

# IPCC SREX Regional Outreach Event

Recap of Day 1

# Broad policy implications of SREX

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- ▶ We need to reduce exposure to extreme events because losses are increasing even without climate change
- ▶ Some costs and population displacement are inevitable
- ▶ We need *both* adaptation and mitigation



# There are many things we can do

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- ▶ **Measures with no regrets, co-benefits, complementarities**
  - ▶ Early warning systems
  - ▶ Higher density of weather stations
  - ▶ Off grid renewable energy
- ▶ **Governance matters**
  - ▶ Nargis v/s Sidr
- ▶ **Risk transfer and insurance**



# Lessons from the region

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- ▶ Traditional knowledge of dealing with extreme events
  - ▶ Netherlands or Nepal
- ▶ We must *publish* regional experiences
- ▶ South Asian countries can assist *other* countries tackle disasters
- ▶ Potential for regional collaboration on climate modelling, disaster management systems, etc.



# Bridging the gaps

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- ▶ **Recent policy developments are promising – but often reactive**
  - ▶ National disaster management agencies set up after tsunami
  - ▶ Mandatory state-sponsored insurance in Pakistan after floods
- ▶ **Bridging the gap between science and policy**
  - ▶ Efforts to integrate climate change adaptation or disaster risk reduction into development
  - ▶ Indian National and State Action Plans on Climate Change embedded in Five Year Plans
  - ▶ Mandatory Disaster Impact Assessment in Pakistan
- ▶ **Bridging the gap between policy and practice**
  - ▶ Public understanding and acceptance of risks is very important
  - ▶ Insurance as an attitudinal issue – not just a technical problem
- ▶ **Educating children is the key**
  - ▶ But need concrete evidence and best practices



# Change mindsets

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- ▶ From incremental changes to transformational changes
- ▶ From fatalism to preparedness and prevention
- ▶ From decision making under certainty to decision making under uncertainty
- ▶ Break out of jurisdictional silos
  - ▶ Look at ecosystem solutions not just technical/infrastructural solutions
- ▶ Question the development paradigm
  - ▶ Development destroys traditional adapted crop varieties and then research tries to (re)discover them



# Usefulness of SREX to decision makers

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- ▶ Explicitly states the confidence levels and limitations of findings
- ▶ Brings focus on disaster risk reduction (DRR)
  - ▶ Helps justify more funding for DRR
  - ▶ Helps justify going beyond structural measures



# Limitations of SREX

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- ▶ **Lack of documented evidence**
  - ▶ Gender-centric case studies
  - ▶ Child-centric case studies
  - ▶ Private sector initiatives
  - ▶ Systematic economic analysis or cost accounting of (even) disaster response





# Unanswered questions

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- ▶ Should we divert scarce resources from development to adaptation?
  - ▶ SREX doesn't give a strong enough signal
- ▶ How should we move forward?
  - ▶ SREX doesn't give enough *new* insights or *specific* measures to integrate information about extreme events with development policies
  - ▶ SREX is not 'operational' enough e.g. How exactly should EWS be managed? How is insurance best provided?





Thank you