

**ASEAN FUTURE CITIES AND REGIONS:
INCLUSIVITY AND SUSTAINABILITY**

(Rapporteur Template Report)

10 -15 August 2025 Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre

| Session Details | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| Session Title | : Resilient Heritage: Safeguarding ASEAN's UNESCO Sites for a Sustainable Future | | |
| Session Date | : 13 th August 2025 | | |
| Session Time | : 04:30 pm – 06:00 pm | | |
| Venue/Room | : Lounge 4, Hall 4 | | |
| Lead Rapporteur | | | |
| Name | Haslinda binti Mohamad Hamran | | |
| Affiliation/Organization: | Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Centre (DPPC), Malaysia-Japan International Institute (MJIIT), UTM | | |
| Contact Email/Phone | haslinda.mh@graduate.utm.my | | |
| Rapporteur Information | | | |
| Name | Nurul Hasanah binti Kamarudin | | |
| Affiliation/Organization: | Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Centre (DPPC), Malaysia-Japan International Institute (MJIIT), UTM | | |
| Contact Email/Phone | hasanahkamarudin191096@gmail.com | | |
| Key Speakers and Panelist <i>(Add rows as needed)</i> | | | |
| Moderator | Name: Dr. Khamarrul Azahari Razak/ Dr. Wan Nurul Mardiah binti Wan Mohd Rani Designation/Title: Senior Lecturer Organization: DPPC, UTM/ Institute of Sultan Iskandar, UTM | | |
| Speaker's Name | Designation/ Title | Organization | Key Points Presented |
| 1. Prof. Dr. Mikio Ishiwatari | Co-Chair | Asian Civil Engineering Coordinating Council (ACECC) TC-21, Japan | Preserving cultural memory in disaster: Lesson learned from Japan's 2011 Earthquake and Tsunami |
| 2. YB. Ir. Ts. Zahir Hassan | All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia | Disaster Risk Management (APPGM-DRM) | Policy and Parliamentary Leadership in safeguarding ASEAN's resilient heritage. |
| 3. Ms. Faduma Ali | Associate Program Specialist | Disaster Risk Reduction Unit, | Resilient Heritage, Safer Cities: |

| | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|--|--|
| | | UNESCO Paris, France | Integrating DRR and Conservation in ASEAN |
| 4. Ms. Ng Boon Nee | Manager | George Town World Heritage Incorporated (GTWHI) | Community-based Disaster Risk Management: A case study from George Town |
| 5. Prof. Dr. Saini Yang | Executive Director | Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) Beijing, China | Strengthening ASEAN's Cultural Heritage and Urban Resilience Through Science and Collaboration |
| 6. Dr. Nugroho Christanto | Senior Lecturer | Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Yogyakarta, Indonesia | Resilient Heritage Preserving the Past and Preparing for The Future of Yogyakarta's Cultural Sites |
| 7. Mr. Sufyan Aslam | Disaster Risk Reduction Specialist | UNICEF Malaysia | Marginalized Group (Youth and Children) |
| <p>Session Objectives <i>(State the objectives as outlined in the programme or mentioned by the chair/moderator)</i></p> <p><i>Refer to Concept Note to populate this section</i></p> | | | |

Summary of Presentations

(Concise summary of each speaker's presentation. Use bullet points for clarity)

1. Speaker

Prof. Mikio Ishiwatari called for the importance of the local community's engagement and participation in Japan by preserving the cultural and heritage.

Key insight and call for action

- *Japan's 2011 earthquake and tsunami revealed that disaster planning must prioritize safeguarding cultural heritage alongside saving lives and infrastructure, as losing cultural assets also erases identity.*
- *Initiatives like Shiryō-ne, which digitally archived over 350,000 historical documents before disaster struck, ensured that even when physical artifacts were lost, their records and stories survived.*
- *Successful heritage rescue efforts relied on collaboration between experts, local communities and volunteers, demonstrating that cultural preservation is most effective when it is a shared responsibility and embedded in disaster preparedness from day one.*

2. Speaker

YB. Ir. Ts. Zahir Hassan emphasized the importance of parliamentary leadership and strengthening policy in safeguarding the ASEAN's resilient heritage.

Key insight and call for action

- *Malaysia calls for DRR to be mainstreamed into the ASEAN Economic Community agenda, promoting inclusive approaches for vulnerable groups, advancing digital early warning systems and empowering communities to co-lead resilience initiatives across critical sectors.*
- *The All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia - Disaster Risk Management (APPGM-DRM) prioritizes integrating disaster risk reduction (DRR) into national strategies, legislation and financing frameworks ensuring cohesive action across government, private sector, civil society and communities with a strong focus on parliamentary leadership and oversight.*

3. Speaker

Ms. Faduma Ali called for integrating DRR and conservation in ASEAN to ensure the resilient heritage and safer cities.

Key insight and call for action

- *UNESCO emphasizes integrating disaster risk reduction into the management of ASEAN's 46 biosphere reserves, 21 global geoparks and 51 World Heritage Sites, recognizing their role in social resilience, livelihoods and sustainable tourism.*
- *The use of satellite data, drones and early warning systems combined with traditional knowledge and inclusive community participation (including youth and women) strengthen site protection, risk communication and post disaster rehabilitation.*
- *ASEAN can lead globally by linking DRR, sustainable tourism and heritage conservation, ensuring tourism growth does not compromise cultural integrity while fostering safe, inclusive and economically beneficial tourism for local communities.*

4. Speaker

Ms. Ng Boon Nee advocated for community-based disaster risk management in George Town World Heritage site

Key insight and call for action

- *GTWHI emphasizes a comprehensive approach to safeguarding George Town's World Heritage value, integrating conservation, adaptive reuse and risk sensitive planning to protect both tangible and intangible cultural assets.*
- *The challenges to manage the heritage site in George Town as most of the buildings owned by the private*
- *Two main disasters occurred in George Town World Heritage Sites are flood and fire.*
- *Local communities are at the heart of heritage protection with programmes focused on capacity building, public awareness and participatory decision-making to ensure cultural continuity and disaster preparedness*
- *GTWHI promotes responsible tourism that sustain local livelihoods while incorporating climate adaptation strategies to mitigate the impact of hazards and environmental change on heritage sites.*

5. Speaker

Prof. Dr. Saini Yang emphasized the importance of IRDR collaboration strengthening the disaster risk reduction

Key insight and call for action

- *IRDR focusses on harnessing scientific knowledge and transdisciplinary research to inform policies, promote multi-hazard risk modelling and strengthening urban planning, building codes and early warning system tailored to ASEAN's diverse contexts.*
- *Cultural heritage is recognized as a driver of sustainable development, social cohesion and risk sensitive planning, serving as a tool for traditional knowledge preservation, education and effective risk communication.*
- *ASEAN suffers some of the world's highest disaster related GDP losses like rising sea levels, intensify storms and extreme heat, disproportionately threaten coastal megacities like Jakarta, Malila, Ho Chi Minh City and many more.*
- *Facing the stresses, disaster resilience for ASEAN isn't just about stronger buildings, it's about integrated systems.*
- *IRDR's research framework must be adapted to the diverse culture, political and economic contexts.*
- *IRDR can amplify ASEAN's existing initiatives, training scientists and supporting policymakers.*
- *IRDR can bring the power of global sciences and ASEAN will bring the urgency, innovation and community spirit of a dynamic's region*

6. Speaker

Dr. Nugroho Christanto called for the importance of the strategies to disaster risk reduction towards the cultural and heritage sites.

Key insight and call for action

- *The city's heritage sites face significant risks from natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and other climate-related threats making resilience planning essential.*

- *Events like the 2006 earthquake and 2010 Mount Merapi eruption highlighted vulnerabilities and the urgent need for integrated disaster preparedness, heritage protection and community engagement in safeguarding cultural assets.*
- *Disaster Impacts, in 2006 Yogyakarta Earthquake, severe damage to Prambam Temple and any cultural heritage sites.*
- *Yogyakarta possesses a rich cultural heritage that holds significant historical and social value.*
- *Threats from disasters, climate change, land-use changes, and cultural erosions.*
- *Disaster management documents and policies are already in place, regular drills and simulations.*
- *Measures include implementing planning and promoting sustainable tourism that respects and preserves Yogyakarta's cultural identity*

7. Speaker

Mr. Sufyan Aslam concludes the session the importance of preserving the cultural heritage.

Key insight and call for action

- *Ensuring children from vulnerable communities, including indigenous groups are involved in DRR planning for heritage sites, making strategies more representative and sustainable.*
- *Cultural sites need to be preserved.*
- *They have raised the impacts of the POV of the panelists.*
- *Cultural heritages represent the identity.*
- *Children are important to be involved and engaged with in the cultural heritage education.*
- *They (children) bring the different perspectives about the cultural heritage.*
- *Working with the communities in the cultural programs.*

Key Q&A Discussion Points

(Summarise key discussion themes, debates, or interventions from the floor – if possible, please do your best to capture their name or organization of the people in the Q&A session)

1. Yogyakarta & George Town conservation: Is there any initiative in making the culture accessible to especially to the children and young generation by forming cultural game/ mural as part of the preserving, harmonizing the cultural heritage?
2. How do the Government allocation the budget for the heritage building?
3. Is there any documented initiative on tangible building heritage done by the GTWHI?

Summarize the Wrap up Conclusions

(Listen closely to the final statements, wrap up and summary from moderator – what are the agreed outcomes, conclusions, or takeaways from the session? What did you learn?)

1. High tourist arrivals increase the number of people potentially exposed to hazards such as floods, typhoons, earthquakes, or tsunamis.
2. Tourism is a major economic driver in many ASEAN countries, and disasters can cause significant revenue loss.
3. Investing in DRR safeguards income from tourist spending, which supports local jobs and infrastructure.

Recommendations / Way Forward

(List down any recommendations, next steps, or actions suggested by the speakers or participants)

1. Heritage sites represent the local culture and local community especially for the children in preserving their future and be part of the culture.
2. Focus on engaging and involve the children as they can bring the difference perspective in cultural and heritage.
3. The proposed ASEAN Parliamentary Roundtable would institutionalize lawmakers' roles in harmonizing DRR strategies, supported by targeted public outreach, multi-language educational materials and DRR literacy programs aligned with Malaysia MADANI values to build a culture of resilience.

Notable Quotes

(Optional. Capture impactful quotes from speakers that may be used in the Forum Report)

1. Prof Mikio Ishiwatari: When disaster strikes, we don't just lose objects, we lose part of who we are.
2. Ms. Faduma Ali: "Promoting safe and resilient tourism means a long-term investment in DRR"

Photos / Screenshots (if relevant)

(Attach files or indicate photos taken for documentation – may as well attach link from drive or screenshots)

Upload photos here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1oTJ9-u7H3hqxMADLUDZG0kFKALCCqnJy?usp=sharing>

Please create a folder for your session, something like this – make it meaningful with a title

- SS1-WomenLedInitiative_12Aug_1PM
- WomenAssembly_11Aug_10AM
- SE3_NatureBasedSolutions_12Aug_1PM

Submit files here:

<https://forms.gle/Vowo55Rr8jr8Zxmf6>

Additional Notes

(Any other observations, logistical issues, or suggestions for future sessions)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.