



# CApacity Building in Asia for Resilience EducaTION

Experts from across Europe and Asia met in March 2017 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, to launch a new project funded by the European Union to foster regional cooperation for more effective multi-hazard early warning and increased disaster resilience among coastal communities.

The project, called CABARET (Capacity Building in Asia for Resilience EducaTION), will support joint initiatives and sharing of good practices among Higher Education Institutes in Asia and Europe, as well as promote links between Higher Education and other socio-economic actors.

## Background to the project

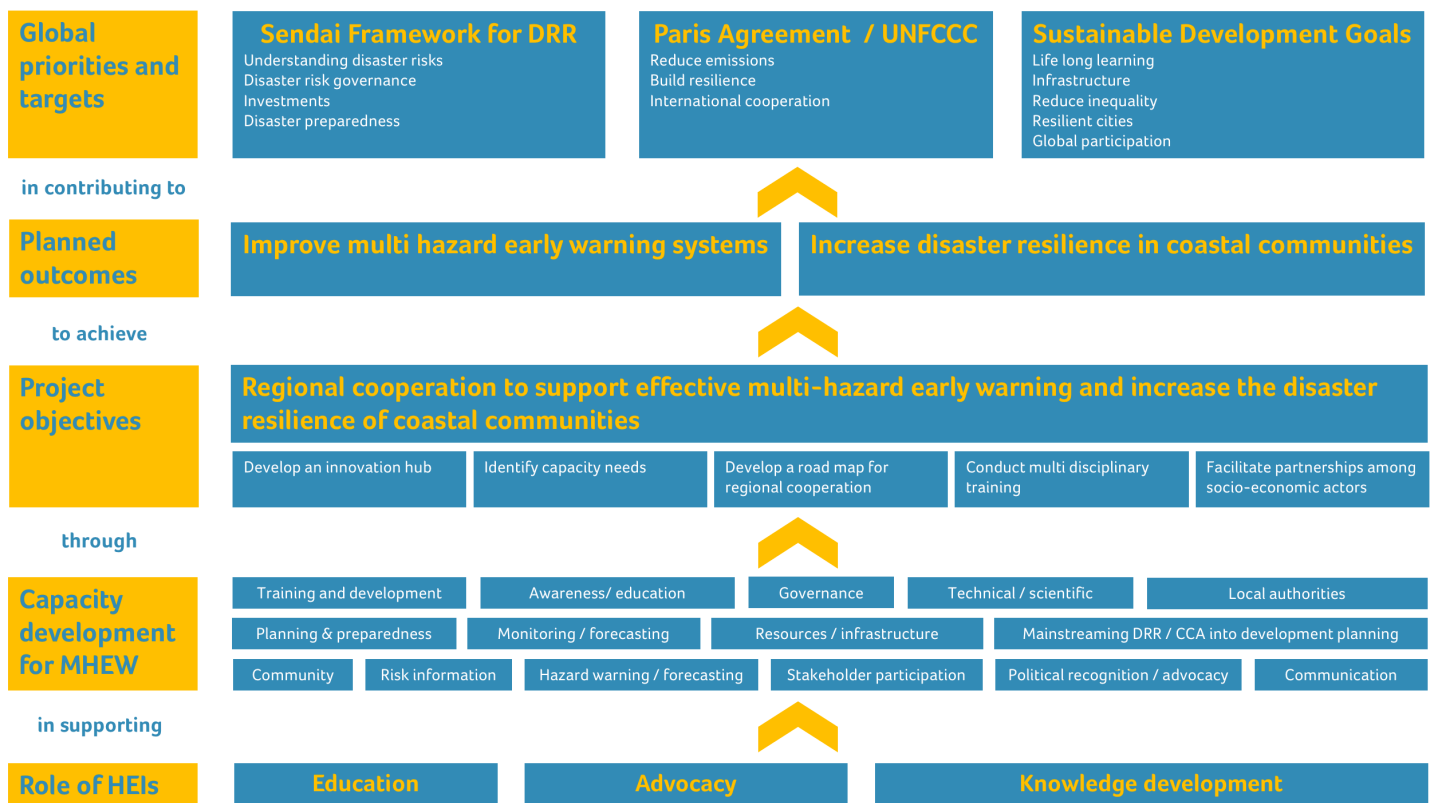
Experience over recent years of the impacts of coastal hazards such as tsunamis, storm surges, sea level rise and coastal erosion, has shown that inadequate preparation for and response to emergency situations have contributed to widespread damage and the avoidable loss of lives and livelihoods. These hazards set back economic development in both developed and developing economies, and tend to disproportionately affect the most vulnerable in society. The shortcomings in preparation have been due to a lack of warning through poor regional detection and communication systems, but they also reflect inadequate awareness, planning and coordination.

*CABARET emphasises the role of Higher Education in supporting global priorities and targets on disaster risk reduction. The project will provide capacity development to support regional cooperation on multi-hazard early warning in coastal communities, with a particular focus on Asia*

This situation, together with the increasing globalisation of risk, calls for strengthened multi-hazard early warning systems at all levels. It also calls for an integrated and holistic approach to early warnings for multiple hazards and risks tailored to user needs across sectors. In this regard, international and regional collaboration as well as multi-stakeholder partnership at all levels is critically necessary, given the transboundary nature of most coastal hazards.

## EU-Asia partnership

CABARET is co-funded by an EU Erasmus+ programme grant of €993,340, will run for three years and is led by the University of Huddersfield's Global Disaster Resilience Centre, based in the UK. They are joined by a group of experts from a consortium of 14 European and Asian higher education institutions from Bulgaria, Indonesia, Latvia, the Maldives, Malta, Myanmar, the Philippines, Spain, Sri Lanka, and the United Kingdom. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO), the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center and the Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities are Associate Partners of the project, and will help to promote the benefits across Asia and beyond.





Photograph (above): Over 20 experts from 14 countries in the EU and Asia attended the CABARET project kick off meeting, in March 2017, Colombo, Sri Lanka

### Supporting the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-30

The project was inspired by the UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, agreed by UN member states in 2015. It includes a strong call for higher education to support the understanding of disaster risk and promote risk-informed decisions and risk sensitive planning from the local to the global levels. It also calls for the coordination of existing networks and scientific research institutions at all levels and all regions. The goal is to strengthen the evidence-base in support of the implementation of the new framework.

### Workplan

The first phase of CABARET will involve a detailed analysis of existing capacity for multi-hazard early warning at the national level in Indonesia, the Maldives, Myanmar, the Philippines and Sri Lanka, as well as a wider regional analysis across Asia. This will provide the basis for future capacity development activities aimed at fostering regional cooperation and integration.

### Planned outcomes

- Enhanced regional and transboundary cooperation for multi-hazard early warning
- Empowered individuals and organisations with the skills, competencies and credentials needed to promote and sustain regional cooperation aimed at reducing the likelihood and impact of disasters in coastal communities
- Enhanced capacities of the partner HEIs in Asia to meet (match) the challenges and specific needs of the wider economic and social environment
- Strengthened internationalisation of HEIs and their capacity to network effectively in research, scientific and technological innovation
- Exchange of experience and practice in spite of diversity, and increased ability of partner HEIs in Asia to build relationships with relevant socio-economic actors
- Improved skill (knowledge, qualifications,) acquisition for professional teams involved in multi-hazard early warning

[www.disaster-resilience.net/cabaret](http://www.disaster-resilience.net/cabaret)

#### European partners

University of Huddersfield  
 University of Central Lancashire  
 University of Cantabria  
 University of Mining and Geology  
 University of Malta  
 Riga Technical University

United Kingdom (Lead Institution)  
 United Kingdom  
 Spain  
 Bulgaria  
 Malta  
 Latvia

#### Asia partners

University of Moratuwa  
 University of Peradeniya  
 Bandung Technical Institute  
 Andalas University  
 Maldives National University  
 De La Salle University  
 Ateneo de Manila University  
 Mandalay Technological University  
 University of Yangon

Sri Lanka  
 Sri Lanka  
 Indonesia  
 Indonesia  
 Maldives  
 Philippines  
 Philippines  
 Myanmar  
 Myanmar

#### Associate partners

IOC-UNESCO  
 Asian Disaster Preparedness Center  
 Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities

#### Further information

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