

Asia and the Pacific is the most disaster-prone region in the world. Climate change is likely to amplify and intensify the impacts of natural hazards, with unprecedented effects on local economies, populations, and the environment. Focusing on resilient water management has become urgent and central to climate change adaptation. Innovative approaches identified at the local level and aligned with national, regional, and global water goals are required to tackle these challenges.

The Water Sector Group (WSG) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has set up a new initiative called “[RUWR: aRe yoU Water Resilient](#)”. RUWR is a dedicated technical assistance platform that aims to support water entities on the ground in the Asia and the Pacific through capacity building and tools to enable resilience to shocks and stresses, including climate change, pandemics, and financial crises. The RUWR initiative aims to bring about a transformational shift toward water security and resilience in ADB's developing member countries using a collaborative approach. It will promote learning and knowledge exchange by bringing together key stakeholders, development partners, government representatives, and water service providers from the region.

As part of the initiative, ADB is creating a [virtual Asia and the Pacific Water Resilience Hub](#). The Water Resilience Hub will be a vehicle for strengthening water resilience by establishing partnerships; providing trainings; and developing and sharing knowledge products, innovative methods, tools, data, and digital technologies. It will do this based on needs identified by recipient entities.

ADB is hosting a 1-hour session at Singapore International Water Week (SIWW) 2022 on [mainstreaming water resilience](#) in Asia and the Pacific. The session will unveil details of ADB's water resilience initiatives. A panel of experts, representing diverse water sector stakeholders, will discuss examples, challenges, entry points, and good practices of water resilience in the region. The event will also be used to announce the formal launch of the initiatives, including RUWR and the Asia and the Pacific Water Resilience Hub, as well as ADB's forthcoming Guidance Note on Mainstreaming Water Resilience in Asia and the Pacific, at [ADB's Asia Water Forum in August 2022](#).

PANELISTS



NEETA POKHREL
Chief of Water Sector Group,
ADB



DEBRA ROBERTS
Co-Chair,
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PRITHA HARIRAM
Head of Department,
Ramboll Singapore



PETER JOO HEE NG
CEO,
The Public Utilities Board,
Singapore



TAQSEM KHAN
Managing Director,
Dhaka WASA, Bangladesh

MODERATOR

AGENDA

- Welcome by Pritha Hariram
- Opening and scene setting by Neeta Pokhrel
- ADB RUWR video presentation
- Welcome and introduction of panellists
- Role of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in helping governments to set policies to increase adaptation measures on the ground by Debra Roberts
- Public Utilities Board's transformational change towards actions for building resilience to climate change in Singapore by Peter Joo Hee Ng
- Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority's efforts toward adapting to climate change by Taqsem Khan
- A call for action to resource, strengthen, and equip water entities on the ground to build resilience in the Asia and the Pacific region. Moderated panel discussion on the need, examples, and drivers for transformational change to enhance water security and resilience.