



THE ASSOCIATION OF

# DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS IN SRI LANKA

**“SEEKING**

TO FURTHER

**DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT**

AS A PROFESSION, THE INTERESTS OF  
INDIVIDUALS AND THE PUBLIC

**IN SRI LANKA”**



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In May 2015, the UN General Assembly endorsed the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), which was adopted by UN Member States in March 2015. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction charts the global course over the next 15 years. It recognises that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk, but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders. It urges states to better understand disaster risk, strengthen disaster risk governance, invest in disaster risk reduction and enhance disaster response to 'Build Back Better'. Its implementation compels the channeling of expertise from multiple disciplines for informed decision making and innovative policy formulation. During the consultations and negotiations that led to finalisation of Sendai framework, strong calls were made to develop practical, evidence-based guidance to support implementation, ensure engagement and ownership of action by all stakeholders, and strengthen accountability in disaster risk reduction.

Reducing disaster risk is an issue cutting across different sectors, which requires trans-disciplinary and trans-boundary approaches with the support of the natural and social sciences, including for natural hazards and applied fields such as health, agriculture, economics, environment, engineering and technology. This necessitates a professional approach to their management as relevant competencies have to be developed continuously. In Sri Lanka, recognition of disaster risk reduction (DRR) as a core professional discipline, which implies a proactive approach to managing disasters and reducing the risks is yet to be achieved. Such expertise is available but is scattered in silos of professional disciplines and not utilised in the current realm of DRR in the country. There are real benefits to be gained from an integrated approach as it will leverage existing institutional knowledge and political support to promote both goals. Many of the strategies and tools overlap, especially for disaster risk reduction

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and adaptation.

The launch of the Association of Disaster Risk Management Professionals of Sri Lanka (ADRIIMP) aspires to address this need. ADRIIMP is an assembly of professionals representing varied disciplines to nurture a culture of safety in Sri Lanka from the impact of disasters. ADRIIMP envisioned to be an association of DRR practitioners, scientists, and enthusiasts from government, international / national organizations and other DRR entities in Sri Lanka. It will provide a platform for dialogue to achieve effective implementation of the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement (2015 - 2030) and the related Sustainable Development Goals.

***“It’s inconceivable that we’ll achieve the SDGs if we don’t get a handle on reducing disaster risk, including climate risk.”***

Efforts to build resilience will benefit from integrating DRR and climate change adaptation with existing efforts in DRR and other similar planning processes. Its influence will flow from its continuing and highly visible functions: to develop professional excellence, to raise public awareness, and to be engaged in relevant research. Through its work, it will help to define and set standards for the professional field and to promote high standards of quality through forms of recognition. The underpinning principles of ADRIIMP will provide an excellent opportunity for the integration of DRR into the professional competencies.

FURTHER INFORMATION INCLUDING OBJECTIVES OF ADRIIMP IS AVAILABLE AT:  
[www.adrimp.org.lk](http://www.adrimp.org.lk)