



**Making  
Cities  
Resilient**

# ASIA PACIFIC NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 01: December 2022

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Hello everyone! Welcome to our first official Newsletter of the MCR2030 in Asia and Pacific!**

We are thrilled with what has come together the first year of the implementation of MCR2030, particularly the progress made in numerous cities across the world.

Looking back at the achievements in the first year, more than 1,400 cities around the world have joined MCR2030 with one third of that number located in Asia-Pacific. A key highlight is Bangladesh has become the country with the highest number of MCR2030 members.

Recently, Incheon as the first Resilience Hub has shown leadership by raising the bar on resilience and now hosting important forums where other MCR2030 members are eager to follow suit. Also, please congratulate Makati as second resilience Hub in the region.

As more cities learn about MCR2030 and the support we are providing cities, more are bound to sign up as well. And most importantly, the higher the number of cities engaged, the larger the opportunities for peer learning, cooperation, and mutual support among cities to build resilience through its resilience roadmap.

Office (IFRC APRO) in partnership with ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, Global Disaster Preparedness Centre and the Global First Aid Reference Centre, collaborated to organize an event aimed at addressing frequent heatwaves in the Asia Pacific region.



### **Making Cities Heat Resilient Asia Pacific Regional Heatwave 2022 Report**



The event held in May 2022 dubbed "Making Cities Heat Resilient", spearheaded by IFRC APRO, attracted over 550 participants from local governments, National Societies and Youth, UN and Intergovernmental agencies, Research and Academia.

The meeting was dedicated to moving “from understanding to action”, where participants were introduced to a range of available [resources](#) and opportunities for networked engagement to scale up regional heat resilience in cities and towns.

IFRC is a core partner in the Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) initiative, a global partnership of actors with expertise in urban resilience, Disaster Risk Reduction, climate change among other issues etched under Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

One of the key achievements from the meeting is the joint preparation and culmination of a milestone initiative in various cities and towns to raise awareness and encourage behavioral change via the Global Day of Heat Action on June 14, 2022, where coordinated heat wave flash mobs

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

### **MCR2030 joins the IFRC Network to combat frequent heatwaves in Asia Pacific**

To demonstrate that partnerships are important in fostering urban resilience, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Asia Pacific Regional

were performed in public spaces to raise awareness of heat risks and share simple ways to #BeatTheHeat as a social media hashtag for the event, alongside calls for increased sub-national Heat Action Plans to anticipatory heat action.

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## Maldives puts itself on the urban resilience map with its first city joining MCR2030

Maldives played host to a three-day technical training on Urban Risk Reduction in June, during which Kulhudhuffushi City (KF City) became the first city in the country to join Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) initiative. The training attracted 43 participants from 17 agencies and disaster management stakeholders, including Maldivian Red Crescent, from both the national and local levels in Maldives.

The training focused on orientating participants on MCR2030, its online dashboard and useful tools and partners available in the MCR2030 network; exploring the use of diagnostic tool to improve local resilience planning; and increasing exposure to understanding finance for resilience.



The training was a request from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) as part of its reengagement plan on local resilience in the Maldives. As part of the immediate outputs from the training, KF City together with NDMA and Local Government Authority (LGA) as the national government partners now have full access to the MCR2030 online dashboard.

KF City – currently categorized in Stage B of the MCR2030 [resilience roadmap](#) – successfully created the baseline resilience assessment using the Online [Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities](#) and the results were validated by the city stakeholders and members of city council. In addition, KF City stakeholder jointly identified key priority areas for a

draft of disaster risk reduction action items with responsible agencies and its timeline identified.

During the training, participants jointly completed and validated the preliminary level disaster resilience assessment and acknowledged various opportunities for improvement especially in expediting recovery and build back better, strengthening institutional capacity and improving infrastructure resilience.

With success on this front, MCR2030 now has plans in place to arrange for a similar training in Fuvahmulah City, with the schedule to be confirmed and announced soon.

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## Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRC.AP) of Asian Institute of Technology conduct joint training on Strengthening Cities Resilience

Owing to the current and future challenges of mainstreaming climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction into national and local development planning, Regional Resource Center for Asia and the Pacific (RRC.AP) of Institute of Technology (AIT), UNEP, UNDP, ICLEI, World Vision, epic-network, and UNDRR, with the support from Ministry of Environment government of Japan held a joint three-day virtual training in June 2022 to Strengthen Cities resilience.



The objective of the workshop was to assist city and local governments in building greater resilience to climate and disaster risks through integrating

climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction into wider city development plans and strategies.

The training sessions were specifically designed to engage participants in interactive discussions, group exercises and practical reflection on existing approaches, models, case studies, and experiences in strengthening cities resilience to disasters.

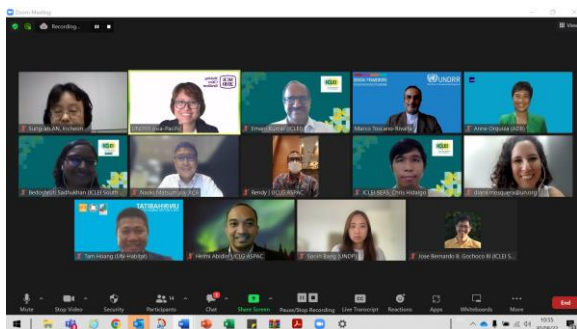
More than 200 participants who took part in the training include local government officials, disaster management professionals, and representatives from academic and training institutions working on disaster risk reduction, adaptation and sustainable development joined this online webinar.

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## MCR2030 hold Regional Coordinating Committee meeting

Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) held a Pacific Regional Coordinating Committee (RCC) meeting in August to review the progress made in the first six months of the implementation and the way forward.



Other objectives of the meeting were to get updated on the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR), the Sendai Framework Midterm Review (MTR) and a briefing on the Resilience Hub (local authorities that have an established track record in disaster risk reduction and resilience and are committed to support and mentor other MCR2030 municipalities).

MCR2030 RCC mapping was highlighted as one of the key elements that will help RCC members to work together more collaboratively on specific area of focus in the region.

The importance of Sendai Framework MTR was emphasized by pointing out that the work of cities and RCC members can provide input to the MTR on how far the local aspect in policy priority of the Framework can take shape.

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## International Disaster Resilience Leaders Forum Incheon, South Korea to mitigate Climate and disaster risk

The International Disaster Resilience Leaders Forum Incheon 2022 took place in the Republic of Korea in the city of Incheon on September 28 – 29, 2022 with the aim of managing climate and disaster risks within the wider Asia region and around the world.



The objective of the forum was to capture and share practical experience of ‘disaster resilience in action’ including technology for disaster risk reduction; Consolidate policy recommendations based on this experience to scale up the number of local governments taking effective action to prevent and reduce disaster risk; and ensure the region’s experience positively influences the global development policy agenda.

According to event organizers, investing in resilience translates into significant and tangible development gains. In the face of escalating hazards, which means the critical infrastructure systems and services – including roads, bridges, power and water supplies, schools, and hospitals – remain open and functioning, in addition to utilizing technology to achieve resilience.

The forum was organised by the Ministry of the Interior and Safety (MOIS), Incheon Metropolitan City, The Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS), The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), MCR2030 and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). Participants are from senior representatives and technical experts from 23 countries.

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## Making Cities Resilience at the Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Australia

The Australia government partnered with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) to host the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre from 19-22 September 2022.

The conference presented an opportunity for delegates from across the Asia Pacific to showcase and share experiences, action and innovation to help build a resilient future for the region and a final opportunity ahead of the Mid-Term Review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) in 2023, to focus on Sendai Framework progress and commitments in the Asia-Pacific Region.

The group represented other local authorities who have provided inputs to this Statement of Action through consultations and surveys conducted by United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC) under the framework of the Asia-Pacific Local Government Coordinating Body (APLG).



The statement shows commitments to undertake the local actions outlined in the 2021-2024 Asia-Pacific Action Plan for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030 in mainstreaming the national DRR strategy at the local level. Moreover, the statement emphasizes the result of the Global Platform of Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) 2022 hosted by the Government of Indonesia in Bali that focused on the importance and value of inclusive and networked multilateralism, international solidarity, cooperation; investment in DRR and systemic change; and the needs for transformative recovery after COVID-19 pandemic.

## Making Cities Resilient: Harnessing the Power of Collective Action

One of the working sessions aimed to share best practices and case studies and highlight the importance of including diverse voices across all aspects of disaster risk management through the panel discussion. Starting with Incheon City introduced the integrated practices to become a [safe and smart city](#).



The panel discussed about the challenge on the slow-onset climate change-driven disasters towards urban cities, the Mahila Housing Trust, as agency supporting communities living in slums, shared its experience to [adapt to climate change-induced risks, heat stress and flooding](#) in India. One of the recommendations was to have collaborative approach with all stakeholders involved in urban resilience building. The Curiosity Design Research from Philippines shared its experience on how to encourage multi-stakeholder engagement. Followed by Bangladesh with a suggestion to have better financing measure to enable communities to have a better access to grants or loans to upgrade their buildings to become more resilient to risks.

## 'Cost of Doing Nothing' costs more than you think

UCLG ASPAC hosted the Learning Lab "The Cost of Doing Nothing" – Scenarios for investing in resilience. This session under APMCDRR shows why it is important to invest in resilience and develop finance mechanism through different scenarios.

In a practical role play, 40 participants were divided into two groups and granted an opportunity to head different Departments in the Cities including Environment, Employment, Health, and Finance, as well as city mayor.



They were tasked to discuss and make decisions on how to move forward to prioritize on the development or invest in resilience building with varying scenarios such as number of disasters coming up, the pressure from the different challenges. These demonstrations showed that failure to make a decision on cities’ resilience in the past and at present, costs the city a lot more in the future.

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## Makati becomes the second Resilience Hub in Asia and Pacific

On September 27, 2022, the City of Makati in the Philippines became the second to be inducted into the Resilience Hub of MCR2030 in the Asia-Pacific region barely a year after Incheon Metropolitan City in 2021.

This follows the recognition of Makati as a Role Model City of the MCR2030 initiative by sharing know-how and experiences for reducing disaster risk, building urban resilience with other cities and participating in regional forums.



After this feat, the city Mayor Mar-len Abigail Binay adopted the principle of “Resilience is everybody’s business” at all sectors of society to manage disasters and build urban resilience in the country.

“We’re committed to continuing the journey of advocating resilience as a way of life through a Resilience Hub by collaborating with our constituents, partners and other local government units,” said Mayor Binay.

Also known as the financial hub of the country, Makati has developed a three-year plan of the Resilience Hub, which reflects on its area of work as follows: Knowledge sharing

with different cities; continuous promotion of DRR activities such as capacity building, forging pre-disaster arrangements, etc. to promote the synergies of cities learning from cities to achieve greater resilience; development of online platform as another channel to promote DRR and resilience building for cities in the country and around the world; and have Makati DRM Academy be opened for other cities to learn from Philippines.

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## Universities and Local Governments in Thailand attend the first MCR2030 training



Universities and Local Governments in Thailand had the privilege of attending the first MCR2030 training. The training offered in cooperation between UNDRR, UNDP Thailand, and Thai Disaster Preparedness Foundation (TDPF) was held between 16-18 November 2022. The participants were drawn from universities under the Thai Network for Disaster Resilience (TND) under TDPF, three local governments, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, and relevant agencies. The objective of the training was to enhance capacity building for the academia and local governments on urban resilience and to enhance understanding of the role of academia on how to provide technical support to the local government to build resilience. The expected output of this training for trainers is universities can use Disaster Scorecard as tools to support local government to understand its gaps and challenges as well as to localize the global framework to implement at local level.

With the success of this training, Prik and Lam Phak Bia municipality are the first two municipalities in Thailand joined MCR2030. These two municipalities will continue working with the local universities to apply scorecard to develop the local disaster risk reduction accordingly.

## Mongolia cities join MCR2030

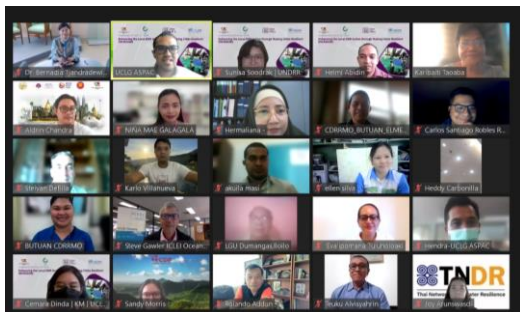
Mongolia made impressive steps with all provinces also known as aimags completing the scorecard assessment under MCR2030 previous campaign in 2019 and developed local DRR strategy linking with national DRR strategy by 2020 (Target E of the Sendai Framework achieved both at the national and local level). The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) facilitated reassessment using the Scorecard with all aimags and made comparison of the progress in 2022.

To strengthen capacity of local government to build resilience at local level, NEMA, Ulaanbaatar Capital city governors administrative office and Council for disaster risk reduction, and Office of the Deputy Prime Minister together with UNDRR, UN Resident Coordinator Office in Mongolia and Asian Development Bank co-organised the first MCR2030 workshop. In addition to all 21 aimags signing up, this workshop also focused on supporting the provincial governments to increase their disaster resilience action and help them to accelerate the implementation of local disaster risk reduction plans.

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## First MCR2030 webinar for cities in Pacific

UCLG, UNDRR, and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) co-organised the first MCR2030 webinar for cities in Pacific to raise awareness on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Resilience in the Pacific Region. The webinar highlighted the role national associations of municipalities can play in accelerating local actions to drive long-term resilience and promote collaboration between cities and national associations of municipalities under the MCR2030 initiative.



UCLG-ASPAC introduced Resilient Learning Module 1 and 2 which help cities to understand the potential risks and identify the characteristic of hazards for developing the

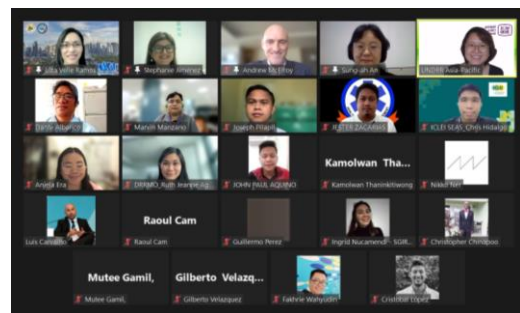
disaster risk assessment that is important for the strategy development. It also helps cities to understand more on better alignment of the global framework indicator into planning.

More than 50 participants learned how to be part of the MCR2030 initiative and joining the online dashboard, as well as how to connect with relevant partners, development agencies, national entities as well as international partners who can support and see their commitment. Ms. Liza Velle B. Ramos, EnP. Division Head of Research and Planning Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, Makati City took time to demonstrate and share Makati's resilience journey and its success as first Resilience Hub in Philippines.

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## UNDRR Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the American and the Caribbean arranged Webinar dubbed "Learning from the Hubs"

In a joint initiative the Americas & Caribbean Region and Asian-Pacific will hold the first inter-regional exchange between MCR2030 Resilience Hubs. The Cities of Incheon Metropolitan (South Korea), Makati (Philippines) and Mexico City (Mexico) will share their experiences under the framework of the MCR2030 Initiative, while presenting their three-year plans to support other local governments on disaster resilience and climate action.



This webinar aimed to enhance a better understanding on the role of Resilience Hubs to share their experience on how they can support other cities as 'mentors' and covered a range of topics with a focus on strategies and policies towards climate action and disaster risk management.

This space becomes the first step towards empowerment, cooperation, and peer learning between MCR2030 local governments from both regions, seeking to foster

interregional collaboration to implement bold actions towards a more resilient, sustainable, safe, and inclusive development.

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## RCC ROUNDUP

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### **The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) is implementing the program dubbed “Urban Resilience to Climate Extremes in Southeast Asia” (URCE).**

ADPC organised a training workshop in hybrid mode (in person and online) in April 2022 in Hanoi, Viet Nam under the URCE Program activities. Participants involved in the half-day training workshop were provided an introduction to the [MOBILISE](#) Tool, which was developed by THINKlab at the University of Salford in the UK.

The MOBILISE Tool is a shared risk information database that can be accessed by a range of agencies involved in disaster preparedness to establish a common understanding of the risk exposure, vulnerability and hazards in disaster-prone areas. The tool is also capable of sending early warning messages to local offices and the community and helps to establish situational awareness during disaster response.

The participants were provided with the basic knowledge in utilizing the MOBILISE Tool for risk visualization. The tool will be introduced to the target cities of My Tho and Nam Dinh under the URCE Program. It will be used for collaboration between stakeholders on developing a shared risk understanding, for scenario building and decision making around risk reduction measures that can be implemented by the URCE Program and into the future.

In May 2022, ADPC in collaboration with the Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority (VNDMA) and with the support of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), facilitated City Resilience Assessments (CRA) in My Tho and Nam Dinh cities, Viet Nam. The participatory workshops were important to assess the urban resilience levels of the target cities.

The main objective of the workshops was to understand the current level of city resilience of the target cities, with a focus on disaster preparedness and emergency response; set up a baseline and end line parameters for the target cities linked to the URCE program outcomes, and to measure the effectiveness of the program interventions; and identify current challenges, gaps and needs of all relevant sectors in regard to urban resilience to climate extremes and disaster risk.

### **Asian Development Bank (ADB) is running a multi-donor trust fund programme dubbed “Cities Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA)”.**

The initiative works closely with secondary cities in Asia and the Pacific to prepare bankable and sustainable infrastructure investments.

In August 2022, CDIA introduced a new publication titled [Climate, Infrastructure, and Your City](#) that offers insights on preparing bankable and sustainable infrastructure projects leading to more livable and resilient cities in Asia and the Pacific.

The publication aims to guide readers through a range of project preparation studies, in the hope that the stories can provide value to cities and other stakeholders in integrating climate resilience into their urban development work. The publication further illustrates how a holistic approach to resilience can enable cities to deliver not only climate adaptation and mitigation benefits but also socio-economic growth, environmental improvement, and good governance.

### **United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG ASPAC) promoting urban resilience under MCR2030**

UCLG ASPAC in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) has been promoting Disaster Risk Reduction and the Making Cities Resilient (MCR) over the past years. Therefore, UCLG ASPAC along with UNDRR, its regional core partner of MCR2030 assists the implementation of MCR2030, primarily supporting at the strategic level by providing high-level inputs to ensure the strategy stays on track and the programme integrated with MCR2030 progresses according to key success measures.



UCLG ASPAC held the 7th World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders on 10-14 October 2022 in Daejeon, South Korea. The event which is held every three years brought together mayors, governors, councilors and their associations, as well as local and regional practitioners from around the world.

Following the structure of the Durban Congress, the Congress in Daejeon was based on different tracks, to echo the components of the "Power of We" - the power of the municipal movement to break through as one.

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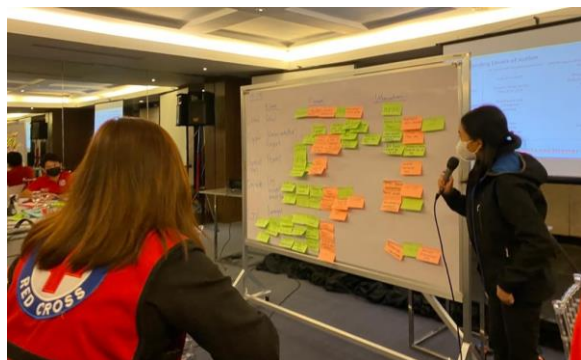
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## COUNTRY FOCUS OF THE QUARTER: PHILIPPINES

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In October 2021, the Philippines Government led by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), in partnership with the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) launched MCR2030 Philippines to strengthen engagement with local government units (LGUs) on disaster resilience and is institutionalizing MCR2030 to support the roll out of the Philippines's national disaster risk governance agenda. As of November 2022, 66 LGUs and 19 organizations based in the Philippines have joined MCR2030.



In September 28-30, 2022, IFRC APRO and Philippines Red Cross hosted the Urban Resilience Training of Facilitators, supported by the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance. The training brought convened participants from humanitarian

organizations, Metro-Manila local government authorities and academia to enhance capacities for the conduction of city-wide risk assessments and human-centered design solutions for urban resilience. UNDRR's MCR 2030 Coordinator, Sunisa Soodrak presented the MCR 2030 initiative as an example of local to global coalition building and shared entry points for enhanced in-country humanitarian and local government engagement.

During 19-20 October 2022, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and UNDRR arranged an online training on Urban Resilience and Making Cities Resilient as the observance of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) 2022. More than 160 participants attended the 3-hour sessions per day for two days which were served as an introductory training on urban and local resilience for OCD, local government units, and affiliated organizations. This online-training was the first webinar under MCR2030 to gear up towards improving local resilience through supporting inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable urban development using MCR2030 tools. Moreover, there was a presentation from Cities Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA) on preparing Bankable and Sustainable Infrastructure Projects to enhance LGU capacities in accessing finance.



The Urban Governance Forum 2022, organised by the Department of the Interior and Local Government on October 25, showed that mainstreaming the resilience framework in local governance is one of the priorities of the Philippines government. More than 490 participants attended this webinar under the theme "Setting the Roadmap to Urban Resilience". MCR2030 was presented to provide technical guidance on how MCR2030 can help localize the global framework, what urban resilience is, and how LGUs can develop resilience planning using MCR2030 tools. The sample from Makati City as first Resilience Hub in the Philippines on how to localise MCR2030 through system thinking has been shared during this forum.



**UNDRR through its cross-stakeholder initiative MCR2030**, carried out an in-person training for two Philippine cities, Ormoc and Baguio on October 25-28, 2022. The training on Urban Resilience and Making Cities Resilient was held at the UNDRR Global Education and Training Institute in Songdo, Incheon, Republic of Korea. The objective of the training is to: Increase the knowledge and capacities on disaster risk reduction at the sub-national level; provide approaches and tools to further support resilience building; facilitate discussion and forward planning on sub-sequent capacity building for the two cities and opportunities to connect with other MCR2030 partners; and foster city-to-city exchange and learning of good practices among the two cities and Incheon Metropolitan City.



Officials of the two cities said the reason they joined the initiative is so that they can understand the gaps they have and help enhance the resilience of the people of Ormoc and Baguio. The two cities are already aligning their DRR framework and Management framework with MCR2030.

Baguio City team is interested in looking at nature-based or hybrid solutions for flood mitigation, smart city operation, solid waste management, command center/emergency operations evacuation center, and early warning for landslide/earthquake.

Ormoc on the other hand is pushing to establish its own smart flood early warning, information and mitigation system that was initiated in August 2020 and the MCR2030 team is interested to learn their best practices in those areas. With participation from Incheon and Makati City as Resilience Hub and two cities in India as observers, there was fruitful discussion on how to use the result of [Disaster Scorecard](#) to develop the local resilience plan. As the next steps after this training, two cities planned to review and revisit the Local DRRM Plan to integrate MCR 2030 in the framework and design of the plan as well as applying [10 Essentials](#) of MCR 2030 in the formulation of Project Prioritization Criteria.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### **What is RCC?**

Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) is a coalition of practitioners, thought-leaders, financiers and donors, policy makers and technical agencies with a collective commitment to delivery and implementation of the Sendai Framework in coherence with other global commitments for building local resilience. The coalition links planning, policy and strategy with on-the-ground support for implementation and leverage for delivery of specific actions.

MCR2030 will operate at two levels simultaneously: globally, where the implementation and delivery strategy are negotiated, agreed and formed, and regionally, where implementation and support to cities occur.

The regional level will be comprised of MCR2030 Regional Coordinating Committees (MCR-RCC), each one supported by a Regional Secretariat. To ensure outreach and coverage, regional implementation will be divided into five regions: Americas & the Caribbean, Europe & Central Asia, Africa, Arab States, and Asia-Pacific.

RCC in Asia-Pacific comprises of 18 agencies working on urban resilience issue and UNDRR Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) serves as Regional Secretariat.

