



**Concept Note**  
**The International Online Conference to Address**  
**Water-related Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) under the COVID-19 Pandemic**  
**Thursday, 20 August 2020**

**OBJECTIVES**

The COVID-19 Pandemic has gravely affected the countries all over the world socially and economically. In the current COVID-19 environment, immediate attentions of the national leaders, governments and people in the world have been focused on mitigating COVID-19 infection and treating those who become ill. However, the threats of water-related disasters remain as imminent now as before COVID-19. Many people around the world have been affected and thousands of people lost their lives due to water-related disasters which are increasingly frequent with the impact of various global issues such as urbanization and climate change. Competition and complications among DRR emergency responses and COVID-19 health care responses could magnify negative impacts in some countries and cities.

Implementation of disaster risk reduction strategy with this global crisis in mind is essential to protect disaster-affected areas from becoming epicenter of pandemic explosion and swiftly recover from disasters; therefore, it is vital to raise awareness and share the experiences and good practices with practical guidance amongst leaders, DRR and COVID-19 managers, and all stakeholders to cope with these challenges by the co-occurring disasters and mitigate their impacts.

The High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP) launched the “Principles to Address Water-related Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) under the COVID-19 Pandemic” to tackle this emergent global situation. Water-related disasters could happen in countries and cities even under COVID-19 pandemic, and urgent actions are needed. The Principles offer practical advice to political leaders, managers of DRR and COVID-19, and all stakeholders on how to prepare and respond to avoid magnified impacts due to co-occurring disasters.

In this virtual conference, leaders, government officials, representatives of the United Nations and other international organizations, as well as civil society, and experts on disaster risk reduction, water and health will discuss effective ways to address water-related disaster risk reduction under the COVID-19 Pandemic. The outcome documents, including the Chair’s summary and the proceedings, will be shared widely amongst all stakeholders in the world to expedite necessary actions and partnerships to tackle this global challenge.

## OUTLINE

Date: Thursday, 20 August 2020

Start time: Central Europe 8:30 am (CEST, UTC+2), Jakarta/Bangkok 1:30 pm (WIB/TST, UTC+7), Manila 2:30 pm (PST, UTC+8), Seoul/Tokyo 3:30 pm (KST/JST, UTC+9)

Duration: Approximately 2 hours and 35 minutes (including 15 minutes break)

Format: Web meeting

Organizers: High-Level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)/United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

Supported by: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan

Technically supported by: National Institute of Informatics (NII) & KDDI CORPORATION

Web meeting system support by: Cisco Systems G.K.

Expected participants: Leaders and experts from national governments, the UN/international organizations, academia, civil society, and private sectors, and stakeholders with prior registration

Chair: Dr. Han Seung-soo, HELP Chair and Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea

Language: English

Outcome documents: Chair's Summary and Proceedings

## PROVISIONAL AGENDA

### Opening

- Opening remarks by Dr. Han Seung-soo, HELP Chair and Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea
- Welcome remarks by co-organizing organizations
  - Mr. Liu Zhenmin, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, (video message)
  - Mr. Masatsugu Asakawa, President, Asian Development Bank
  - Prof. Akihiko Tanaka, President, the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

### Keynote Speeches

- Mr. Angel Gurría, Secretary-General, Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD): "Water, DRR, and Economics under COVID-19"
- H.E. Prof. Danilo Türk, Former President of the Republic of Slovenia, Chair of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace and Lead Political Advisor of the Geneva Water Hub: "Water and Peace under COVID-19"

🌀 Scientific Omnibus Presentation “Role of Science and Technology to Cope with Challenges on Water, Disaster, and COVID-19”

<Coordinators>

- Prof. Toshio Koike, Executive Director, International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM)
- Prof. Gretchen Kalonji, Dean, Institute for Disaster Management and Reconstruction, Sichuan University

<Speakers>

- Prof. Masaru Kitsuregawa, Director General, The National Institute of Informatics (NII)

*Omnibus Presentation*

- Dr. Maki Koyama, Associate Professor, River Basin Research Center at Gifu University
- Prof. Sakiko Kanbara, Professor, Disaster Nursing Global Leadership Program at University of Kochi
- Dr. Miho Ohara, Senior Researcher, International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM)/ Adjunct Associate Professor, National Graduate Institute of Policy Studies (GRIPS)
- Dr. Nuraini Rahma Hanifa, Lead U-INSPIRE Indonesia / Secretary-General U-INSPIRE Alliance

🌀 Break (15 minutes)

🌀 High-Level Panel Discussion: “Building the World Back Better by Addressing Water and DRR under COVID-19”

- H.E. Ms. Cora van Nieuwenhuizen-Wijbenga, Minister, Infrastructure and Water Management, Kingdom of the Netherlands
- H.E. Dr. Basuki Hadimuljono, Minister, Public Works and Housing, Republic of Indonesia
- Mr. Ilkka Salmi, Director of Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Directorate, European Commission
- Dr. Shinichi Kitaoka, President, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Mr. Bambang Susantono, Vice President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, Asian Development Bank
- Ms. Kate Medlicott, Team Leader, Sanitation and Wastewater, Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Health Unit, World Health Organization (WHO)
- Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque, Chief Executive Officer, Sanitation and Water for All

<Facilitator>

- Prof. Kenzo Hiroki, Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) / HELP Coordinator

🌀 Closing remarks by Dr. Han Seung-soo, HELP Chair and Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea