HARBIN ALLIANCE

What is the Harbin Alliance?

Established in 2007, the Alliance was formed as a result of Oxfam Hong Kong's initiative at the International Disaster Risk Reduction Conference 2007 Harbin China. The Harbin Alliance is a worldwide partnership of NGOs, United Nations bodies, research organisations, and intergovernmental bodies committed to the harmonisation of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

The Alliance defines harmonisation of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction as the integration of adaptation and risk reduction policies, structures and mechanisms. The Alliance calls for strengthened conceptual and practical linkages between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in order to ensure that lessons are exchanged and responses are sustainable.

Who are its members?

The eight founding members of the Harbin Alliance are Asia Disaster Preparedness Center, Climate Action Network South East Asia, Climate Action Network South Asia, International Disaster Reduction Conference, Oxfam Hong Kong, ProVention Consortium, Special Unit for South South Co-operation at the UNDP, and UN/International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR).

At the UN climate change meeting in Bali, Indonesia, members of the Alliance came together to support a UN/ISDR-led side event on adaptation in the post-2012 regime. The members of the Alliance also held an open meeting for NGOs during the conference to discuss challenges and opportunities for harmonisation of adaptation and risk reduction within and outside of the UN climate negotiations.

In the IDRC Davos 2008 the Harbin Alliance organizes several sessions on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction interlinkages on the opening day.

What are its goal and objectives?

The Harbin Alliance aims to contribute to building resilience of poor and vulnerable women and men through harmonisation of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. The Harbin Alliance believes that it can achieve its goal by bridging the gap between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction sectors in order to create stronger synergies between the two approaches to risk management and reduction and to advance knowledge and action for both communities of practice.

The Harbin Alliance works towards the following objectives:

- Advanced knowledge and action on good practices in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
- DRR policies, institutions and processes are integrated with those of the UNFCCC process, particularly the post-2012 agreement.
- Enhanced capacity of practitioners and policy makers to identify linkages between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction for sustainable development.
- Recognition among practitioners, policy makers and donors that building resilience to disasters is the first line of defense to climate change, in particular for poor and vulnerable people.

What are the main activities in its work program?

The Harbin Alliance recently agreed on a five year work programme to plan and co-ordinate its efforts towards achieving its goals and objectives. The work programme is focused on the following main areas:

- Share and document knowledge and best practices on integrated risk management with DRR and CCA practitioners.
- Evaluation of capacity building efforts on climate change in the DRR community.
- Engagement with the UNFCCC processes relevant to adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
- Inform rethinking of funding mechanisms, such as international disasters aid from the climate change perspective.

Do you want to become a member?
For membership enquiries, please contact:
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Founding members:

adpc · CANSEA Climate Action Network Southeast Asia · GRF · Oxfam Hong Kong · PROVENTION CONSORTIUM · ISDR United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction · Special Unit for South-South Cooperation