The 2019 International Training Workshop on Natural Disaster Reduction - Applying Big Data and Social Media for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness
30 April-2 May, 2019; 25-27 June, 2019; Taipei, Taiwan

The 2019 International Training Workshop for Natural Disaster Reduction (ITW) host two three-day workshops in the first half of 2019 and major themes focus on big data and social media applications to assist in Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness. The two workshops demonstrate innovative applications of using the state-of-the art information and telecommunication technology to enhance coverage and efficiency of information facilitation.

As trans-boundary movements of goods and people grow rapidly and dynamically around the world, thus information and alerts of natural disasters or hazards based on big data and social media would provide the best approach to effectively integrate partnership between public and private sector to mitigate adverse impacts. Especially, modern technology speeds up development of telecommunications and shortens time to transfer data, and widen channels of message deliveries. At the information age, big data and crowdsourcing data not just facilitate trade activities and business operation, but also bring benefits to disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, business continuity planning, resilient global supply chain, critical infrastructure protection and tourism safety. From public sector to private industry or individuals, information generated from big data and crowdsourcing data is vital for strategy of disaster risk reduction, operation of emergency relief, planning for business continuity management and sustainable development of economy and livelihood.

The workshop aims at: (1) To investigate current status of application and demands of data through a comprehensive survey; (2) To develop a roadmap of capacity building by demonstrating advanced technology and best practices; (3) To promote crowdsourcing data collected from social media for enriching contents of disaster risk management; (4) To formulate a mechanism sharing experiences to strengthen disaster resilience and emergency preparedness.

The Workshop (1) took place from 30 April to 2 May in Taipei City, and focuses on what kinds of big data sets are possibly applied; how to use big data to create in-depth views for better policy on disaster management; and why user-oriented applications of big dada could enhance information coverage among the general public. There are 30 delegates from 10 countries, including Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Cambodia, Japan, Switzerland, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand, The United States, and Viet Nam.

Opening of Workshop 1

The Workshop (2) took place from 25 to 27 June in New Taipei City, and focuses on all innovative applications of social media in helping disaster risk management and emergency preparedness. Case studies of individual social media are to be presented by invited speakers. Through sharing and discussing, all participants will also join brainstorming in what and how to define effective two-way risk communications through social media. There are 38 delegates from 14 countries, including Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Cambodia, Japan, Myanmar, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Solomon Islands, Thailand, The United States, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

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Opening of Workshop 2

Ms. Pei Yu Lee, Section Chief Department of Science Education and International Cooperation Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) delivered the opening remarks to the workshop. Chief Lee heighted that nowadays, our daily life is closely inter-connected by social media and instant messengers. It is a global trend with enhancement in digital preparedness of social media to implement evidence-based disaster risk reduction and emergency response. By doing so, it reshapes the landscape of reporting and collecting information at light speed than ever. The overwhelming information could be very helpful or burdensome, depending on how we make the most use of modern information technology.

Three keynotes were delivered by Facebook and LINE, to share the pratice experiences on disaster risk reduction. The participants also visited the Chunghwa Telecom Company, to see applications of 5G telecommunication, Internet of Things (IoT) and dynamic big data produced by private sector.

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Field visit and closing

For more information about the 2019 ITW:

https://www.ncdr.nat.gov.tw/Conference_workshop_Content.aspx?WebSiteID=873f5b27-b86d-4d5c-a356-c369768bffe9&ID=46&SubID=62&ItemID=0&TypeID=0&keyword=&ConferenceID=34

Upcoming Events:

• APEC Resilience Week   **October, 2019**

For more information:

http://www.ncdr.nat.gov.tw/home.aspx?WebSiteID=873f5b27-b86d-4d5c-a356-c369768bffe9