

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2025

Side Event: GLOF Hazard Modelling and Risk Management in the Indian Himalayas and the Tian Shan Region

Organized by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), India and UNESCO Almaty Regional Office for Central Asia

📅 4 June 2025 | 12:15–13:45 CET

📍 *Geneva Room, Varembe Conference Centre (CCV), Geneva, Switzerland*

Session Overview

A side event on GLOF Hazard Modelling and Risk Management in the Indian Himalayas and the Tian Shan Region is being organized by SDC, India and UNESCO Almaty Regional Office for Central Asia during the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2025. This session on GLOF Risk Management will bring together scientists, policymakers, disaster risk reduction (DRR) experts and Development Cooperation representatives to explore the growing threat of GLOFs in high mountain regions, especially in the Indian Himalayas and the Tian Shan. This side event will highlight science-driven, governance-oriented, and internationally cooperative approaches to GLOF risk management.

The session will showcase a unique collaborative model involving Indian, Swiss, and international experts, illustrating how early warning systems, hazard mapping, and community-based preparedness are being implemented in some of the world's most challenging terrains.

Session Structure

Agenda Item
Keynote Presentation (21 Minutes)
Strengthening Resilience: Collaborative Approaches to GLOF Risk Mitigation and Research in the Himalayas
Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Krishna S. Vatsa, Member, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Government of India• Dr. Simon Allen, Department of Geography, University of Geneva, University of Zurich• Ms. MirjamMacchi Howell, Head of Section, Climate, DRR and Environment, SDC
Panel Discussion
Theme 1: Advancing GLOF Monitoring and Response through interventions at local level -20Mins. Theme 2: Regional-Level Scientific Best Practices and Cooperation -20 Mins. Theme 3: From Himalaya to the Global Stage: Swiss Technical Cooperation and Policy Influence on GLOF Risk Management -20 Mins.
Moderator: Mr. Arno Wicki, Assistant Director General and Head of the Division for Asia - Americas, SDC
Panelists : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Christoph Haemmig, Team Leader, GEOTEST• Dr. Krishna S. Vatsa, Member, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), India, Government of India• Dr. Simon Allen, University ofZurich, Switzerland• Ms. MirjamMacchi Howell, Head of Section, CDE, SDC• Ms. Natalia Kim, National Professional Officer, UNESCO Regional Office in Almaty

Join Online: [Link](#)