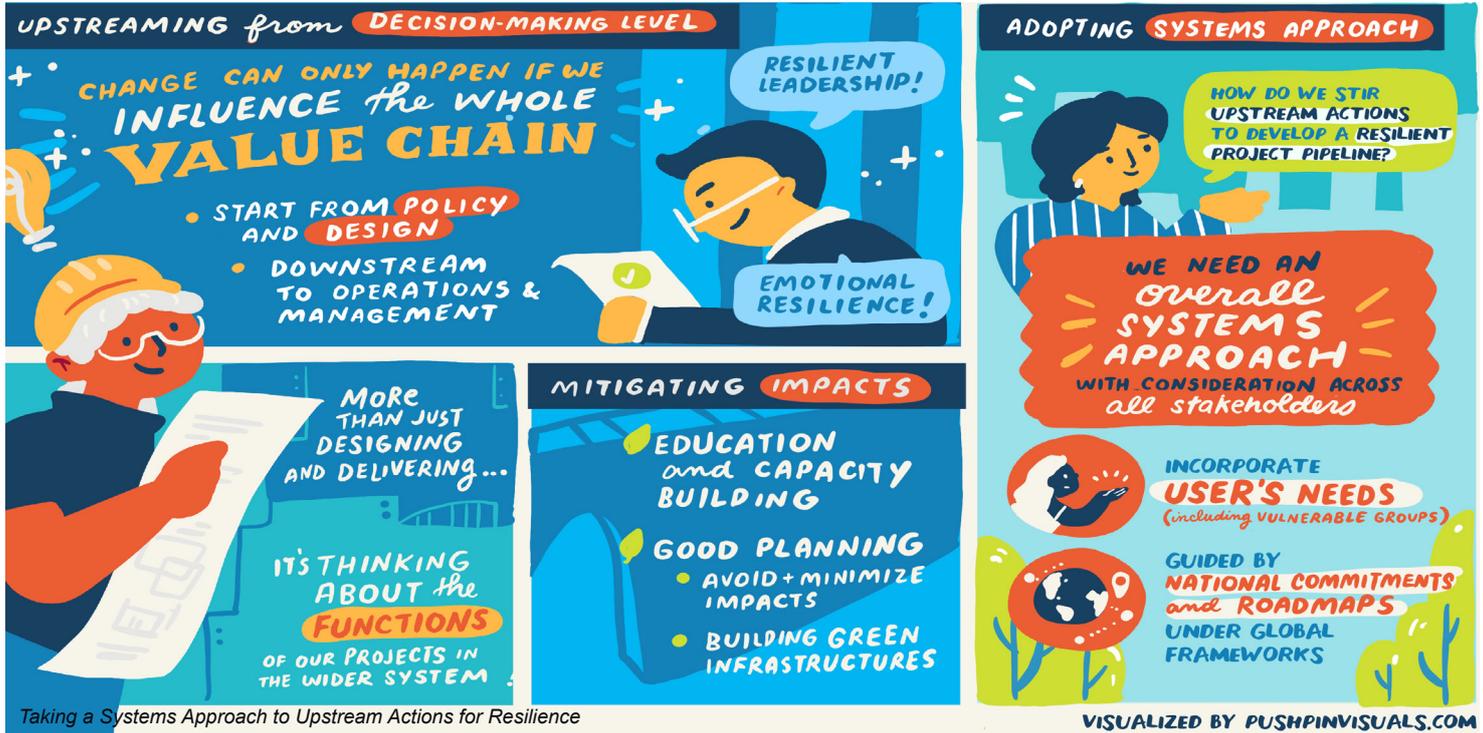


EVENT SNAPSHOT

Upstream Actions for Environmental, Climate Change and Disaster Resilience in Transport Infrastructure



EVENT DETAILS

Emerging Stronger: Upstream Actions for Environmental, Climate Change and Disaster Resilience in Transport Infrastructure

A session for the Asia and the Pacific Transport Forum | Virtual Meeting

• 26 August 2020 | 10 – 11:30 AM PHT

MODERATOR:

Preeti Bhandari, Chief of Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Thematic Group; concurrently Director, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Division, ADB

PANELISTS:

- **Sujata Gupta**, Director, Sustainable Infrastructure Division, East Asia Department, ADB
- **Sandeep Poundrik**, Director General, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure
- **Norris Dodd**, Environmental Consultant, ADB
- **Juliet Mian**, Deputy Executive Director, Resilience Shift; and Associate Director, Arup
- **Ana Bing Fonua**, Tonga Ministry of Infrastructure | Project Coordinator for Nuku'alofa Port Project

TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE THROUGH UPSTREAM ACTIONS

During this year's Asia and the Pacific Transport Forum ADB hosted a series of webinars to bring together experts in the transport community to discuss the region's transport issues, the applied and potential solutions to these issues, and the future of the transport sector in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery.

This included a session organized by the Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Thematic Group which focused on how upstream actions such as strategic planning, risk and resilience assessments, and capacity development can bring about transformative changes towards resilient transport systems. Discussions emphasized the need for systems thinking as an overall approach to ensure upstream actions contribute to infrastructure resilience and sustainability; and how MDBs could create an enabling environment that ensures systems thinking is embedded in practice, even where DMCs face resource constraints.

The session shared international and regional

examples and perspectives to enhance environmental, climate change and disaster resilience of transport infrastructure. An example of such project from ADB is the People's Republic of China (PRC) Xiangtan Low-Carbon Transformation Sector Development Program which promotes a systems approach for policy making, establishment of integrated and low-carbon urban transport system, expansion of blue-green infrastructure, and enabling ICT-systems for informed decision-making.

Mainstreaming climate and disaster resilience upstream requires integration of different sectors. We need systems and integrated planning.

– Sujata Gupta, ADB

COVID-19 has impacted every part of transport sector. It's not a physical shock to infrastructure. It enables us to see clearly how important people are in infrastructure resilience.

– Juliet Mian | Resilience Shift; Arup

URBAN CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE LESSONS

- **Building resilience of critical infrastructure, including transportation, requires a systems thinking approach where all constituents are interconnected to each other.** To embed this in practice, multi-stakeholder participation should be ensured in the earliest part of decision-making and strategic planning.
- **Public policy is an important mechanism for scaling up action on resilient infrastructure.** It provides direction on how public resources are deployed in the development, implementation, and operation of infrastructure systems and ensuring its sustainability.
- **ADB and other MDBs can help to drive systems thinking** to build infrastructure resilience even where DMCs face constraints in resources and institutional capacity. Important interventions include strategic risk studies to inform project pipelines, multi-stakeholder collaboration, and capacity building and knowledge sharing – prioritizing the most vulnerable populations.

UCCRTF supports sustainable transportation in the region through multiple projects including e-mobility in Viet Nam, Pakistan, and the Philippines; urban transport planning in Myanmar; BRT design in the Philippines; and Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transport System in India.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- [Asia and the Pacific Transport Forum 2020](#)
- [Recording of the session](#)
- **Virinder Sharma**, Senior Urban Development Specialist | Email: vsharma@adb.org

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