

SAADRI

South Asia Alliance
of Disaster Research Institutes (SAADRI)

The Charter

COVER PAGE	i
TABLE OF CONTENTS	ii
Background	1
Article 1: Name and Vision	2
Article 2: Purpose and Objectives	2
Article 3: Activities	3
Article 4: Membership	3
Article 5: Organizational Structure	4
Article 6: General Assembly	4
Article 7: Board of Directors	5
Article 8: Secretariat	6
Article 9: Representation of the Views of SAADRI	7
Article 10: Resources	7
Article 11: Amendments	7

The Charter of the South Asia Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes (SAADRI)

Background

Significant advances have been made in the application of damage reduction principles following the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA); yet, many challenges remain including the new ones as seen by the sharp increase of frequency of extreme weather related disasters and the continued increase in disaster losses. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (SFDRR) has urged for the need to more effectively link sustainable development and impact of climate change towards a universal goal of harmonious life with nature and our planet. The SFDRR explicitly called for coordinated efforts by the scientific community to deepen the understanding of disaster risks, promote evidenced-based implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies, and transfer and disseminate scientific knowledge and technologies in support of decision-making processes. Building on the momentum of these efforts, the Global Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes (GADRI) was established in 2015 as a collaborative platform for engaging discussion, sharing knowledge and promoting networks on topics related to risk reduction and resilience to disasters.

Many participating experts at the global summit of the GADRI held on March 2019 at DPRI, Kyoto University, supported strongly the idea of promoting regional networks of the alliance for better focus on regional and local issues in DRR and promotion of sharing of knowledge and partnership in dealing with new challenges primarily brought about by climate change impact. Encouraged by this view, several researchers and experts signed a document in support of the establishment of the South Asia Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes. Thereafter, an international workshop was hosted by the Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM), Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India on 20-21 December 2019. This workshop was a kick-off meeting for instituting SAADRI. Fifty participants, academicians, researchers, practitioners from 6 countries, Japan, USA, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and India actively deliberated and pledged support on the idea for the formation of SAADRI.

On 6th November 2020 during the First Jai Krishna Memorial Lecture hosted by the Centre of Excellence in Disaster Mitigation and Management (CoEDMM), IIT Roorkee, the IIT Roorkee Director, Professor A K Chaturvedi, has very kindly announced the commencement of SAADRI in CoEDMM, IIT Roorkee. Other dignitaries present were Ms Mami Mizutori, UNDRR Head and Special Representative to UN Secretary-General, Dr P K Mishra, Sasakawa Laureate of UNDRR and Principal Secretary of PM of India, and 500 plus dignitaries and participants online.

Article 1: Name and Vision

1.1 Name

South Asia Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes (SAADRI) – hereinafter referred to as “SAADRI”.

1.2 Vision

SAADRI aims to deepen the understanding of disasters in the region including climate change impact, learn from evidence-based lessons, investigate and resolve implementation challenges, to achieve better resilience, infrastructure and technology adoption systems, improved livelihood of people, and promote societal safety culture by integrating knowledge and technologies.

Article 2: Purpose and Objectives

2.1 Purpose

SAADRI seeks to contribute to enhancing disaster risk reduction and disaster resilience in close collaboration with organizations in the region and around the world through meaningful sharing of information, knowledge, experiences, ideas and initiatives on relevant research. Science and technology, partnerships and focus on humanity are the driving forces for SAADRI.

2.2 Objectives

To achieve the above purpose, SAADRI has the following objectives:

- a. To establish a South Asia research network that promotes and engages in all aspects of disaster research.
- b. Over time, prepare a road map for guiding implementable research and help facilitate the alliance of disaster research institutes and groups to resolve challenges faced by field experts.
- c. SAADRI to promote capacity and development of disaster research institutes and enhance active exchange among researchers and students engaged in disaster research.
- d. Strive for active exchange and sharing of data and information for scientific research across the countries of South Asia to promote and support transboundary risk reduction
- e. To serve as an advocacy organization presenting evidence-based approaches and relevant innovation that influence decision-making processes.
- f. To develop partnerships with global and local organizations to learn and disseminate.

Article 3: Activities

SAADRI will engage in the following activities:

- a) Promote collaborative disaster risk research initiatives among the member institutes in the region.
- b) Promote international research groups in the region to investigate and deepen knowledge on current and future disasters in the region, and find and implement new research methodologies for disaster risk reduction and implementation.
- c) Facilitate multi-institutional collaborative research grants
- d) Promote qualitative human aspect where disaster is approached from an embedded ethics, responsibility and sustainability awareness
- e) Take up activities at School level in different regions to promote the concept of sustainability and training on what should be done when natural disasters strike.
- f) Organization of conferences, workshops and meetings.
- g) Use technology to promote technical risk communication in local dialects.
- h) Dissemination and sharing of information, publications, reports, data and other research outputs.
- i) Facilitate rapid reconnaissance field survey methods and technology following disasters.
- j) Dissemination of SAADRI news releases, policy recommendations, news bulletins, research reports, and other publications prepared from time to time.

Article 4: Membership

The membership of the SAADRI is open to all Individuals and Institutions connected with or interested in any scientific, engineering and other aspects of disaster risk reduction.

4.1 Types of membership

(i) Institutional

Institutes and organizations to contribute to the advancement of disaster research, and those working in the field of disaster risk reduction in South Asia are eligible to become institutional members of SAADRI. Each institute shall nominate one of its Faculty/Scientists/officials to represent the institution in SAADRI.

(ii) Individual

Interested Individuals who are contributing to the advancement of disaster research, and those working in the field of disaster risk reduction in South Asia are eligible to become Individual members of SAADRI

(iii) Student

Interested students including post-doctoral, doctoral and post graduate who are contributing to the advancement of disaster research, and those working in the field of disaster risk reduction in South Asia are eligible to become student members of SAADRI

(iv) Associate

Individuals invited by BOD of SAADRI to become Associate members

(v) Donors

Any individuals and organizations who want to voluntarily donate to the cause of SAADRI mission.

4.2 Voting rights

The institutional members and individual members shall have the voting rights.

4.3 Interested institutes/Individuals/students who are eligible will be applying and shall duly complete and submit the membership form for the respective membership to the Secretariat. The membership will have to be approved by the BOD of SAADRI.

4.4 To share knowledge and promote collaboration, BOD of SAADRI may designate interested member institutions with special status for having further collaborations in terms of its centers of excellence, chair, and any research collaborations etc. The terms and conditions to be decided by BOD of SAADRI.

4.6 At present, there is no membership fee charged to members. In future, reasonable membership fee will be introduced as decided by the BOD of SAADRI. SAADRI welcomes self-support system in form of Sponsorships from Government/ Non-government organization along with Institutional/ individual supporters.

4.7 Termination and resignation

Any member can resign from the membership or can be terminated at a notice of one month in advance. The BOD of SAADRI will have the discretion of accepting the resignation or may terminate the member by giving a notice of one month.

Article 5: Organizational Structure

The structure of SAADRI consists of:

- a. General Assembly which includes all SAADRI member institutions and individual members.
- b. The Board shall serve as the governing Board of SAADRI based on representatives from institutions elected to board by SAADRI membership.
- c. The SAADRI Secretariat shall be instituted with IIT Roorkee to help the smooth functioning of the SAADRI.
- d. The interim period before the General Assembly and the Board are instituted, the procedure of nominations/selection of the office bearers will be with the Secretary-General under the advice of the programme advisors, SAADRI.
- e. The SAADRI shall have two Programme Advisors.
- f. The Secretary-General and the two Programme Advisors shall be the Permanent Members of SAADRI Board.

Article 6: General Assembly

- 6.1 The General Assembly includes all member institutions/ individuals including the Board member institutions/ institutions.
- 6.2 All Student, Associate and Donor Members are part of the General Assembly. Voting rights are restricted as discussed in Section 4.2.
- 6.3 The General Assembly approves the members of the Board.
- 6.3 The General Assembly approves important decisions made by the Board.
- 6.5 SAADRI shall nominally hold at least one Annual General Meeting and at the times as decided by members. The AGM may be preceded by Annual lecture by eminent engineer/scientist/social worker etc.

Article 7: Board of Directors (BOD)

7.1 The Board shall be established on the geographical basis of member country institutes working/ interested in the designated disaster research areas particularly related to various disasters, climate change and vulnerability conditions in South Asia. The Board shall have 05 members from member-country institutions, 05 individual expert members serving in their individual capacity from member-countries and 05 Co-opted expert members (who may be from outside the member countries) nominated by the Secretariat and approved by the General Assembly of SAADRI.

7.2 The Board shall have two Co-Chairs to facilitate discussions and presentation of reports on SAADRI activities to the General Assembly. The First Co-Chair position will be held by the Head of CoEDMM, IIT Roorkee, India, who will also be the Member Secretary of the Board. The other Co-Chair will be elected/ nominated by the Board.

7.3 The Secretary General and the two Programme Advisors will be Ex-Officio Members of the Board.

7.4 The Constitution of the Board will be:

Ex-Officio Members of the Board:

Programme Advisors- 2

Secretary General- 1

Members:

Co-Chair1, Member Secretary of the Board - Head, CoEDMM ((Ex-Officio Member)

Co-Chair2 - Nominated/ Elected by the BOD

Director IIT Roorkee or his nominee (Ex-Officio Member) - 1

Dean SRIC, IIT Roorkee or his Nominee (Ex-Officio Member) -1

Nominated Members by Head, CoEDMM IIT Roorkee- 2

Nominated Member from NDMA- India -1

Representatives of Institutional Members from Member Countries- India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan- (One from each member country) - 5

Individual Nominated Members from Member Countries- India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan (One from each member country) - 5

Co-opted Expert Members (who can be from outside the member countries) - 5

7.5 The term of Board Members shall be for three years; and can serve the Board for not more than two consecutive terms. The Ex-officio members shall continue as long as they are holding their original positions.

7.6 The Board shall:

- a. Formulate principles and policies which shall guide the activities and operations of the Board and approve MoUs and operational agreements from other institutions with SAADRI.
- b. Accept membership of institutions and centers to encourage cooperation and sharing of knowledge and recommend to the General Assembly for approval.
- c. Formulate the Activity calendar of SAADRI.
- d. Approve individual and participatory research project proposals from the member institutions and may facilitate funding.
- e. Review and monitor outcomes of the execution of its plans it undertakes.
- f. Issue directives and recommendations necessary or desirable for the effective functioning of SAADRI.
- g. Report to the General Assembly.

7.7 The Board shall meet in regular sessions including e-conference, with a quorum of two-thirds of members, at least once a year. In case the specified quorum is not achieved in a Board meeting, the members present in the meeting may decide to hold the meeting with the members present. The quorum in this special case shall not be less than one-third of the total members of the Board including the Secretary General. Board meeting shall be convened by the Secretariat of SAADRI.

7.8 The Board shall consider options and methods for financing of future activities of SAADRI.

7.9 The Board may approve formation of committees constituting the members to promote SAADRI membership, outreach to institutions outside South Asia, organization of special activities for SAADRI etc. and send recommendations to the Secretariat for Board approval.

Article 8: Secretariat

8.1 The SAADRI Secretariat shall be located in Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, Roorkee, India.

8.2 In order to promote regional sharing of knowledge and information and share the responsibility of operating the Secretariat, the Secretariat shall be in close contact with the member institutions.

8.3 The roles and responsibilities of the Secretariat are:

- a. The Secretariat shall be responsible for conducting all operations including administration, programming and coordination of SAADRI ensuring effective and prompt action as directed by the Board.
- b. The Secretariat shall function under the instructions and suggestions of the Secretary-General.
- c. To facilitate the formulation and implementation, with the approval of the Board, of policies, programmes and priorities identified by the General Assembly.

d. In order to accomplish its goals, the SAADRI Secretariat may organize internationally coordinated research initiatives with appropriate institutions and centers as approved by the Board.

e. To organize meetings of the General Assembly and the Board.

f. To coordinate regular and effective communication and disseminate information among members.

g. To provide services to members and other organizations as authorized by the Board.

h. To develop publications and outreach materials.

i. To maintain website and updated information contained therein.

Article 9: Representation of the Views of SAADRI

The Board shall determine the manner and procedure for establishing the representative views of SAADRI pertaining to any matter within its operation. These collective views may be presented to governments or private groups, without impairing the rights of individual members to present their own views.

Article 10: Resources

SAADRI shall welcome self-support system in form of Sponsorships and/ or other forms of supports necessary for its work, provided these are in line with the vision, purpose and objectives of SAADRI.

Article 11: Amendments

The Charter shall be amended with the following procedures:

a. A request for amendments shall be a written submission to the Secretariat, either by a member of SAADRI or by the Board, not later than two months prior to the meeting of the General Assembly.

b. Such proposals shall be circulated to the members of SAADRI at least one month prior to the General Assembly.

c. Proposed amendments shall be voted by a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly members present.

d. The approved amendments shall be effective at the closing of the General Assembly.
