



International Conference on
Disaster Resilient Infrastructure
17 – 19 March 2021
<https://icdri.cdri.world/index.html>

The International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI 2021) will be held from 17 to 19 March 2021. An interactive virtual conference, ICDRI follows International Workshops on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (IWDRRI) held in 2018 and 2019.

ICDRI is the annual international conference of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) in partnership with member countries, organizations and institutions to strengthen the global discourse on disaster and climate resilient infrastructure. Launched by the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi at the UN Climate Action Summit in New York in September 2019, the Coalition aims to promote the resilience of new and existing infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks, thereby ensuring sustainable development. The ICDRI will bring together stakeholders from partner countries representing national disaster risk management agencies, key infrastructure sectors, multilateral development banks, UN agencies, academia and research institutions, the private sector and policy think tanks.

ICDRI 2021

The ICDRI 2021 is being convened at a time when the world is faced with the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has had wide ranging impact on infrastructure sectors. Social infrastructure, such as the health infrastructure, has been stretched to the limit. Physical infrastructure such as airports and railways, although not impacted directly in terms of asset losses, have had to adjust their operations to help contain the pandemic. Some sectors such as the power sector are facing challenges arising from reduced demand as well as moratoriums or deferral on consumer bill payments. Other infrastructure sectors such as telecommunications and digital infrastructure have demonstrated their critical importance in keeping communities, businesses and government running while observing COVID-19 appropriate behavior.

In light of the experience of COVID-19 pandemic, new questions arise with regards to the notion of “resilient infrastructure”. Must efficiency precede redundancy? How do we go beyond asset level risk to systemic risks? How do we anticipate cascading impacts across multiple infrastructure sectors? Do we need to revisit the projections related to required investments in disaster and climate resilient infrastructure? How would the pandemic impact the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) targets, and particularly the goals and targets directly related to infrastructure development?

These questions would add another layer of complexity to the global discourse on disaster and climate resilient infrastructure.

The ICDRI will be an opportunity to address some of these questions. Specifically, the Conference will be a platform to discuss challenges and opportunities towards achieving the SFDRR targets¹, SDGs² and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change for resilient infrastructure. The ICDRI 2021 will engage with decision-makers, practitioners and communities from across the world to discuss challenges, identify good practices, develop collaboration and galvanize concrete actions.

ICDRI 2021 Agenda

ICDRI 2021 will include multi-sectoral systems level discussions, sector-specific as well as thematic discussions. Policy, technical and regional forums led by global experts along with a space for networking opportunities will constitute the structure of the conference. The **Policy Forums** will highlight the overarching risk governance perspectives critical for building resilient infrastructure. The **Technical Forums** will delve deeper into the key thematic areas that have been identified over time as broad portfolios of actions for the CDRI. The **Regional Forums** will share the lessons, gaps and opportunities from climate and disaster risk prone regions to contribute to the overall infrastructure resilience agenda. Each session will feature opportunities for audience interaction and engagement in the form of polls and surveys, videos and artwork using whiteboard animators. Networking events through virtual networking rooms will be created for participants to interact. Participants from member countries, CDRI Fellows and the global community will benefit from the experts present in the conference. Apart from the main event, side and pre-events have been conceptualized as follows:

Pre-events: Leading up to ICDRI 2021, CDRI is organizing a series of webinars on COP26 themes and steps to achieve the SDGs and SFDRR targets associated with resilient infrastructure. Webinars cover subjects such as nature-based solutions, resilient health infrastructure and learning from disasters, drawing synergies with COP 26 thematic areas³.

ICDRI Marketplace: The CDRI Resilient Infrastructure Marketplace at ICDRI is envisioned as an online Marketplace to help match demand from member countries requiring technical services and assistance with companies, universities and other entities that can provide such services.
<https://icdri.cdri.world/CDRI-Resilient-Infrastructure-Marketplace-at-ICDRI-2021.html>

¹ SFDRR global target D: Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030.

² Infrastructure is directly related to SDG9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure) but also to SDG3 (Good health and wellbeing), SDG4 (Quality education), SDG6 (Clean water and sanitation), SDG7 (Affordable and clean energy), SDG8 (Decent work and economic growth), SDG11 (Sustainable cities and communities), and SDG13 (Climate action).

³ The UK presidency's thematic areas for COP 26: (1) Adaptation & Resilience, (2) Nature (Including Nature Based Solutions), (3) Energy Transitions, (4) Clean Road Transport, (5) Finance.