

# Regional cooperation in the management of water-related disasters in Asia and the Pacific

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# United Nations ESCAP

- ESCAP is the regional development arm of the United Nations for the Asia-Pacific region
- 62 members and associate members
- The largest United Nations body serving the Asia-Pacific region
- ESCAP has more than five decades of experience integrating risk management with economic and social development at the regional level.

**Regional  
Cooperation**



**Poverty  
Reduction**



**Managing  
Globalization**



**Emerging  
Social  
Issues**

# Mekong River Commission

- The MRC has been built on a foundation of nearly 50 years of knowledge and experience in the region starting from 1957 when it began as the UN-founded Mekong Committee.
- 4 members: Cambodia; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Thailand; and Viet Nam.
- Implements several programmes, including flood management and mitigation programme



Opening of Mekong Committee office in Bangkok by Dag Hammarskjold (left), Secretary-General of the United Nations, 1959





UNITED NATIONS  
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Commission for Asia and  
the Pacific

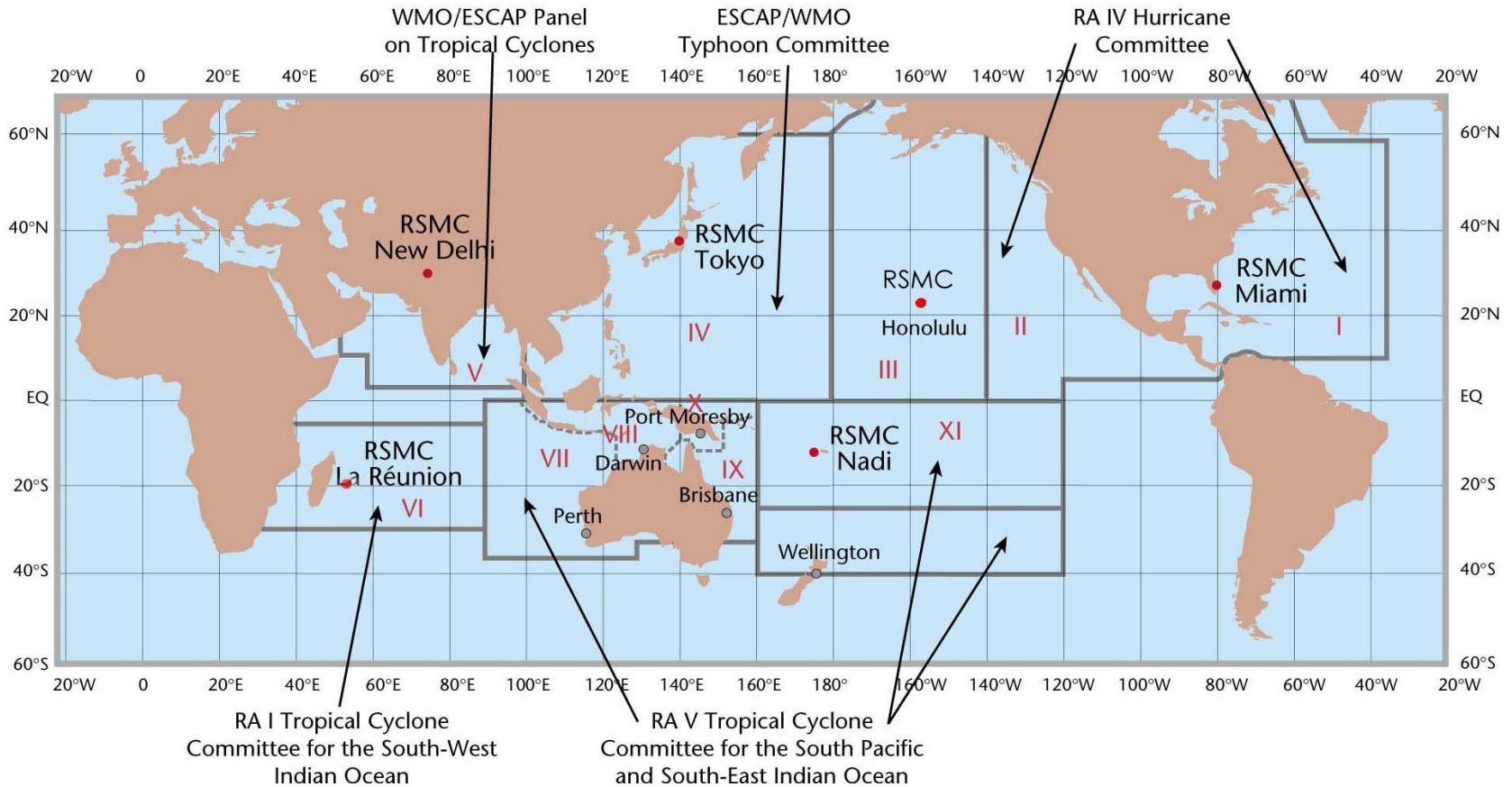


World  
Meteorological  
Organization

## UNESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee

- Intergovernmental body (established in 1968)
- 14 members: Cambodia; China; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Macao, China; Malaysia; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Singapore; Thailand; United States of America; and Viet Nam.
- Main objective: To promote and coordinate the planning and implementation of measures required to minimize the loss of life and material damage caused by typhoons.

## ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee – one of the five regional bodies of the WMO tropical cyclone programme





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WMO /UNESCAP

## Panel on Tropical Cyclones

- Intergovernmental body (established in 1971)
- 8 members: Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand.
- Main objective: to promote measures to improve tropical cyclone warning systems in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea.

# Regional Space Applications Programme

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## Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (RESAP)

- Launched by the first Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development, 1994, Beijing
- Promoting regional cooperative mechanisms on space technology applications for disaster management :
  - Sentinel Asia - a disaster management support system in the Asia-Pacific region
  - Regional mechanism for drought monitoring and early warning

# Tsunami Regional Trust Fund

ESCAP Tsunami Regional Trust Fund for the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia (administered by ESCAP)

- Support a series of activities towards establishing a comprehensive, "end-to-end" early warning system in the region
- Strengthen national and regional capacities in early warning





# ESCAP Strategy on DRR

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- ESCAP established a Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2008
- Asia Pacific Gateway for disaster risk reduction and development - a regional platform for information sharing and partnerships to assist countries with policies and programmes that deliver economic and social benefits and to ensure that DRR and CCA are integrated with development

# The way forward

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- Work with regional and global partners towards reducing the impacts of water-related disasters
- Strengthen regional cooperation to facilitate collective efforts and actions required for disaster risk reduction
- Increase awareness of water-related risks
- Strengthening/promoting networks and cooperative mechanisms in forecasting to reduce the impacts and damages of water-related disasters