



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



INSPIRE
ALLIANCE

UNESCO and U-INSPIRE Webinar Asia and the Pacific Youth and Young Professionals engagement on COVID-19



Background

The 2019 novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a communicable respiratory disease caused by a new strain of coronavirus that causes illness in humans. COVID-19 is spreading across the world at alarming speed. As of 3 May 2020, total COVID-19 cases in 35 Asia and the Pacific Countries are 339.835 with reported 15.311 deaths, recovered 205.582, leaving active case on that date of 117.942.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction - SFDRR (2015-2030) mentioned biological hazards, including pandemic, as major risks and the World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 a pandemic. This is an unprecedented crisis where the impacts go well beyond the health sector. Several countries declared this pandemic as national disaster and recognized that the Disaster Risk Reduction processes would be a way to respond to this crisis.

UNESCO has a coordinating structure for promoting the multi sectoral approach on disaster risk reduction (DRR). Since 2018 UNESCO Office Jakarta, as the Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific has been working on empowering and strengthening young science, engineering, technology, and innovation (SETI) professionals in Asia and the Pacific to support disaster risk reduction and build resilience. UNESCO facilitated and advocated youth and young professionals in numbers of Asia country to establish a national platform called U-INSPIRE (Youth and Young Professionals on Innovation, Science, and Technology Platform for Disaster and Climate Change Resiliency).

The U-INSPIRE started in Indonesia as a National Platform to discuss, network, collaborate, coordinate and mobilize themselves to use their SETI knowhow and experience to work on disaster risk reduction and building resiliency to supports achieving the target of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR). At present, there are twelve U-INSPIREs established in Asia (Afghanistan, Central Asia (covering Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan), Huaxia (China), India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand, and the Philippines). In 2019 UNESCO Regional Sciences Bureau for Asia and the Pacific assembled eight U-INSPIREs in Jakarta where they formed U-INSPIRE Alliance as the Jakarta Declaration. This alliance is to position themselves as regional platform to collaborate, cooperate, and learn from each other as well as address transboundary issues such as COVID-19.

No	Asia and the Pacific Country	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Recovered	Total Active Case
		339,835	15,311	206,582	117,942
1	Afghanistan	2,469	72	331	2,066
2	Australia	6,783	93	5,789	901
3	Bangladesh	8,790	175	177	8,438
4	Bhutan	6	-	2	4
5	Brunei	138	1	126	11
6	Cambodia	122	-	120	2
7	China	82,877	4,633	77,713	531
8	Fiji	18	-	14	4
9	French Polynesia	58	-	51	7
10	Hongkong	1,040	4	864	172
11	India	39,699	1,323	10,819	27,557
12	Indonesia	10,843	831	1,665	8,347
13	Iran	96,448	6,156	77,350	12,942
14	Japan	14,571	474	3,205	10,892
15	Kazakhstan	3,857	25	985	2,847
16	Kyrgyzstan	769	8	527	234
17	Laos	19	-	9	10
18	Malaysia	6,176	103	4,326	1,747
19	Maldives	519	1	18	500
20	Mongolia	39	-	10	29
21	Myanmar	151	6	37	108
22	Nepal	59	-	16	43
23	New Caledonia	18	-	17	1
24	New Zealand	1,487	20	1,266	201
25	Pakistan	19,103	440	4,817	13,846
26	Papua New Guinea	8	-	-	8
27	Philippines	8,928	603	1,124	7,201
28	Singapore	17,548	17	1,347	16,184
29	South Korea	10,780	250	9,123	1,407
30	Sri Lanka	702	7	172	523
31	Taiwan	432	6	324	102
32	Thailand	2,966	54	2,732	180
33	Timor-Leste	24	-	16	8
34	Uzbekistan	2,118	9	1,271	838
35	Vietnam	270	-	219	51

Source: <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

Date: 3 May 2020

Reason for the Webinar

Many youth and young professional engage, contribute and implement activities in respond to the COVID-19 crisis. Youth and young professional members of the U-INSPIREs, using their SETI capacity, also have implement various activities at the national level through their U-INSPIRE chapters as well as work collaboratively between countries through the U-INSPIRE Alliance. This webinar is to share and discuss how youth and young professional use their science, engineering, technology and innovation background have and could contribute in fighting against COVID-19.

The aims of this webinar are

- Introduction of U-INSPIRE Alliance;
- Share good examples of U-INSPIRE Alliance and the National Chapter activities on COVID-19;
- Share experiences and lessons on practical ways of young people from other countries, especially from the Pacific, in addressing the pandemic and reduce their societies risk to the viral infection;

Time and Agenda:

Date : Friday, 15 May 2020

Time : 02:00 – 04:00 PM (GMT+7)

Agenda : Tentative

- Opening Statement
 - Chair of U-INSPIRE Alliance
 - Director and Representatives UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, UNESCO Jakarta
- Key Remarks
 - Assistant Director General of Natural Sciences, UNESCO Paris,
- Introduction of U-INSPIRE Alliance
- Insights from the AYAB - UNESCO webinar on Youth Engagement on COVID-19 for 'TheAfricaWeWantU-INSPIRE Alliance activities on COVID-19
- Share experiences, lessons and good practices on practical ways of young people in addressing the pandemic and reduce their societies risk to the viral infection (U-INSPIRE National Chapters and Youth from Asia and the Pacific)
- challenges and opportunities on Youth and Young Professional Engagement on COVID-19
- Joint statement and recommendation.

Registration

To take part in this Webinar, please register on this link:

<https://bit.ly/APYouthCOVID-19-Webinar-Reg>

The Microsoft Systems (MS) Teams meeting link for the webinar will be sent to those who register.

U-INSPIRE Youth and Young Professionals activities and engagement on COVID-19

UNESCO facilitated and advocated youth and young professionals in numbers of Asia country to establish a national platform called U-INSPIRE (Youth and Young Professionals on Innovation, Science, and Technology Platform for Disaster and Climate Change Resiliency). At present, there are twelve U-INSPIREs established in Asia (Afghanistan, Central Asia (covering Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan), Huaxia (China), India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand, and the Philippines).

This Youth and Young Professionals Platforms have been contributing and implementing activities in respond to the COVID-19 crisis. The Youth and Young Professionals are working at the national level through their national U-INSPIRE chapters as well as work collaboratively between the national chapters through the U-INSPIRE Alliance.

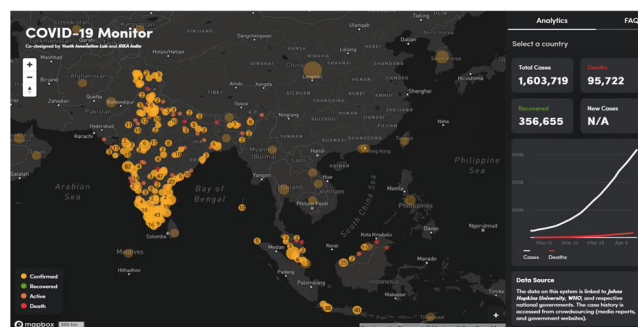
Below are some of their activities compiled as of 10 April 2020:

A. U-INSPIRE Alliance

Asia Pacific Youth and Young Professionals Alliance in Science, Engineering, Technology, and Innovation (SETI) for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change.

1. Develop COVID-19 Monitoring Platform

<https://covid19-monitor.net/> platform



Amidst the pandemic outbreak of COVID 19, people around the world are being widely affected. The increasing rate of this virus has not only created a state of global emergency but also has created extreme levels of fear, desperation and hopelessness among the people. Meanwhile, various forms of unverified information in different platforms, especially social media have further fueled this fear and desperation. During this hard time, lack of authentic sources of digital and spatial information from reliable institutions is missing making it

even more complicated for the general public to identify and avoid major hotspots.

Realizing this urgency, a <https://covid19 monitor.net/> platform was codesigned by Youth



Innovation Lab, Nepal and RIKA India. The UINPSIRE alliance member countries from India, Nepal, Malaysia, and Indonesia are engaged for COVID19 data partnership from their respective countries. The web application brings authentic data from verified sources like the government institutions, major media houses, health institutions, UN agencies and other related stakeholders. Furthermore, this system also tracks the locations/routes travelled by the corona patients, local transmission and make it available in public domain so that the public can avoid the locations as well as related stakeholders can prioritize their response mechanism accordingly.

Key Activities:

1. Dealing the transboundary issues through collective action from all U-Inspire member countries.
2. An open source database of COVID-19 infected patients: data mining from government sources; crowdsourced data (media coverage, hospital data); and fake news tracing and weeding
3. Training key leaders to use the country database and verify information locally
4. Infected person route tracing and identification of hotspots at the city level
5. Location-based advisories
6. Resource mapping: Location of testing centers, identified hospitals, local resources available (in process of development)

2. Blog Writing

CRRP (U-INSPIRE India), U-INSPIRE Nepal, U-INSPIRE Indonesia, U-INSPIRE Malaysia, and U-INSPIRE Japan jointly write blogs on a routine basis covering several topics, published in Medium.com.

To date, two writings has published:

1. COVID-19 MONITOR: Countering Inevitable Infodemic:
<https://medium.com/@covid19.monitor/covid-19-monitor-countering-inevitable-infodemic-23e735c5754a>
2. COVID-19: Brief overview of Risk Governance Approach from South Asia
(Part One) <https://medium.com/@covid19.monitor/covid-19-brief-overview-of-risk-governance-approach-from-south-asia-14ec5a36aa84>
(Part two) <https://medium.com/@covid19.monitor/covid-19-brief-overview-of-risk-governance-approach-from-south-asia-part-two-eb6b925fed44>

B. U-INSPIRE (National Chapters)

Youth and young professional members of each U-INSPIRE national chapters also have been working and contributing in each of their ways to support the country and community to fight against COVID-19 among other:

- **U-INSPIRE India, registered in India as CRRP (Confederation of Risk Reduction Professional).**

On this global pandemic, CRRP India, on the national scale, has put forward all the testing centers approved by the government on a google map, so that any one who wants to visit it or wants to know the proximity to the centre can do it easily.

CRRP India, as a national platform for Disaster Risk Reduction Professionals, has formed a team who are jointly working on the COVID 19 Monitor (<https://covid19-monitor.net/>). The team is working tirelessly day in and day out to collect all the data to the details

where every patient can be traced back, so that the transmission can be understood.

CRRP is using simple yet very strong visualization tactics (<https://www.crrpindia.org/covid-19>) to showcase the information of how the different states are faring in COVID fights and why it is important for people to stay inside. The team has even analysed the data of India and the result shows that mostly the male are being affected more than the female counterparts and number of active cases is also high amongst the people below 40 years of age. However, the data also has shown that the mortality rate in India is high amongst the old-aged people above the age of 60.

CRRP India is also writing blogs on COVID-19 (<https://www.crrpindia.org/covid-19-blogs>), which brings forward the perspective of young professionals so that the gap that is there between the theory and the ground reality can be understood. Through this exploration, the CRRP team is persuading the present generation to realize the domain of the issue which ultimately helps them in understanding and taking forward with their career.

- **U-INSPIRE Nepal**

U-INSPIRE Nepal developed a social awareness campaign jointly with Himalayan Risk Research Institute (HRI) and Institute of Himalayan Risk Reduction (IHRR). As a part of the campaign, U-INSPIRE Nepal had initially developed COVID-19 global impact infographics and later developed an awareness video to be safe from being infected in Nepali and English language, prioritizing the awareness in local language.

Nepali Version: <https://youtu.be/CI3zuOCHX1s>

English Version: <https://youtu.be/5kM-FWWns6o>



• U-INSPIRE Pakistan

U-INSPIRE Pakistan jointly with UNESCO Islamabad is developing a campaign(s) on covid-19 to spread awareness, emphasizing again on the importance of science combating the fake news on the pandemic.

• U-INSPIRE Indonesia

- Risk Communication Campaign jointly with UNESCO Jakarta through the development of social awareness video on COVID-19
- Risk Communication Campaign, through developing fact sheet infographics on COVID 19
- Data updating in the covid19-monitor.net dashboard and writing blog articles published in medium.com, jointly with U-INSPIRE Alliance
- Organize online discussion through webinar, live IG, etc.
- Organize weekly personal journaling of U-INSPIRE Indonesia members on Life in the
- Time of COVID-19, to be documented by the end of the pandemic
- Collecting and re-sharing social media on innovations by the millennials
- Develop platform for citizen voluntary-based reporting on COVID-19 cases to compliment the government report: laporcovid19.org. The platform was developed jointly with Citizen Coalition that includes public health consultants, journalist for crisis and disaster, i.e. a
- Conduct social study on perceptions related to COVID-19, The study covered online survey and interview, with the following topics: COVID-19 information transparency, transportation and travel between province/cities, and on territory quarantine. The Study was conducted jointly with the National Disaster Social Panel Team under coordination of LIPI and BNPB.
- Organize hygiene-related logistics supplies and donation distribution for flood refugees in Greater Bandung
- Involve as supporting team for The National COVID-19 Rapid Response Task Force under the supervision of Director of Disaster Management System of BNPB/NDMA.

• U-INSPIRE Malaysia

- U-INSPIRE Malaysia jointly with the Youth Innovation Lab, UINSPIRE India CRRP and UINSPIRE Indonesia has contributed to the blog-style write up on the recent COVID-19 pandemic in their respective countries. The analysis is based on the COVID-19 Monitor portal, using a Medium platform (<https://medium.com/@covid19.monitor/covid-19-monitor-countering-inevitable-infodemic-23e735c5754a>). The write up hopefully can deliver a much needed science-driven evidence-based explanation to the policy makers and public in understanding the COVID-19 pandemic, in a simple language.

- On-going initiatives supporting Malaysia Red Crescent Society making and distributing DIY (Do It Yourself) face shields to the shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) for healthcare frontliner, as well as distributing daily necessities to low-income families and communities. Providing emergency healthcare support at Temporary Homeless Centre.
- Provide health and safety advice to setting up workspace for DIY PPE making for
- Malaysia Red Crescent office.
- As one of the community ambulance teams to support and transport low-income communities for medical consultation at hospitals, and dialysis centres.

• U-INSPIRE Central Asia, official name DACRYN

DACRYN jointly with UNESCO Almaty will organize

- Awareness raising activities through interview campaign to obtain detailed information about Covid-19 from local scientists and present the information through insights into scientists' opinions and perceptions. Specifically, in order to understand the scientific aspirations of youth. Expected outcomes: articles (stories), podcasts (audio interviewing), visuals (leaflets on highlights of interviews) which will be shared through the networks, social media, UNESCO web site and media.
- Translation and dissemination of the official documents on COVID-19 (including fact-sheets, FAQ ect.) into local languages (Russian, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Tajik and Uzbek) in order to leave no one behind and cover those communities which speak only local languages and provide crucial facts and information on COVID-19. The outputs will be disseminated through the networks, social media, UNESCO web site and media.

• U-INSPIRE Huaxia, Youth and Young Professionals in China,

- U-INSPIRE Huaxia, jointly with West China Hospital of Sichuan University, has successively sent alumni from the Institute for Disaster Management and Reconstruction (IDMR) to the COVID-19 frontline in the epicenter of Wuhan city, to help fight the epidemic.
- On February 2, U-INSPIRE Huaxia founded the U-INSPIRE COVID-19 Study Group online, for sharing the latest interdisciplinary research and information on the new deadly coronavirus and supporting further research on the topic by young professionals.

