


## Promotion of Seismic Retrofitting in High Earthquake Risk Communities "Make Safer Now"

The entire region of Asia is one of the most hazard-prone regions in the world. Each year, a multitude of natural hazards such as floods, landslides, drought, earthquakes, hurricanes and typhoons, among others, ravage the region, resulting in huge loss of human lives and billions of dollar worth in economic losses. Adding to the already high probabilities of hazards, the combination of increasingly unplanned urbanization, poor economic status with slow pace of development and lack of appropriate scientific research has increased disaster risks to already a much high level. The devastating effects of frequently occurring disasters in one way or the other have challenged the region's aspirations in moving up the socio-economic and human development indices.

Among various hazards, earthquakes have become the most devastating disasters in the recent decades; in 2018, seismic activity, including earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic activities have claimed more lives than any other hazard type, and disrupted the lives of 3.4 million people [UNISDR]. The high level of risk in Asia is also evident from the fact that among the 15 most devastating earthquakes in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, 13 have been reported in Asia, that resulted in loss of nearly half a million lives and billions of dollar in economic losses. Past earthquakes, have, therefore, prompted towards the need for effective risk reduction, most importantly by decreasing the vulnerabilities of existing structures, as a significant proportion of human loss and casualties is due to damage to structurally weak buildings and structures. For this, strengthening the seismic capacity of buildings, through different repair and retrofitting techniques can be a cost-efficient and effective technique, one that has not yet been as widely and readily accepted despite numerous efforts in demonstration of its benefits at the policy as well as community levels.

With research and study in this field booming in the past years, and learning from community level interventions in risk reduction in the past, the need for improving ways of promoting the technique and technology in high seismic risk countries in Asia and across the world is extensively recommended.

DATE	ORGANIZERS	REGISTRATION
Monday, 30 <sup>th</sup> November, 2020 12:45 PM - 2:45 PM (Kathmandu, Nepal UTC+5:45)	Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network - Earthquake Risk Management Hub, National Society for Earthquake Technology Nepal (NSET) In association with OCHA, ICVA and CWS	ZOOM Registration Link: <a href="https://bit.ly/3pJU2k">https://bit.ly/3pJU2k</a> 

Webinar host



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## Objectives

The webinar is organized with the primary purpose to disseminate current knowledge and practice of improving seismic performance of existing buildings and other structures by discussing on the significance of seismic retrofitting as an essential intervention measure for earthquake risk reduction, elaborate on the research and development on retrofitting across the Asian region, interface the scientific advancements into practical applications in at-risk communities and learn from the success and failures of past interventions to shape the way in the future. For this, the webinar will cover the following major questions:

1. Where does seismic retrofitting lie in the spectrum of intervention and efforts to reduce earthquake risk?
2. What techniques and technologies in seismic retrofitting have been developed in the region that provide a positive outlook on earthquake risk reduction?
3. How can retrofitting technologies be better devised to incorporate the needs as well as limitations of at-risk communities?
4. What are the roles of DRR scholars and practitioners and governments in aiding the promotion of retrofitting across the region?
5. What can we learn from the interventions in seismic retrofitting across the Asian region and how can we utilize them in future disaster preparedness and recovery programs?

**To achieve the aforementioned objectives, the webinar will be structured as the following:**

- **Welcome and event brief** from the moderator (5 mins)
- **Opening Remarks** from ADRRN Chairperson Dr. Amod Mani Dixit (5 mins)
- **Keynote presentations** of three renowned scholars and/or practitioners working in the field of research, development, implementation and policy in seismic strengthening and retrofitting in the Asian region. (50 mins)
- **Panel discussion** with panelists sharing their experience and putting forward questions on the key notes. (15 mins: 5 minutes to each Panelists)
- **Open Discussion** among all the speakers and answering questions from the participants (40 mins)
- **Closing remarks with conclusion** and consensus building from ADRRN Secretary General Takeshi Komino (5 mins)

## Moderator

- Vibek Manandhar, ERM Hub, NSET

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## Presentations

PRESENTERS	TOPIC/THEME
Prof. Kimiro Meguro, University of Tokyo 20 min (Keynote)	Misunderstandings on Countermeasures for Earthquake Disaster Reduction, and Comprehensive Disaster Management System -Importance and Issues of Seismic Retrofitting of Weak Structures
Dr. Ramesh Guragain, NSET 15 min	Experiences in interfacing science into practice in retrofitting for earthquake risk reduction.
Dr. Hari Kumar, Geo Hazards International 15 min	Experience in seismic retrofitting in India

## Panelists

- Dr. Yubraj Paudel, Deputy Project Director at National Reconstruction Authority, Nepal (CLPIU-Education)
- Ms. MayFourth Luneta, Executive Committee Member, ADRRN and Dep. Executive Director for Operations, Centre for Disaster Preparedness, Philippines
- Ms. Maggie Stephenson, Shelter Expert

The webinar session is expected to include more than 100 participants representing various sectors in earthquake risk management in Asia. Participants will be invited through open call via various online platforms and ADRRN ERM hub network. It is expected that participants who are directly/indirectly allied to the sectors of disaster management will attend the program.

## The key expected outcomes of the webinar session are,

- Develop a common understanding among Asian DRR professionals on the need, benefits and challenges in seismic retrofitting.
- Sharing of experiences in research, development and promotion of retrofitting.
- Increase outreach of the ADRRN and ERM hub for further collaboration in research, development and implementation.
- Consensus building on the role of seismic retrofitting and its promotion in earthquake risk reduction.

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