best practice of national and local level implementation into law and policy. Additionally, it will provide a platform to highlight the important auxiliary role of Red Cross and Red Crescent across the disaster risk management spectrum. The programme will explore legal issues related to preparedness, response, risk reduction, and recovery. Cross-cutting issues such as gender, protection and inclusion, including displacement and climate change adaptation will be considered and addressed throughout every phase of the field school, including how to strengthen approaches in, policy and practice.

What is the Disaster Law Field School?

The Disaster Law Field School is being proposed for disaster law programme's focus countries in Asia Pacific, and identified regional and international partners.

Learning Objectives:

- Provide an overview of the key international and regional legal and policy frameworks for disaster risk management, including best practice on national and local level implementation of the various agendas
- Explore how law and policy across the disaster risk management spectrum, from preparedness, risk reduction, response and recovery, need to be developed and implemented to ensure words translate into local level action
- Ensure cross-cutting issues such as gender, protection and inclusion, including displacement and climate change adaptation will be considered and addressed throughout every phase of the field school, including how to strengthen approaches in policy and practice
- Ensure implementation of theory into practice through simulation and scenario based work;
- Further develop legislative advocacy skills among participants to ensure disaster risk management is seen as priority for action among decision makers and opinion leaders in the region
- Encourage participants to undertake an analysis of their own domestic frameworks and develop plans of action for their strengthening, utilising key disaster law tools and guides;

Methodology

The disaster law field school will establish a platform for shared learning on disaster law and policy in Asia Pacific through expert lectures and group discussions. The training will be designed around an interactive scenario which will require participants to apply theory into real life disaster situations. It will arm participants with the knowledge and confidence to apply international, regional and national disaster law standards to a real time situation, and help them make the case in their countries on how and why disaster laws are key to underpinning strong and inclusive risk management approaches. Participants will also be required to reflect on their learning and assess and apply to their domestic contexts.

Participants

One Government representative and **one** National Society representative from (12) Asia Pacific countries will be invited to attend. An invitation will also be extended to one representative from relevant sub-regional bodies.

It is recommended that participants with the following backgrounds are nominated to attend

- Government - working at mid-to-high level in government (preferably focal person from the Disaster Management Agency who have a responsibility for policy development);

- Red Cross/Crescent – having a background on Disaster Law / who will be taking forward this portfolio within the National Society;
- Comprising male and female representatives;
- Comfortable communicating in English.

Nominations on selected representatives will need to be communicated to the IFRC no later than **16 February 2017**. Please include an updated CV for all nominated individuals.

The final selection of participants will be made by the Disaster law programme and invitations and visa letters will be sent by the end of February.

Format, Facilitation and Location

The field school will take place over four (4) days in April 2017 in Sydney, Australia 24 – 27 April 2017. The training venue and accommodation for the field school will be held at the Australian Institute of Police Management, Manly Beach, Sydney, NSW, Australia.

The workshop proceedings and all related materials will be in English.

Costs and funding:

The IFRC will fund participant inward airfares, accommodation and per diems for the duration of the workshop for National Society, Government and Regional Organisation representatives.

Contact Information

For further information about this initiative, please contact:

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