

Climate-Fragility Risks (CFRs) in Asia: Stakeholder Perspectives

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Overview of the Presentation

2

- **Current understanding on CFRs**
 - Stakeholder survey
- **Major CFRs in Asia**
 - Development-disasters nexus
 - Internal displacement and related conflicts
 - Food price fluctuations
 - Transboundary resource conflicts: Water
 - Others
- **Conclusions**

What are CFRs?

3

“CFRs are those risks emanating from the interaction of climate change with the existing vulnerabilities, compounding of risks due to their interconnected nature leading to magnified impacts and ultimate incapacitation of societies and nation states.”

Author



Importance to Fragility Risks: G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Hiroshima, Japan

4

- “We reiterate that **climate change poses a serious threat to global security** and economic prosperity and shared the view that **foreign policy** must contribute to addressing this challenge effectively.”
- “We will work to **prioritize prevention of climate fragility risks** by aligning our efforts toward the common goal of **increasing resilience** and **reducing fragility** in the face of global climate change, including taking steps to integrate climate-fragility **considerations across our national governments.**”

Source: Joint Communique of G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, April 10-11, 2016

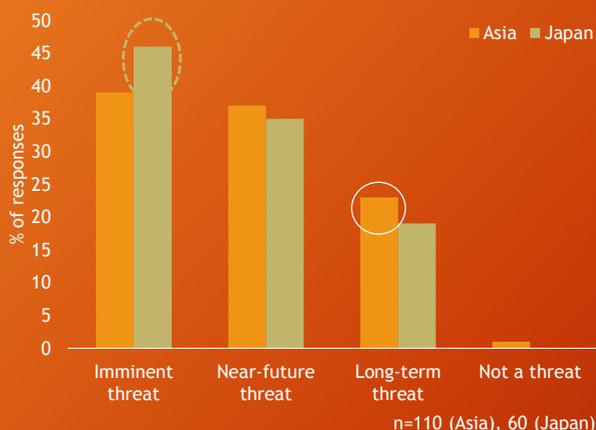
Online Survey on Climate-Fragility Risks

5

- **Purpose:** To understand the current state of knowledge and policy issues for addressing climate-fragility risks in Asia.
- **No of responses from Asia:** 110 from 22 countries (India, Philippines, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, China, Malaysia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan).
- **No of responses from Japan:** 60
- **Occupational Background:** Universities, NGOs, Governmental bodies and think tanks. Most have expertise in CCA, DRR, environment and SD. and have worked at community and national levels (Asia) or at national and international levels (Japan).
- **Prevalent age group:** 30-40 (56%, Asia) and 50-60 (28%, Japan)
- **Prevalent gender:** Male (68% Asia, 73% Japan)

Is Climate Change an Imminent Threat?

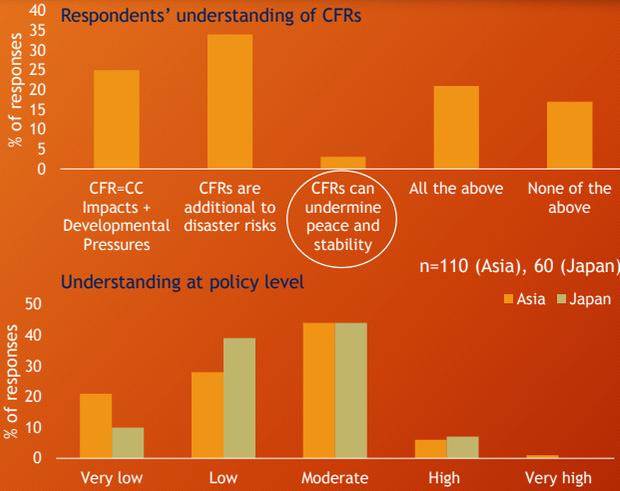
6



- Marginally more respondents from Japan thought climate change is an imminent threat than respondents from rest of the Asia
- Major cause of concerns, irrespective of developmental state of countries, in the region are natural disasters, water security and food security (Energy security is third most important concern to Japanese)

Differential Understanding on CFRs

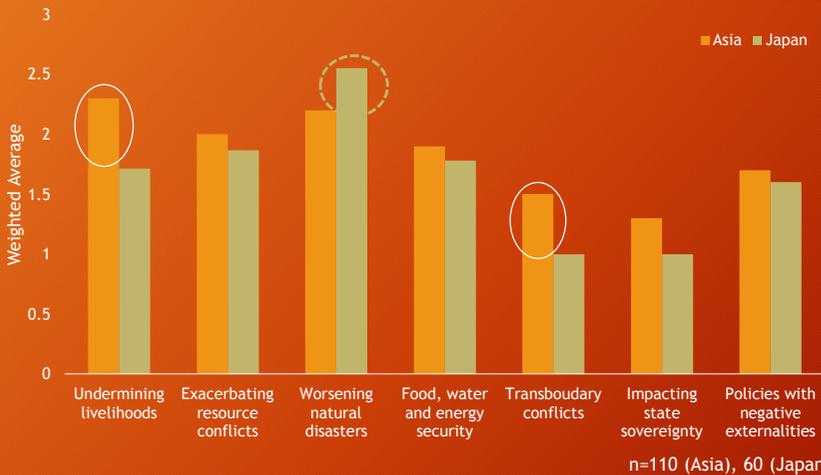
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- Significant number of people thought CFRs are additional to disaster risks and hence should be dealt outside the framework of disaster risk reduction.
- Very few respondents thought CFRs can undermine peace and stability of countries.
- Significant number of respondents did not agree to the options provided or agreed to conflicting choices.
- Policy makers in Japan are rated relatively better than in rest of the Asia for their understanding of CFRs.

What are the Impacts of Climate Change with CFR Implications in the Region?

8



- In developing countries, climate change influences through its impacts on livelihoods followed by natural disasters and resource conflicts.
- In Japan, climate change could exacerbate fragility risks through impacting natural disasters followed by conflict for resources and food, water and energy security.

What are the Major CFRs in the Region?

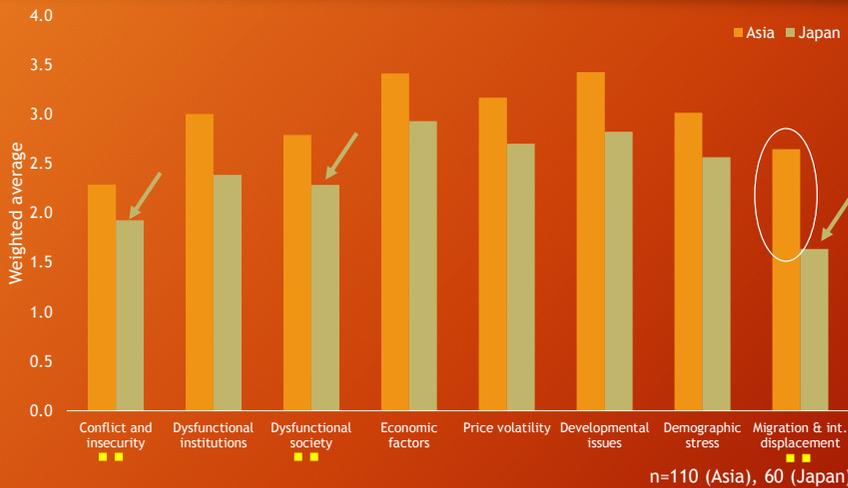
9



- Rapid demographic changes have economic and environmental implications and policies often do not address demographic changes

What Policy Areas Need to be Improved for Addressing CFRs?

10



- In Asia, national policies need a significant improvement for addressing conflict and insecurity issues, migration and internal displacement and dysfunctional society which are rated poorly compared to economic and developmental policies.
- In Japan, national policies need to address migration and internal displacement, conflict and insecurity and dysfunctional society

What Specific Measures are Required?

11



- There is a need to focus policies at all the levels. However, there is a disagreement on where they should be focused more. Responses in Asia preferred them to be focused at local level while Japanese wanted them to be focused at the national level.
- Urgent interventions are needed in developing integrated programs that foster resilience, better information that supports developing programs and policy coherence. In Japan, in-country collaboration received significant attention.

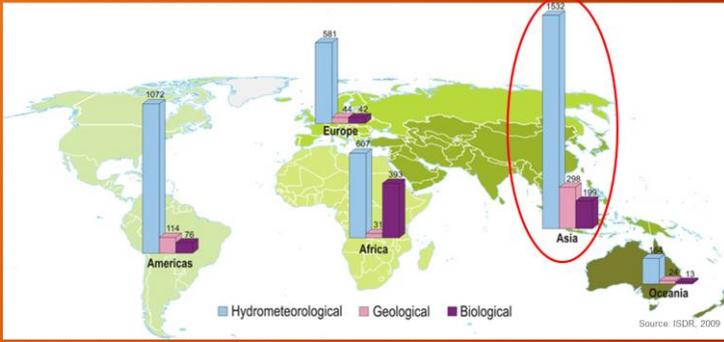
The Current Situation of Major Climate-Fragility Risks in Asia

12

1. Development-disasters nexus
2. Migration and related conflicts
3. Food price volatility
4. Transboundary resource conflicts: Water
5. Unintended effects of climate policies
6. Sea level rise and coastal degradation
7. Competition for local resources

1. Development-Disasters Nexus

13



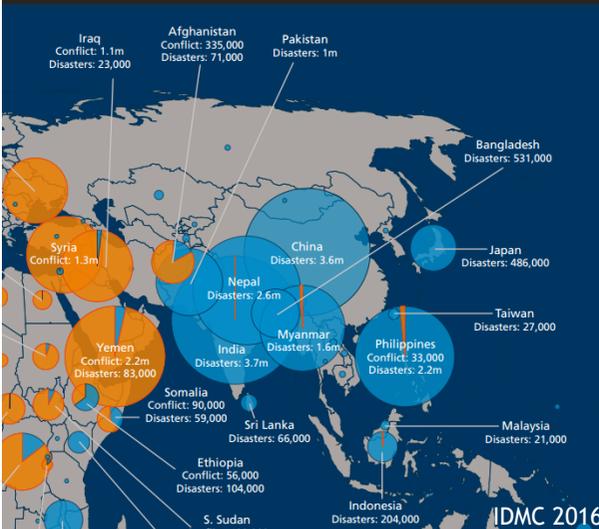
- Asia is characterized by high exposure to natural hazards compared to Americas and Europe put together.
- The nexus between developmental deficit and natural disasters is clearly visible in poorer countries as indicated by high fatalities in identical events.

Country	GDP per capita (USD)	Population (million)	Number of typhoons	Fatalities	Fatalities per event
Japan	38,160	126	13	352	27
Philippines	1,200	74	39	6,835	175
Bangladesh	360	124	14	151,045	10,788

Source: Meckler, 2004

2. Internal Displacement and Related Conflicts

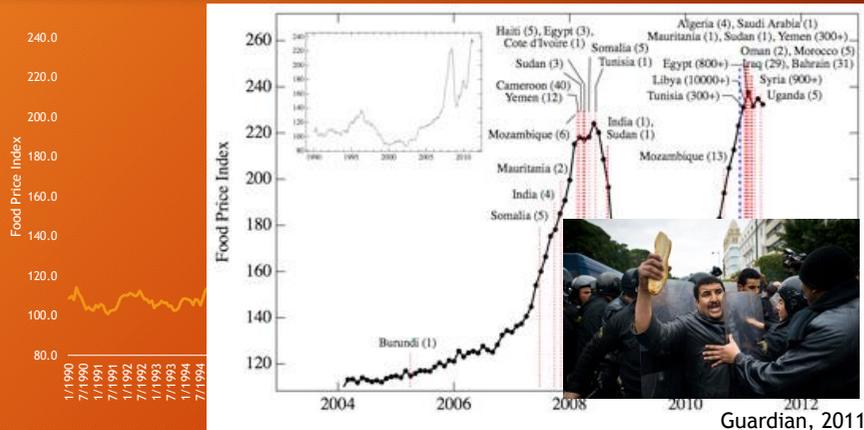
14



- The number of internally displaced people are continuously rising in Asia.
- While natural disasters are the number one reason, factors such as internal conflict, state failure to provide gainful employment and developmental services are major hidden reasons.
- Despite this, we have not seen strong policy focus for arresting migration and internal displacement.
- If not addressed, the internal displacement could exert unsustainable pressure on local resources and can have significant impact on social fabric and security.

3. Food Price Fluctuations

15



1. Instance of 10-15% decline in food consumption (15-20% increase in food expenditure) in 50-70% of poor households from 2007 to 2008 (WFP 2009), food riots and poverty.
2. Impact on food security: poorer section of the urban population (casual and unskilled labourers)
3. Impact on livelihoods: petty traders, labourers and peri-urban agriculturists

How to forecast such global price fluctuations and prepare for the food shortage and related consequences?

4. Transboundary Resource Conflicts: Water

16

If India Violates Indus Waters Treaty, Pakistan Warns of a Water War

September 28, 2014 By Rebecca Dean



Mounting tensions between Pakistan and India may escalate into a water war if India were to retract the Indus Waters Treaty, a Pakistani foreign official stated on Tuesday. Although efforts have recently been made to establish peace between these feuding neighbors, relations have been particularly strained since the death of eighteen Indian soldier in the Kashmir region in September. India holds Pakistan responsible for the killings, which has led Prime Minister Narendra Modi to consider taking revenge by

Over Water

now.



Latest Video



- Asia is characterized by large river basins that are often transboundary in nature.
- Resource conflict across boundary is on the rise in the region especially in Central, South and East Asia.
- Regional processes such as SAARC and MRC are less than successful in addressing these conflicts.

5. Other Fragility Risks

- Unintended effects of policies
 - Barind groundwater project in Western Bengal resulting in alarming groundwater depletion raised concerns for arsenic contamination
- Sea level rise and coastal degradation
 - Salt water intrusion vulnerability is high in East Asia
- Competition for local resources
 - Disputes among states within a country: e.g. rivers Cauvery and Krishna shared between of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh been under dispute for several years
 - Disputes along the course of canal waters the rise

The Indian EXPRESS

Cauvery water dispute: Violence hits Karnataka, Tamil Nadu after SC's verdict

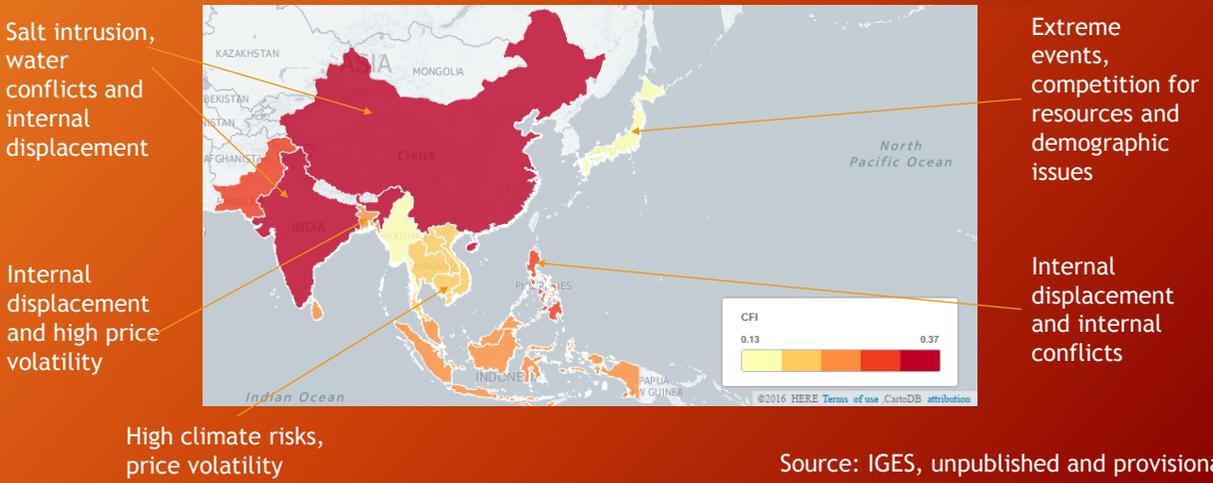
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There were reports of a bus being attacked in Tamil Nadu and the driver threatened by a mob for ferrying Kannadiga people to the state. (Source: Express photo by Nirmal Harindran)

Comparison of Countries on Fragility Risks: Climate-Fragility Index (CFI)

18



Conclusions (1)

19

(1) Basic Understanding

- Climate change could worsen frequency and intensity of natural disasters.
- It could also impact economic conditions such as food price hike.
- Both could exacerbate current social and security problems faced by countries, which include internal conflicts and increase in internally displaced population.

Conclusions (2)

20

(2) Implications for developing countries

- Developing countries are more vulnerable because of underlying socio-economic factors, weak institutions to deal with conflicts, and developmental deficit unable to meet basic needs of the people.
- This reconfirms the importance of ODA to help developing countries address security issues, development deficits and other economic issues so that poor and discriminated can at least meet basic needs for their daily life.

Conclusions (3)

21

(3) Implications for developed countries

- Demographic issues (e.g. aging population) dominate the CFRs of developed countries like Japan.
- This was obvious from recent disasters in Japan, which include the East Japan Triple disaster and recent earthquakes in Kumamoto.
- There is a need to put in place appropriate policies for addressing emerging demographic issues and Japan can take a lead in this area in the region.

Conclusions (4)

22

(4) International and regional implications

- Increasing internal conflict and its implications for its neighbors means the urgent need to strengthen mutual trust amongst neighboring prefectures and countries in particular.
- Information exchange through key channels of the governments and introduction of coherent policies, for example, become necessary.
- In this respect, a third party or multilateral mechanisms could play important roles. Regional mechanisms such as SAARC, ASEAN etc. should take a lead in providing enabling environment for strengthening the trust.

Conclusions (5)

23

(5) Complementarity between developed & developing countries

- There is a need for coordinated policy development between developed and developing countries due to increasing dependency on each other and the implications of CFRs in one country on the other country.
- Sharing integrated risk assessments among countries and designing immigration policies are some possible areas of cooperation among these countries.

Thank You!

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