



**MHEW 2020**  
DRR Symposium

International Symposium on  
**Multi-Hazard Early Warning  
and Disaster Risk Reduction**

14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Virtual Conference - originally  
Colombo, SRI LANKA

To promote the availability and  
application of research, science and  
technology to support  
implementation of Sendai  
Framework for Disaster Risk  
Reduction 2015-2030

# Plenary Session 4

## Media and disaster risk communication

**16<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

15:45 - 17:15 IST (Indian Standard Time) - virtual (zoom) event

### Short description

The process of disseminating disaster early warning information is complex as it involves a wide array of jurisdictional agencies and response partners, including national contact points, specialist agencies, and sub-national emergency operational centres and related actors. Recent events have highlighted some of the challenges associated with the media and early warning, including the need to understand the barriers and enablers for the next generation of early warning dissemination, including its ability to deal with emerging challenges such as cascading hazards and social media. Formal dissemination of warnings works alongside and sometimes in competition with other communication channels, including social media platforms, which may reinforce official messages, but also have the potential to undermine efforts, for example through social media's potential role as a catalyst for spreading misinformation and false news. There is a need to understand how formal and informal communication mechanisms can better co-exist to more effectively disseminate warning information.

Register at: <https://bit.ly/mhewpl4>

Media Partner: News 1st



Official Print Partner:

**DailyMirror**



The plenary session will be livestreamed through Sri Lanka Disaster Management Centre's official Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/dmc.gov.lk>)



University of  
**HUDDERSFIELD**  
Inspiring global professionals



**adpc**

### Panelists



*Prof. Rohan Samarajiva*

Board Chair & Founder LIRNEasia,  
Sri Lanka



*Major General Sudantha Ranasinghe*

Director General, Disaster  
Management Centre, Sri Lanka



*Mr. Chevaan Daniele*

Group Director, Capital Maharaja  
Organization, Sri Lanka



*Mr. Nalaka Kaluwewa*

Director General, Department of  
Government Information, Sri Lanka

### Session Moderator



*Dr Chandana Siriwardana*

Senior Lecturer, University of  
Moratuwa, Sri Lanka