

Spotlight on:

Extraordinary Virtual ARISE Board Meeting

The extraordinary ARISE Board meeting was held on 2 March 2021 to discuss the successful membership application of ARISE to the [Coalition for Disaster Risk Infrastructure](#) (CDRI). This represents a good opportunity for ARISE to support with best practices as well as a positive networking prospect. The Q&A centered around logistics, priorities, membership and the timeline. Abhilash Panda, Deputy Chief of Partnerships Branch, UNDRR, clarified that CDRI is open to any country with no criteria required to join CDRI except the willingness to sign with the charter of CDRI.



Five areas were agreed for cooperation between ARISE and CDRI:

1. Financing disaster and climate resilient infrastructures
2. Developing technical standards for disaster and climate resilient infrastructures
3. Promoting innovation in infrastructure sectors
4. Creating a marketplace for resilient infrastructures
5. Advocacy & Partnerships

ARISE Annual Network Leaders Meeting

The ARISE Network Leaders Meeting took place on 14 April 2021 bringing together the new ARISE Global Board Members and ARISE Network Leaders. The meeting provided space to showcase the work on [ARISE Four Priorities](#), present opportunities for ARISE engagement with the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructures (CDRI) and identify pilots to implement the ARISE priorities on SMEs, Resilient Infrastructure, and Insurance to be led by ARISE Members.

The meeting started with the welcome of all new ARISE Networks, including from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt, Panama and Grenada by the ARISE Co-Chairs, Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Martha Patricia Herrera González, Global Social Impact Director at CEMEX Mexico.

During the first session focusing on SMEs, ARISE members and ARISE Network leads Masato Takamatsu from the Tourism Resilience Japan, Nana Yaa Amoah from CORAF, and Lizra Fabien from the Dominica's Association of Industry and Commerce (DAIC) presented the main findings of the new DRR guidance report "[Reducing Risk and Building Resilience of SMEs to Disasters](#)" launched in December 2020. Speakers also shared preliminary recommendations from a forthcoming follow-up report, to be launched in 2021, focusing on specific sectors including Transportation, Construction, Utilities, and Agriculture. The presenters also shared their own experiences, challenges and good practices from their work in Business Continuity Planning (BCP) for SMEs, the tourism and agriculture sectors.

Key events related to ARISE Priority Areas:

May 2021

- **5 May-7 June** [Cycle of keynote conferences](#): *Comprehensive disaster risk management*
- **6 May** [Together towards City Resilience](#): MCR2030 Europe and Central Asia

Forthcoming

- Launch of Risk-Informed Investment Report
- Launch of SMEs Resilience Reports: focus on agriculture, transport, construction & utilities

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During the following session on Resilient Infrastructure, Abhilash Panda, UNDRR, presented the possibilities for ARISE to contribute to CDRI on resilient infrastructure. The last thematic session focused on Insurance and included presentations by ARISE members working in the insurance sector, Michael F. Rellosa from PIRA, Jihad Faitrouni from AMAN and Ruben Leonardini from SANCOR Seguros on the UNDRR-ICMIF report identifying seven practical mechanisms for how the cooperative and mutual insurance sector could help drive prevention and disaster risk reduction. To highlight the important role of insurance sector in DRR the speakers included illustrative examples of their own work on insurance. The meeting sessions were accompanied by interactive polls for attendees based on the recommendations from the above presentations to identify possible pilots to drive forward the ARISE Four Priorities.

Launch of the new ICMIF-UNDRR report: "From Protection to Prevention: the role of cooperative and mutual insurance in disaster risk reduction"

In November 2019, the International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation (ICMIF) and United Nations Office for Disaster risk Reduction (UNDRR) began a multi-year collaboration to help address the urgent challenge of reducing disaster risks. The collaboration aims to identify what is needed in practical terms to enable a shift within the insurance industry from a focus on providing risk transfer products and services as a means to protect the insured from disaster risks to an emphasis on prevention through DRR incentives, awareness, capacity, and financing.

With a member-driven operating model, the cooperative and mutual insurance sector is uniquely positioned to take a lead in charting a practical path from risk protection to prevention. As a result of these efforts UNDRR and ICMIF published the new report *"From Protection to Prevention: the role of cooperative and mutual insurance in disaster risk reduction"*. The report identifies seven practical mechanisms based on an analysis of twenty case studies from ICMIF members. The mechanisms provide a practical way for the cooperative and mutual insurance sector to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The report was officially launched during a webinar on 30 April 2021 with prominent speakers from the Co-operators, P&V, Länsförsäkringar Sak, ICMIF and UNDRR. The webinar also showcased the first pilot projects from ICMIF members working in collaboration with the UNDRR to put the mechanisms into practice. Click [here](#) to watch the recording of the webinar.



News round-up:

Americas and the Caribbean

ARISE Canada: Race to Resilience Campaign

ARISE Canada has been leading the engagement of ARISE in the [Race to Resilience Campaign](#) which was officially introduced at the [Climate Adaptation Summit](#) on 25-26 January 2021. [ARISE was selected](#) on 30 March 2021 on the first round to be part of this global initiative.



ARISE Canada and CARICHAM: Upcoming Business Continuity Tool

ARISE Canada and ARISE in the Caribbean (CARICHAM) are collaborating to support CARICHAM's SMEs resilience strategy by developing a digital tool for Business Continuity. This initiative demonstrates the important role of ARISE in the region for providing a platform for exchange and cooperation which contributes to enhanced business knowledge on DRR and strengthened role of the private sector in DRR.

ARISE Panama: New ARISE Network Lead in Panama

SUMARSE will lead ARISE in Panama and support the implementation of the ARISE global strategy. As part of its role as ARISE Network Lead, SUMARSE will recruit member companies that can contribute to the implementation of the [ARISE Four Priorities](#) and will support advocacy and raising awareness on the need of private sector resilience and DRR in the country. SUMARSE works together with 240 companies and is a member of the Global Compact, representing the [World Business Council for Sustainable Development](#) in Panama.

ARISE Trinidad and Tobago: Business Continuity Planning (BCP) Workshop

ARISE Trinidad and Tobago (AMCHAM T&T) in partnership with UNDRR and the Trinidad and Tobago National Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) conducted a [BCP workshop](#) to train SMEs in DRR and strengthen their resilience on the 18 February 2021. The workshop provided a framework for 18 MSMEs to start identifying and addressing risk exposure to their businesses, prioritizing areas for preventive action. The participants learned about the need to reduce risks, the role of the private sector in DRR, and how to integrate UNDRR and other BCP tools in their operations.



Arab States

ARISE United Arab Emirates: COVID-19 Rehabilitation Program

ARISE United Arab Emirates (UAE), in association with RAK Hospital, launched the Middle East first-ever comprehensive [“Online COVID-19 Rehabilitation Program”](#) in October 2020 which will be offered free of charge to patients suffering from chronic COVID-19 symptoms, also described as ‘long COVID.’ Led by the wellness division of the RAK Hospital, Arabian Wellness & Lifestyle Management, this comprehensive program combines the expertise of a multidisciplinary team comprising of physicians, nutritionists, psychologists, and physiotherapists who have worked hard to develop and deliver this idea.



“Our aim at ARISE UAE is to create safe and resilient communities while working towards saving lives. COVID-19 being the biggest disaster of our times, needed our immediate attention, therefore, we felt it was necessary for us to work on presenting a solution which can help the communities not only in this country but worldwide as well. The RAK Hospital team had the required know-how to carry our vision forward, hence the concept is now a reality,” stated Dr. Mahmoud Burai, Chairman of ARISE UAE and Senior Advisor of Dubai Government.

Infrastructure Resilience in the Real Estate Sector

ARISE UAE and UNDRR organized an exploratory roundtable discussion with ARISE UAE board members and real estate authorities on infrastructure resilience in the real estate sector. The roundtable was held on 24 March 2021 in Dubai. The real estate developers and regulators underlined the need for the public and private sectors to join efforts in enhancing resilience in the real estate sector through continuous information sharing and exchange. Participants discussed the need for quantifying the resilience of the real estate sector that goes beyond self-assessments, including both buildings and associated systems, and agreed on the need for the development of infrastructure resilience indicators, standards, and certification for the real estate sector.



The joint discussion between the government regulators and the private sector was concluded with an agreement to establish a platform/committee under the ARISE UAE which will include regulators, investors, real estate developers, and operators to continue the dialogue on real estate infrastructure resilience; pilot the development and application of a real estate infrastructure resilience standard and certification; and promote infrastructure resilience among other stakeholders. Click [here](#) to read the full article about the Roundtable on Infrastructure Resilience in the Real Estate Sector.

Arab Forum for Sustainable Development 2021



During the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development ARISE UAE participated in a special session for the private sector under the theme [“Catalyzing private sector engagement in the Decade of Action”](#) on 30 March 2021. The session explored examples from the Arab world on building the skills of youth and empowering women in the workplace, as well as supporting business resilience among SMEs. Business and academic representatives explored perspectives and solutions for better recovery from COVID-19, while setting a new course for the Arab world where SDGs

are at the core of the business strategy and practices. Watch the recording of the session [here](#).

Emerging ARISE Network in Egypt

The Egyptian Businessmen's Association (EBA) with the support from UNDRR is preparing for the launch of the new ARISE Network in Egypt. EBA is a non-governmental, non-for-profit organization that seeks to unify the efforts of private Egyptian interests in contributing to the productivity and efficient national economic and social development of Egypt.

Asia & Pacific

ARISE Japan: Public Symposium 2021 in Japan

The ARISE Japan's annual symposium which was organized on 2 March 2021 focused on "Creating disaster resilient communities by 'going local' in DRR". The event featured examples for local DRR and resilience building in Japan from the city of Sendai as well as a mountainous World Heritage village, a seaside tourist town facing high-tsunami risk, and a business skyscrapers district in Tokyo. The event attracted 60 participants, of whom over 40% were from the wider private sector and over 30% from ARISE. One of the key messages from the symposium was that investments in DRR and resilience can generate confidence of residents and visitors, which is crucial for risk-informed sustainable tourism and development, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Click [here](#) to read a summary report of the symposium.



ARISE Philippines: Educating Future Resilience Leaders



The Asia Pacific College (APC), one of the members of ARISE-Philippines from the education sector, teamed up with IBM for the [SkillsBuild Innovation Camp](#) seeking to fast track their student's competency in front-end web development. In this run of IBM's Corporate Social Responsibility initiative for education and skills development, students were asked to focus their hands-on training on developing web solutions for disaster resilience.

To this end, ARISE-Philippines, through its Vice-Chair, Ret. Admiral Alexander Pama, provided participating students with an overview of disaster resilience in tandem with the Department of Science and Technology Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST STII). To ensure the initiative creates real world solutions, Resilient.PH connected participating students with local organizations that needed web solutions to address their disaster management gaps. On 10 March 2021, the innovation camp culminated in the Pitch Night where top 10 student groups presented their solutions to judges from IBM, ARISE-Philippines, CodeDoor, and other APC partners institutions.



Research on Business Continuity & Sustainable Recovery of Philippines MSMEs

ARISE-Philippines' member, the University of the Philippines Institute for Small-Scale Industries (UP ISSI), is currently conducting a [study](#) on "Business Continuity and Sustainable Recovery of Philippine MSMEs: Basis for Developing an Enterprise Resilience Program" which aims to provide localized and context-based information on business continuity-related needs of the Philippine micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) facing the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as other threats to their business operations. This research is part of the UP ISSI's ongoing study funded by the UP Diliman Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Research and Development under its Outright Research Grant.



2021 Training Calendar

UP ISSI released its [2021 Training Calendar](#) which includes the e-Honing Agents for National Disaster Awareness (e-HANDA) Course intended to increase awareness of MSMEs on disaster preparedness through Business Continuity Planning (BCP). Further, as part of its advocacy program to promote the resilience of MSMEs, the UP ISSI will continue to conduct free Business Continuity Awareness Webinars through its [Communities of Practice for Entrepreneurship \(COPE\) Webinar Series](#).

Remarks by Mami Mizutori on 'Financing for Disaster Risk Reduction and Risk-informed Approaches to Investing across the SDGs' at the 2021 ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum



Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for DRR and ARISE Co-Chair, released a statement at the



Financing for Development forum

2021 ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum, stating that:

"The current approach to funding disaster risk reduction is not keeping pace with the exponential rise of disaster risk in urban and rural settings and this undermines efforts to achieve the SDGs. This was obvious to us long before the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic."

She elaborated on the upcoming [G7 Summit](#) in June 2021, voicing her hope to "see leadership from the G7 Summit on this critical issue which affects all of us - without distinction - if the COVID-19 virus continues to circulate and mutate in so many countries. The lack of vaccine equity highlights how international cooperation for developing countries falls short of the level required to achieve the SDGs."

As such, she highlighted the importance of the private sector to reduce disaster risk: *"The private sector is often the biggest generator of risk – but this means it also has immense potential to reduce disaster risk. It is essential that all investment and business decisions in the private sector are risk informed. This is something we actively pursue through our private sector network known as ARISE. I hope that this year will see a paradigm shift in political attitudes towards financing for disaster risk reduction especially in places that are largely unprotected from the ravages of the climate emergency and the threat of biological hazards. Their vulnerability makes us all vulnerable."*

Six-year Anniversary Since the Adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

On the occasion of the six-year anniversary since the adoption of the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction \(2015-2030\)](#) on 18 March 2021, Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for DRR and ARISE Co-Chair, released the following statement:



"As we mark the 6th anniversary of the adoption of the Sendai Framework, it is time to recognize that there is no such thing as a natural disaster. Six years ago, UN Member States included health and biological hazards in the Sendai Framework as a key area of focus if we were to be successful in our stated goals of reducing loss of life and reducing economic losses. Unfortunately, five years later the COVID-19 pandemic arrived, and few countries had equipped themselves to deal with it. The recovery from COVID-19 is an opportunity to re-set priorities to ensure that the 21st century is one in which we act decisively to reduce the existential threats that are building up everywhere and threatening our survival as a species."

