

## **Vigyan Samachar: MoES News**

**20/01/2020**

### **11<sup>th</sup> Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) council meeting in Thailand on 20-22 January 2020: MoES delegation led by Dr. Madhavan Nair Rajeevan**

The Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) council meeting is being held in conjunction with the 10th anniversary of RIMES at Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand from 20<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020. The Indian delegation is led by Dr. M. N. Rajeevan, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India.

The Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES) was established on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009 as an international and intergovernmental institution. The devastating Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004 prompted the Asian and African countries to put concerted effort to work together for a multi-disciplinary early warning and mitigation system and RIMES evolved for capacity building in disaster preparedness to respond to trans-boundary hazards. RIMES was registered with the United Nations on 1 July 2009. RIMES operates from its regional early warning center located at the campus of the Asian Institute of Technology in Pathumthani, Thailand. RIMES council is composed of heads of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and national scientific and technical agencies generating multi-hazard early warning information. The Council is empowered to make policy decisions, on behalf of governments, concerning regional early warning arrangements, for enhanced preparedness, response, and mitigation of natural hazards. Currently, India chairs the RIMES Council.

The primary focus of RIMES is to build joint efforts for enhancing capacity building of national to local level institutions on all aspects of end-to-end early warning, within each Member States' early warning frameworks. India is the Chair of the RIMES Executive Board. India provides extensive financial and in-kind support to RIMES in support of its collective activities. The Ministry of Earth Sciences supports an expansion of the targeted

efforts, under the RIMES umbrella, towards research, education, communication, and the application of proven knowledge science and technology. Strategic investments, of human resources and capital in such matters, as they relate to hazards, offer the promise of producing significant reductions in the loss of life and property from natural, technological and human-induced disasters. One of the priority mechanisms is funding assistance from the Government of India to RIMES to address the priorities identified by the RIMES member states and the cooperating countries.

The meeting will review 10 years of the PRIMES program and plan for the trajectory of RIMES. There would be 8 sessions spanning from 20 to 22 January, 2020,.

The 1st session on January 20, 2020 would take stock of RIMES delivery and value added services and its future plans to meet existing and emerging demands of its different member countries

The 2nd session would be for sharing experiences of selected countries like Bangladesh (Bangladesh Meteorological Department – BMD), Sri Lanka ( Water Resources & Irrigation Department) and Papua New Guinea (PNG's National Weather Service). These countries leveraged RIMES mechanism to establish impact based forecasting services and risk based early warning systems.

The 3rd session is brief experience sharing by all the member countries followed by the 4<sup>th</sup> session which is considered to be important in which the partnership evolution of UNESCAP, WMO, World Bank and UKMO ARRCC to be discussed to leverage RIMES mechanism for development of innovative instruments.

The 5<sup>th</sup> session would deliberate on recent advances in forecasting technologies to shape future regional cooperation.

The 6<sup>th</sup> session would be to discuss regional cooperation which is promoted and supported by development partners to provide and enhance user oriented services leading to resilient societies.

The 7<sup>th</sup> session is to prepare a master plan for 2021-2025 and to bring out a Road Map till 2030.

The 8<sup>th</sup> session of the conference would be on Green Climate Fund (GCF) Initiatives as RIMES and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) signed a Cooperation Agreement and mobilizing Resources from GCF.

Dr. Mohammad Faiyaz Anwar  
Project Scientist, Vigyan Prasar