Enhanced Hydro-Meteorological Risk Information for Improved Early Warning and Response

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The past 30 years have seen a general increase in the number of climate-related disasters globally, with the greatest impact in the Asia-Pacific region. Extreme events, such as floods, droughts, and cyclones, generated by climate variability, may increase in frequency and intensity with changes in regional climatic averages due to global warming. With increasing development, more elements are at risk to these hazards, leading to higher losses. Long-lead, high-resolution, and location-specific hydro-meteorological disaster risk information would guide targeted warning and preparedness for response. Capacity to generate this information is, however, lacking within most national hydro-meteorological services in the region. Global climate centers, on the other hand, have generated products from years of research that may be used in generating this kind of information. These products, however, need to be tested and translated for operational use and application. Also, users of these new-generation information products, particularly in climate-sensitive sectors, need to be equipped to effectively use these products in managing current and future climate risks.

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