

# Disasters and Climate Extremes: Developing an Integrated Research Framework for Malaysia

Joy Jacqueline Pereira, FASc.

Southeast Asia Disaster Prevention Research Initiative  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (SEADPRI-UKM)



# CONTENTS

---

- **INTRODUCTION**
- **IPCC FINDINGS ON ASIA**
- **CHALLENGES IN MALAYSIA**
- **PROPOSAL FOR A WAY FORWARD**

**Climate Variability** refers to variations in the mean state and other statistics (such as standard deviations, the occurrence of extremes, etc.) of the climate at all spatial and temporal scales beyond that of individual weather events [IPCC-SREX, 2012].

**Climate Change** refers to change in the state of the climate that can be identified (e.g., by using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer [IPCC-SREX, 2012]. Climate change may be due to natural variability or as a result of human activity.

**Climate Change** refers to "a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods." (Article 1, UNFCCC)

**Climate Change** refers to any change in climate over time that directly or indirectly affects humans and their activities as well as natural systems and its processes. (National Policy on Climate Change, 2008)

**Disaster Mitigation** refers to the lessening of the potential adverse impacts of physical hazards (including those that are human-induced) through actions that reduce hazard, exposure, and vulnerability.

**Climate Change Mitigation** refers to a human intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases.

**Climate Change Adaptation.** In human systems, the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects, in order to moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. In natural systems, the process of adjustment to actual climate and its effects; human intervention may facilitate adjustment to expected climate.



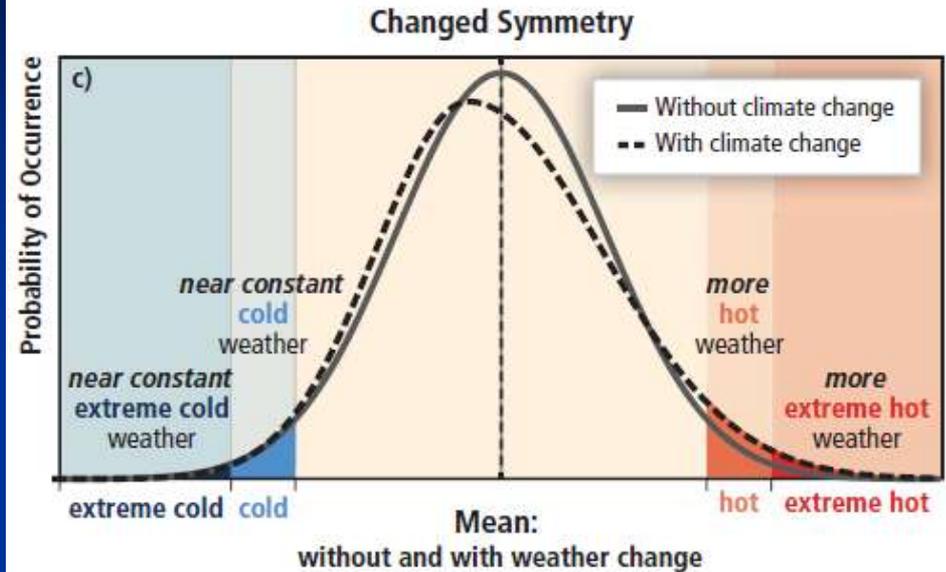
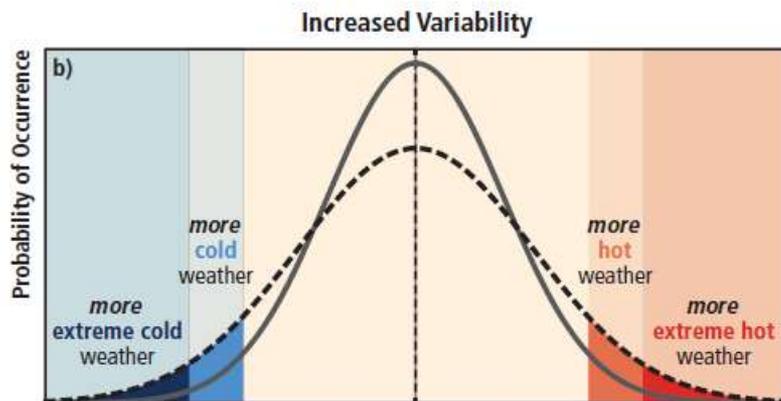
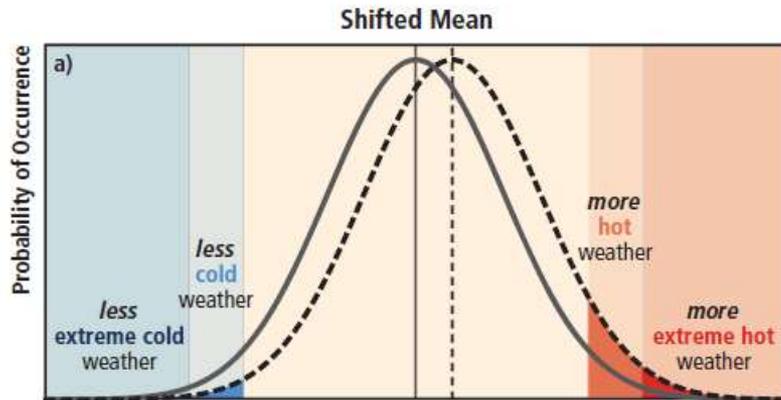
**Susceptibility** refers to the physical predisposition of human beings, infrastructure, and environment to be affected by a dangerous phenomenon due to lack of resistance and .....such systems once impacted will collapse or experience major harm and damage due to the influence of a hazard event.

**Exposure** refers to the presence of people; livelihoods; environmental services and resources; infrastructure; or economic, social, or cultural assets in places that could be adversely affected.

**Vulnerability** refers to the propensity or predisposition to be adversely affected.

**Resilience** refers to the ability of a system and its component parts to anticipate, absorb, accommodate, or recover from the effects of a hazardous event in a timely and efficient manner, including through ensuring the preservation, restoration, or improvement of its essential basic structures and functions.

# Climate Extremes



**Figure SPM.3** | The effect of changes in temperature distribution on extremes. Different changes in temperature distributions between present and future climate and their effects on extreme values of the distributions: (a) effects of a simple shift of the entire distribution toward a warmer climate; (b) effects of an increase in temperature variability with no shift in the mean; (c) effects of an altered shape of the distribution, in this example a change in asymmetry toward the hotter part of the distribution. [Figure 1-2, 1.2.2]

Climate Extremes (extreme weather or climate event) refers to the occurrence of a value of a weather or climate variable above (or below) a threshold value near the upper (or lower) ends of the range of observed values of the variable. [Source: IPCC-SREX, 2012]

# Impacts of **climate extremes** can be felt locally or regionally

Source: IPCC, 2012



## **AGRICULTURE**

**“Mongolian herdsman face starvation”**

*March 14, 2000, BBC World News*

## **ENERGY**

**“Heatwave hits French power production”**

*August 12, 2003, The Guardian*

## **WATER**

**“Drought returns to haunt Ethiopia”**

*May 19, 2008, Reuters*

## **PUBLIC HEALTH**

**“Cholera confirmed in Pakistan flood disaster”**

*August 14, 2010, Associated Press*

## **TOURISM**

**“Alpine resorts feel heat during record warm spell”**

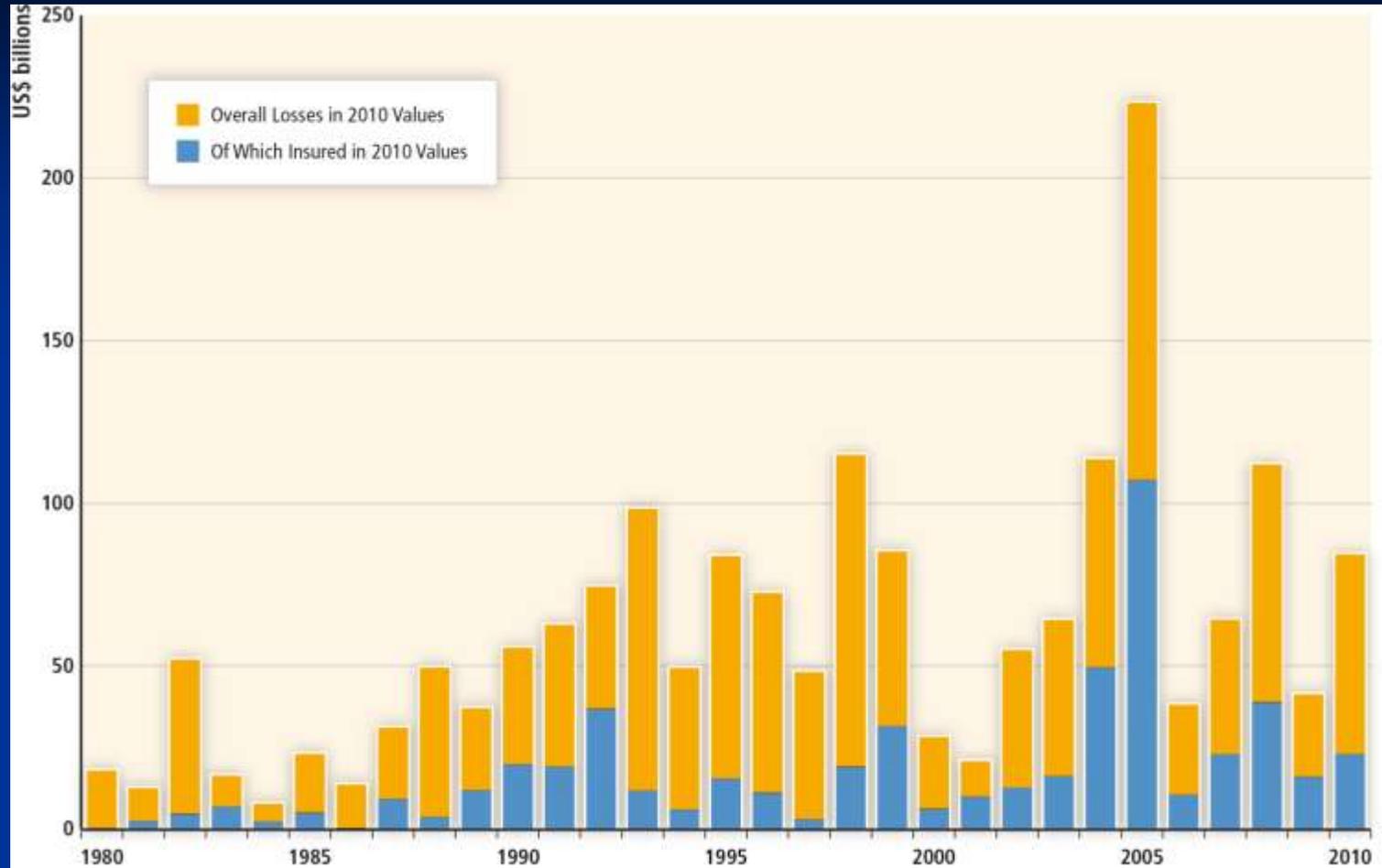
*December 08, 2006, CNN World News*

## **TRANSPORTATION**

**“Flash flooding causes train to derail”**

*July 30, 2001, Chicago Sun Times*

# Economic losses from climate-related disasters have increased



- Fatalities - higher in developing countries (from 1970-2008, over 95%)

Source: IPCC, 2012

ipcc

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change

- Economic losses – highest in middle income countries [1%GDP:MI; 0.3%GDP:LI; 0.1%GDP:HI]

Key risk	Adaptation issues and prospects	Climatic drivers		
Increased risk of crop failure and lower crop production could lead to food insecurity in Asia ( <i>medium confidence</i> )	Autonomous adaptation of farmers on-going in many parts of Asia.			
Water shortage in arid areas of Asia ( <i>medium confidence</i> )	Limited capacity for water resource adaptation; options include developing water saving technology, changing drought-resilient crops, building more water reservoirs.		24.4.1.3, 24.4.1.4	
Increased flooding leading to widespread damage to infrastructure and settlements in Asia ( <i>medium confidence</i> )	Adaptation measures include extreme weather exposure reduction via effective land-use planning, selective relocation and structural measures; reduction in the vulnerability of lifeline infrastructure and services (water, energy, waste management, food, biomass, mobility, local ecosystems and telecommunications) and measures to assist vulnerable sectors and households.		24.4.5.1, 24.4.5.2, 24.4.5.3, 24.4.5.5,	
Increased risk of flood-related deaths, injuries, infectious diseases and mental disorders ( <i>medium confidence</i> )	Disaster preparedness including early-warning systems and local coping strategies.		24.4.6.2, 24.4.6.3, 24.4.6.5	
Increased risk of heat-related mortality ( <i>high confidence</i> )	Heat health-warning systems, urban planning to reduce heat islands and improvement of built environment.		24.4.6.2, 24.4.6.3, 24.4.6.5	

Climatic drivers of impacts

Risk & potential for adaptation

Warming trend	Extreme temperature	Drying trend	Extreme precipitation	Damaging cyclone	Storm surge	Sea level	Ocean acidification
---------------	---------------------	--------------	-----------------------	------------------	-------------	-----------	---------------------

Potential for adaptation to reduce risk

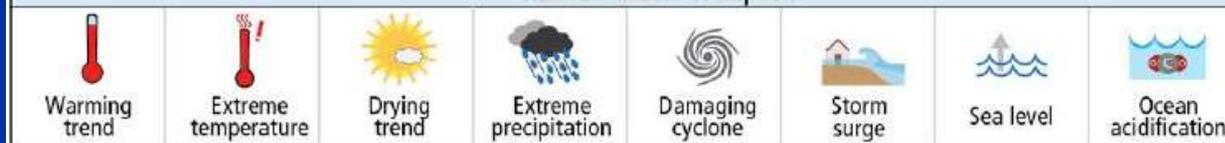
Risk level with high adaptation

Risk level with current adaptation

Key risk	Adaptation issues and prospects	Climatic drivers		
Increased risk of drought-related water and food shortage causing malnutrition ( <i>high confidence</i> )	Disaster preparedness including early-warning systems and local coping strategies.		24.4.6.5	
Increased risk of water and vector-borne diseases ( <i>medium confidence</i> )	Early-warning systems, vector control programs, water management and sanitation programs.		24.4.6.2, 24.4.6.3, 24.4.6.5	
Exacerbated poverty, inequalities and new vulnerabilities ( <i>high confidence</i> )	Insufficient emphasis and limited understanding on urban poverty, interaction between livelihoods, poverty and climate change.		24.4.5, 24.4.6	
Coral reef decline in Asia ( <i>high confidence</i> )	The limited adaptation options include minimizing additional stresses in marine protected areas sited where sea surface temperatures are expected to change least and reef resilience is expected to be highest.		24.4.3.3, 24.4.3.5, CC-CR, CC-OA	
Mountain-top extinctions in Asia ( <i>high confidence</i> )	Adaptation options are limited. Reducing non-climate impacts and maximizing habitat connectivity will reduce risks to some extent, while assisted migration may be practical for some species.		24.4.2.4, 24.4.2.5	

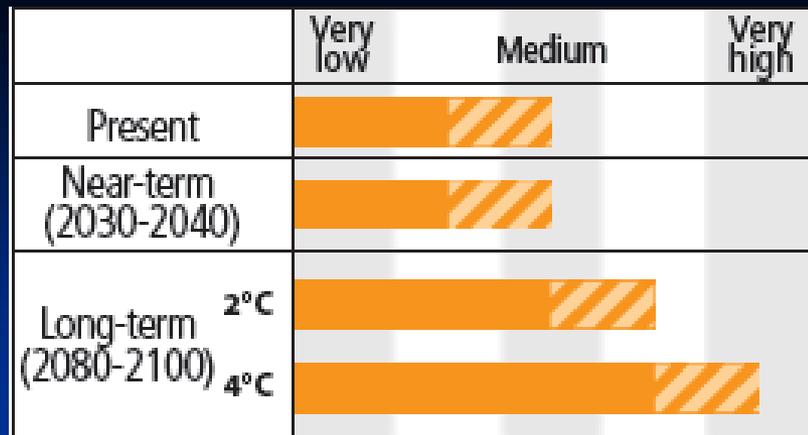
Climatic drivers of impacts

Risk & potential for adaptation

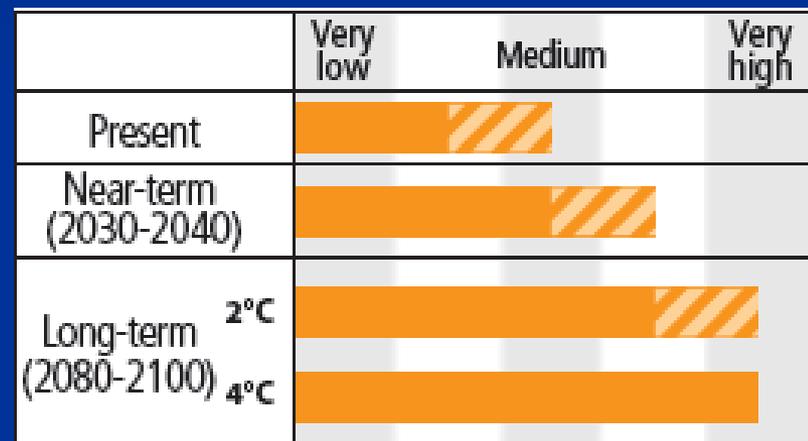


# Key Risks in Asia

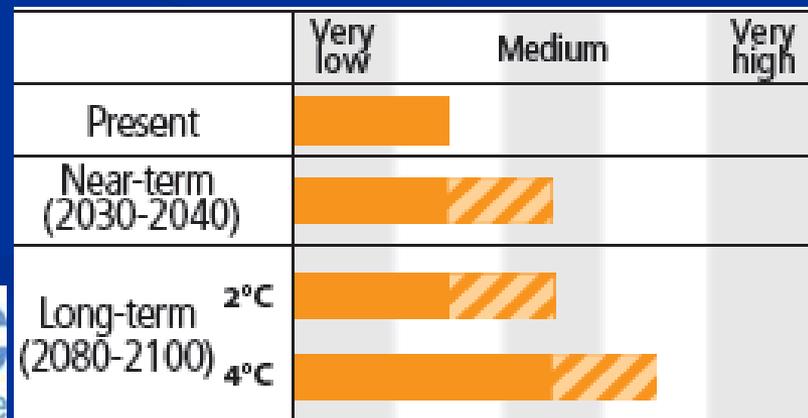
Increased [coastal, riverine and urban] flooding leading to widespread damage to infrastructure and settlements in Asia (medium confidence)



Increased risk of heat-related mortality (high confidence)



Increased risk of drought-related water and food shortage causing malnutrition (high confidence)



Source: IPCC, 2014

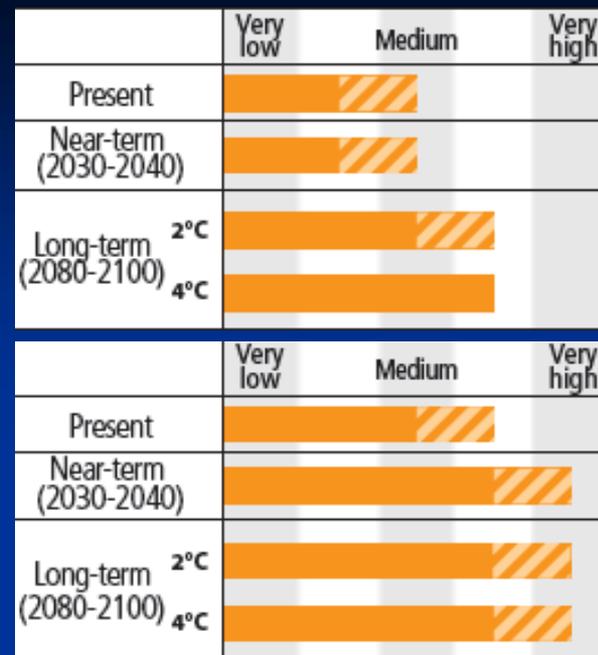
ipcc

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change

# Key Risks in Asia

Increased risk of crop failure and lower crop production could lead to food insecurity in Asia (medium confidence)

Water shortage in arid areas of Asia (medium confidence)



## KEY CONCLUSIONS ON WATER: IPCC-WG2: Ch 24, Asia

- ❑ Water scarcity is expected to be a major challenge for most of the region due to increased water demand and lack of good management (*medium confidence*)
- ❑ There is *low confidence* in future precipitation projections at a sub-regional scale and thus in future freshwater availability in most parts of Asia.
- ❑ Integrated water management strategies could help adapt to climate change, including developing water saving technologies, increasing water productivity, and water reuse.

# Observations of Past Events

Source: IPCC, 2013

Climate Phenomenon	Asia	Southeast Asia
Heat Waves	It is likely that the frequency of heat waves has increased in large parts of Asia.	No Specific Observations
Drought	There is medium confidence that more megadroughts occurred in monsoon Asia and wetter conditions prevailed in arid Central Asia monsoon region during the Little Ice Age (1450–1850) compared to the Medieval Climate Anomaly (950–1250).	No Specific Observations
Floods	With high confidence, past floods larger than recorded since the 20th century occurred during the past five centuries in eastern Asia. There is medium confidence that in the Near East and India modern large floods are comparable or surpass historical floods in magnitude and/or frequency.	No Specific Observations

# Future Projections

Source: IPCC, 2013

Climate Phenomenon	Asia	Southeast Asia
<b>Precipitation</b>	<p>Future increase in precipitation extremes related to the monsoon is very likely in East Asia, South Asia and Southeast Asia.</p>	<p>Future <b>increase in precipitation extremes</b> related to the monsoon is very likely in Southeast Asia.</p>
	<p>Indian monsoon rainfall is projected to increase. For the East Asian summer monsoon, both monsoon circulation and rainfall are projected to increase.</p>	<p>There is low confidence in projections of future changes in the Madden-Julian Oscillation due to the poor skill in model simulations of this intraseasonal phenomenon and the sensitivity to ocean warming patterns. <b>Future projections of regional climate extremes in Southeast Asia are therefore of low confidence.</b></p> <p>Reduced precipitation in Indonesia in Jul-Oct due to pattern of Indian Ocean warming (RCP 4.5 or higher end scenarios)</p>
<b>El Niño-Southern Oscillation</b>	<p>Natural modulations of the variance and spatial pattern of El Niño-Southern Oscillation are so large that confidence in any projected change for the 21<sup>st</sup> century remains low. Confidence is low in changes in climate impacts for most of Asia.</p>	<p><b>Low Confidence in any projected change</b> for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.</p>

- Projected climate change (based on RCPs) in AR5 is similar to AR4 in both patterns and magnitude, after accounting for scenario differences.
- Projections of global mean sea level rise has increased in confidence since the AR4 because of the improved physical understanding of the components of sea level, the improved agreement of process-based models with observations, and the inclusion of ice-sheet dynamical changes.
- Global mean sea level will continue to rise during the 21st century. Under all RCP scenarios the rate of sea level rise will *very likely* exceed that observed during 1971–2010 due to increased ocean warming and increased loss of mass from glaciers and ice sheets.

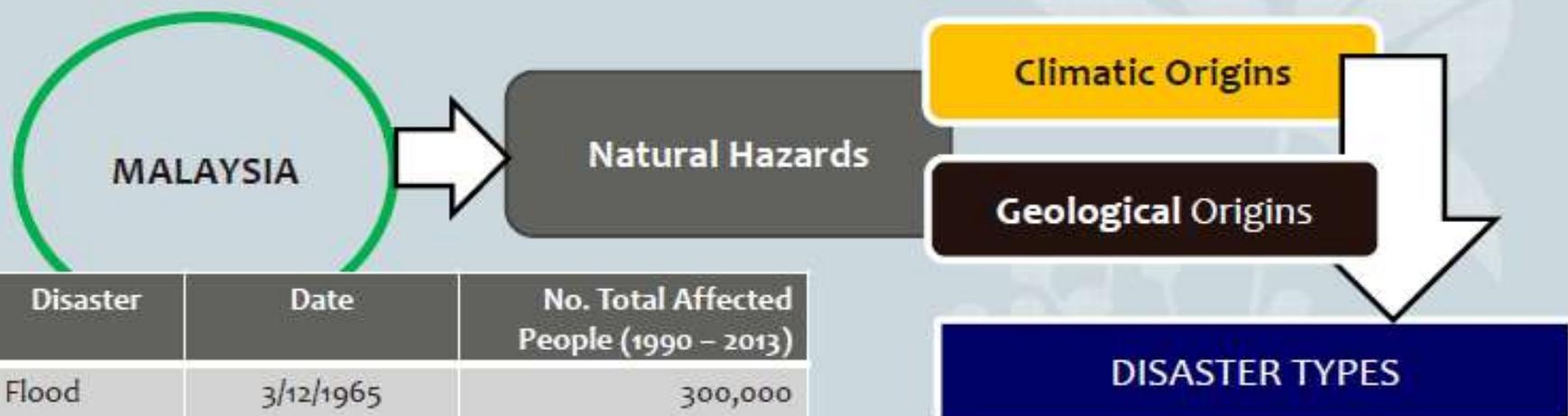
Global mean sea level rise for 2081–2100 relative to 1986–2005 will *likely* be in the following ranges:

- 0.26 to 0.55 m (RCP2.6)
- 0.32 to 0.63 m (RCP4.5)
- 0.33 to 0.63 m (RCP6.0)
- 0.45 to 0.82 m (RCP8.5) – medium confidence

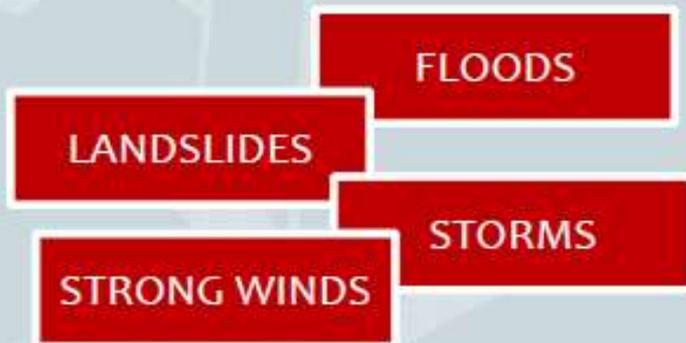
Sea level rise will not be uniform. By the end of the 21st century, it is *very likely* that sea level will rise in more than about 95% of the ocean area.

About 70% of the coastlines worldwide are projected to experience sea level change within 20% of the global mean sea level change.

# NATURAL HAZARDS IN MALAYSIA



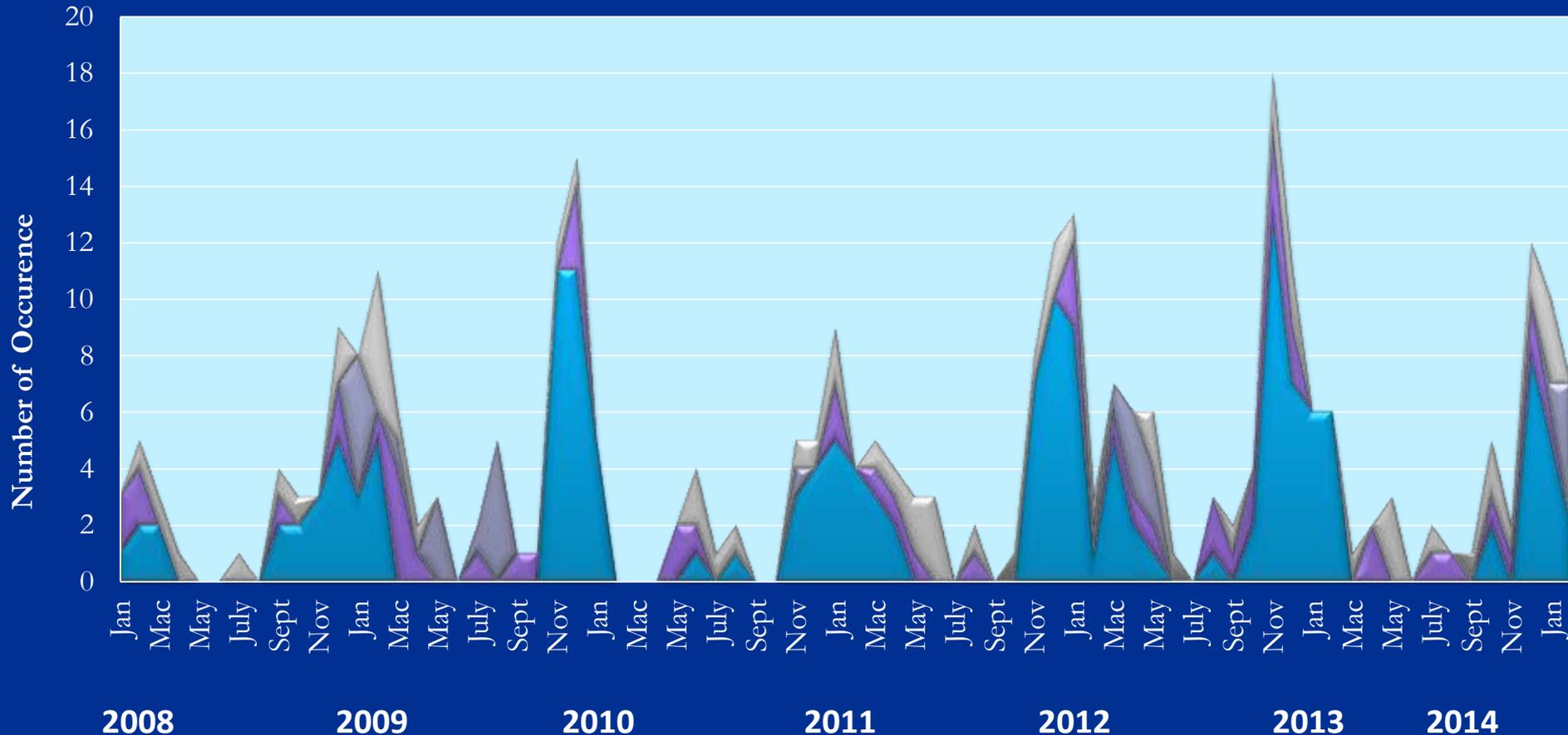
Disaster	Date	No. Total Affected People (1990 – 2013)
Flood	3/12/1965	300,000
Flood	26/12/1970	243,000
Flood	Jan-1967	140,000
Flood	11/1/2007	137,533
Flood	19/12/2006	100,000
Flood	12/11/1988	60,000
Storm	6/11/2004	40,000
Flood	23/11/2005	30,000
Flood	7/12/2007	29,000
Flood	28/11/1986	25,000



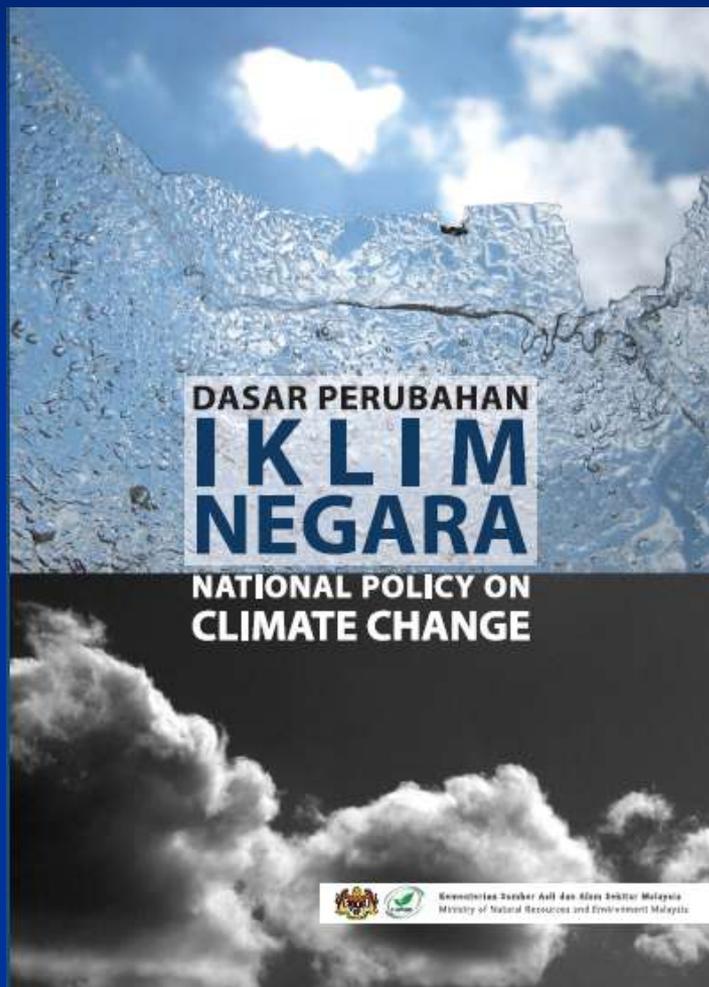
Source: <http://www.emdat.be/result-country-profile>

# Frequency of Disasters in Malaysia

Flood Flash Flood Storm Landslide



# National Policy on Climate Change



Climate-resilient development – development that takes into account measures to address climate change and extreme weather in line with national priorities.

Broadened definition enables the National Policy on Climate Change to serve as an instrument to harmonise and integrate to the extent possible and in line with national priorities, measures on climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction

5 Principles, 10 Strategic Thrusts & 43 Key Actions

STRENGTHENING THE ARRAY OF RESPONSES IN MALAYSIA



# NATIONAL PLATFORM AND ACTION PLAN FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (MyDRR)

Malaysia is exposed to natural hazards of climate and geological origin and disasters such as floods, landslides, storms and derailed trains have been increasing over the years. Recognising this problem the Malaysian Government has put in place since the early 1990s, policy, infrastructure and operational mechanisms that transferred from the national, state and district levels to ensure the coherent participation and involvement of various government agencies and the non-government sector in addressing disaster management. The Malacca Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Malaysia recognises the future directions of the country on disaster risk reduction as well as its efforts towards implementing the priority areas of the Hyogo Framework for Action, 2001-2015.



## EVOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL PLATFORM

The National Security Council of the Prime Minister's Department is concerned with the responsibility of ensuring the effectiveness of disaster management mechanisms that have been put in place. In order to strengthen the effectiveness of such an on-going mechanism the country, the National Security Council is formulating the working arrangements for disaster risk reduction and expanding the scope of consultation through establishment of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to be launched in 2015.

## MALAYSIAN ACTION PLAN FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (MyDRR)

A variety of actions have been taken to reduce the risks of disasters in the Malaysia by a steering of stakeholders under the auspices of the National Security Council. In view of the emerging challenges of urbanisation and population growth as well as uncertainties associated with climate change, there is a pressing need to consolidate the actions and engage a greater number of stakeholders to enhance the resilience of communities. Stakeholder consultation has commenced to identify consensus for the Malaysian Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (MyDRR). Such consensus can be broadly categorised into a variety of elements that constitute the disaster management cycle.

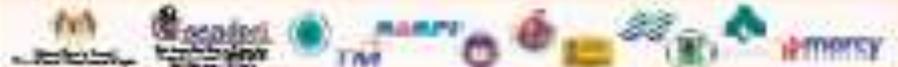


### Highlights of DRR Activities in Malaysia

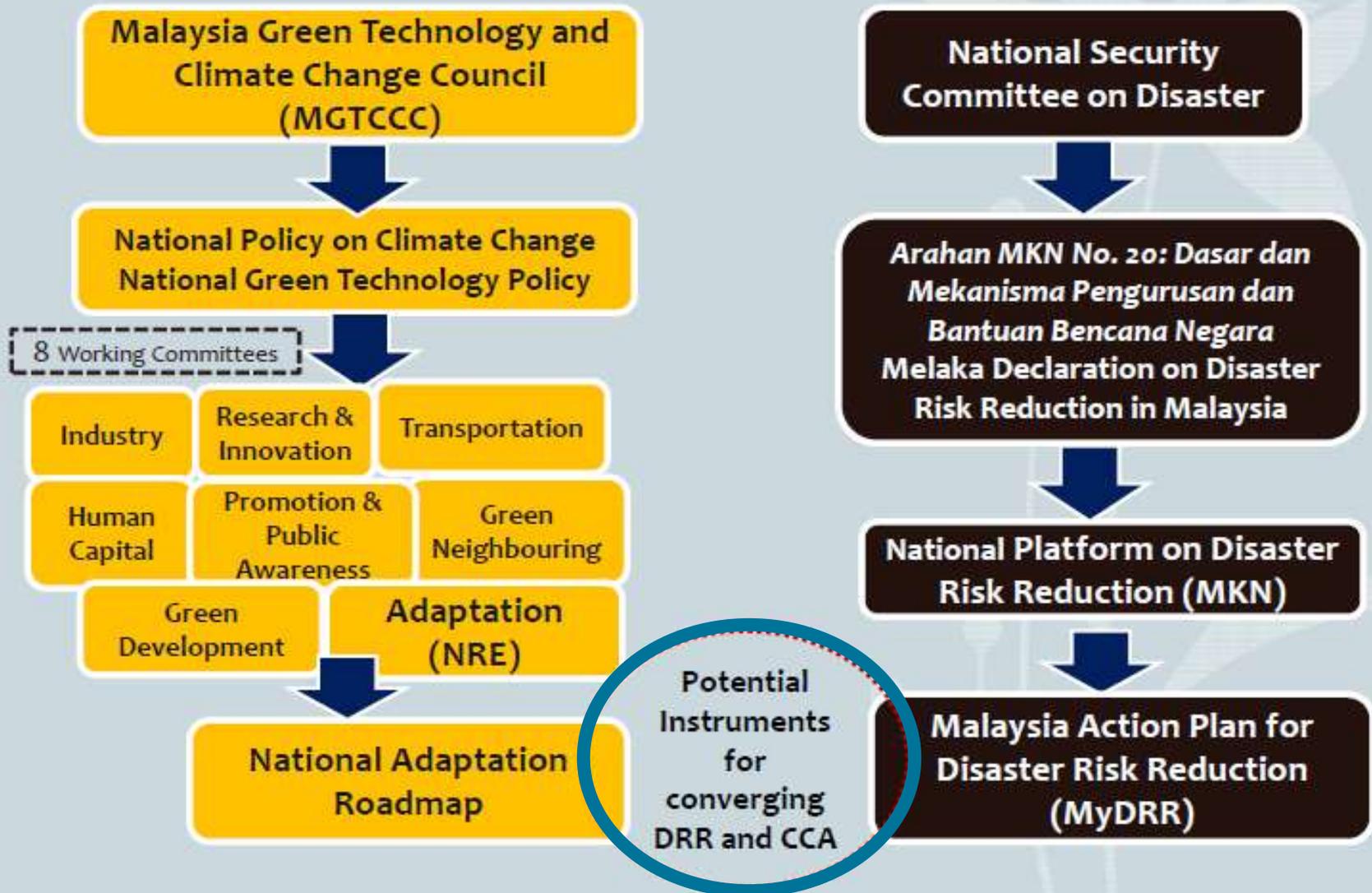
- The prime minister supports the National Disaster Risk Reduction Council to drive forward DRR.
- Local government leads disaster risk reduction activities such as enforcing drainage infrastructure for its citizens.
- A response built from the bottom up provides disaster relief assistance to the most vulnerable for flood.
- Malaysia has established a Real-Time Disaster Alert System for dissemination of disaster risk information through various channels to the public.
- The Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit (MAMPU) is providing guidelines on National Coastal Risk Management for the Malacca Strait. This effort aims to disseminate of Early Warning Coastal Flood.
- The Ministry of Education has established a Coalition on Disaster Risk Reduction comprising various stakeholders, to develop disaster programmes for all levels in Malaysia.
- The Ministry of Higher Education established the Southeast Asia Disaster Resilience Research Institute (SEADRI-ROD) in 2014 with Singapore. Malaysia aims to enhance policy and education to address disaster risk reduction activities in the country and other ASEAN states of planning.
- The Public Works Department, Department of Urban and Planning and the Department of Urban and Country Planning, Putrajaya, Malaysia have implemented urban disaster management plans.
- Teknikal Persekitaran has established a Risk Management Framework and established the National Disaster Reduction Institute in Seremban, a town of the City of Seremban.
- BERKAT Malaysia has played a professional role in assisting a more proactive Resilient and Adaptable communities in disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness.



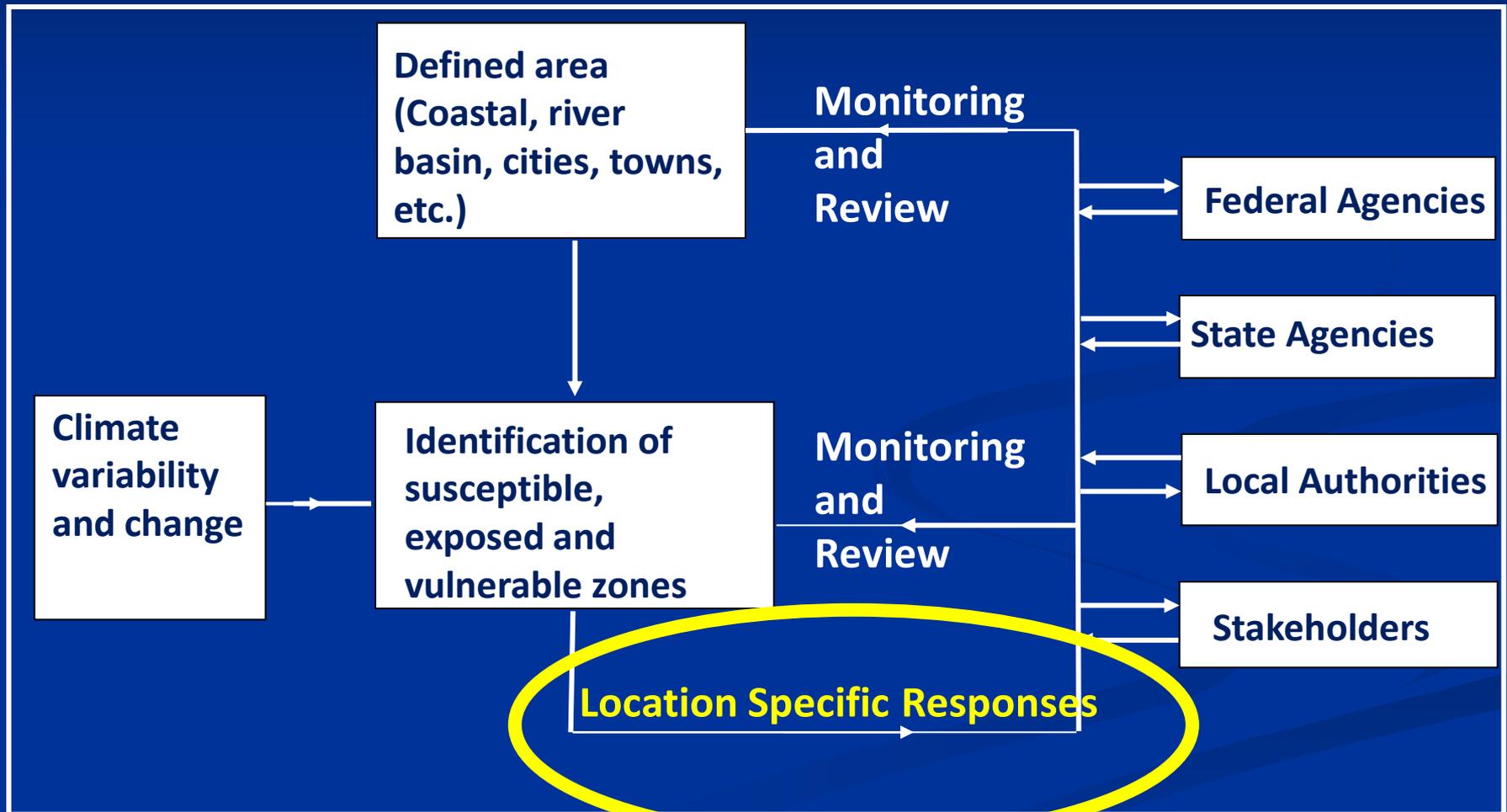
The Malacca Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Malaysia calls for the establishment of a national platform and comprehensive legal framework for risk and disaster management as well as initiatives to increase awareness and capacity of climate change among disaster risk reduction practitioners.



# INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT

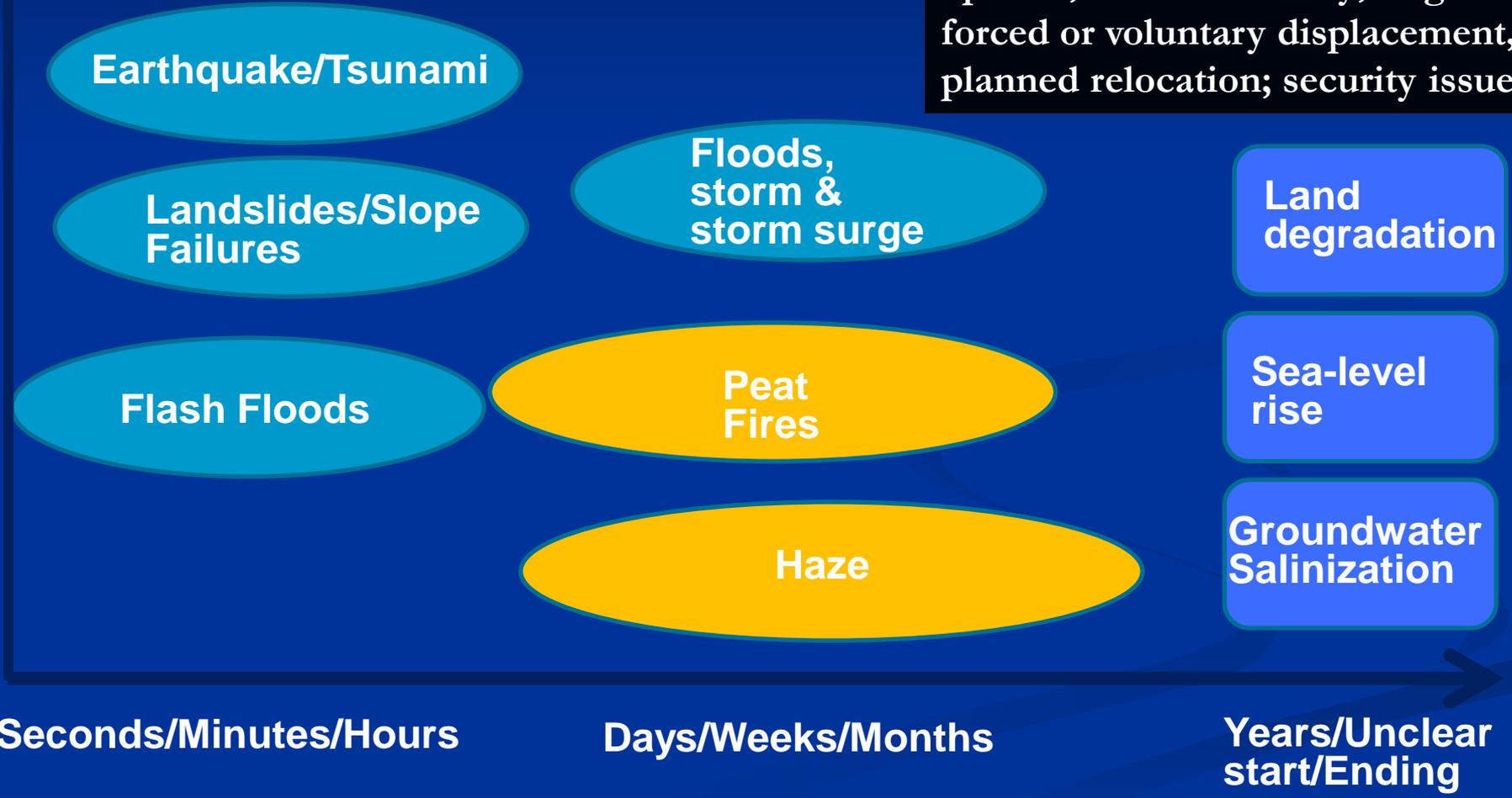


# RECOMMENDED APPROACH FOR MALAYSIA: "SPATIALLY CONTEXTUALISED" "COLLABORATIVE APPROACH" FOR ADAPTATION (AREA ADAPTATION PLAN)



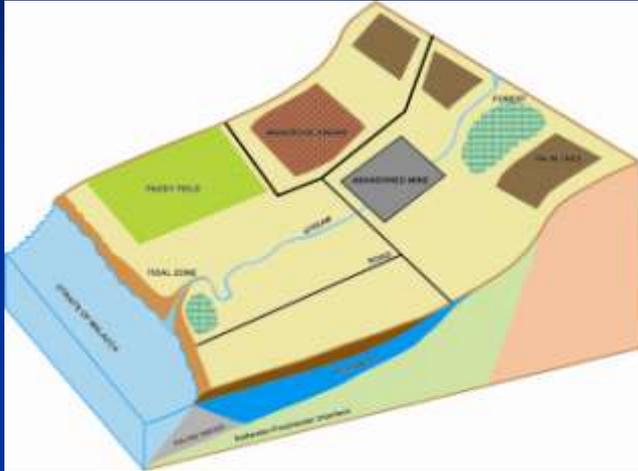
# Fast & Slow Onset Events

Potential Impacts: Food security, health impacts, loss of livelihood options, loss of territory; migration, forced or voluntary displacement, planned relocation; security issues.



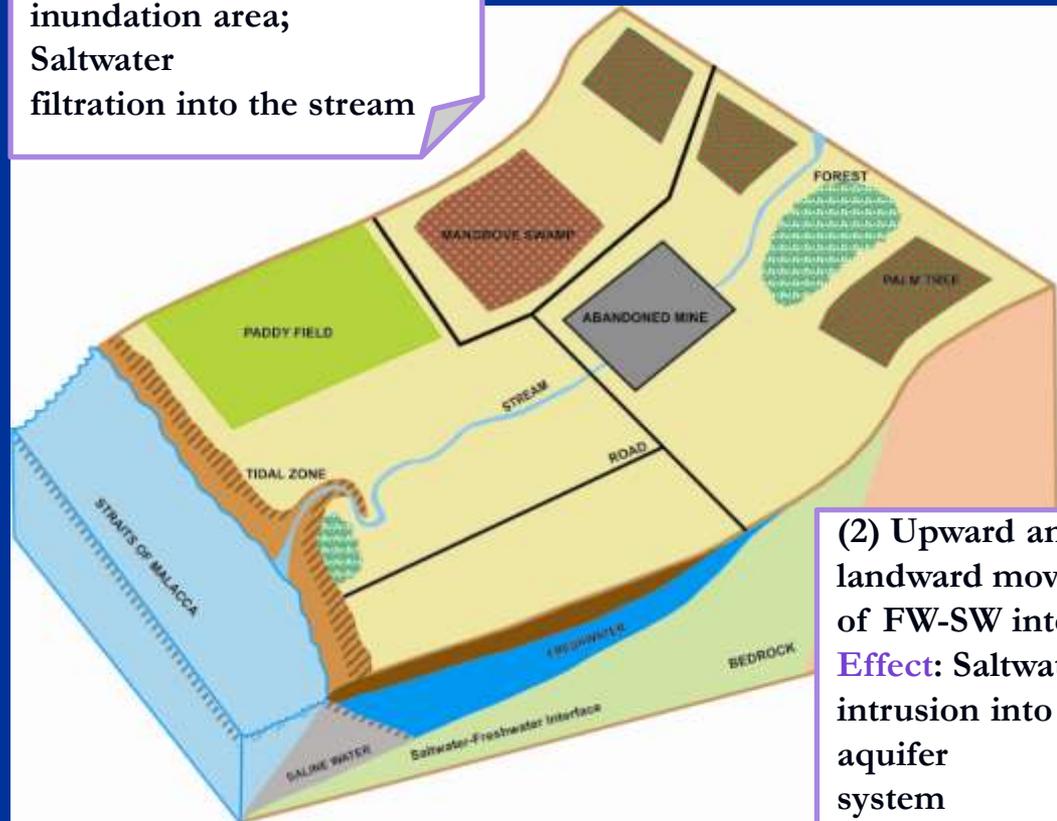
# Areas Potentially Affected by Sea-Level Rise in K. Selangor

## CURRENT SEA LEVEL



(1) Extension of Tidal Zone towards Upper stream  
**Effect:** Extension of inundation area; Saltwater filtration into the stream

## FUTURE SEA LEVEL

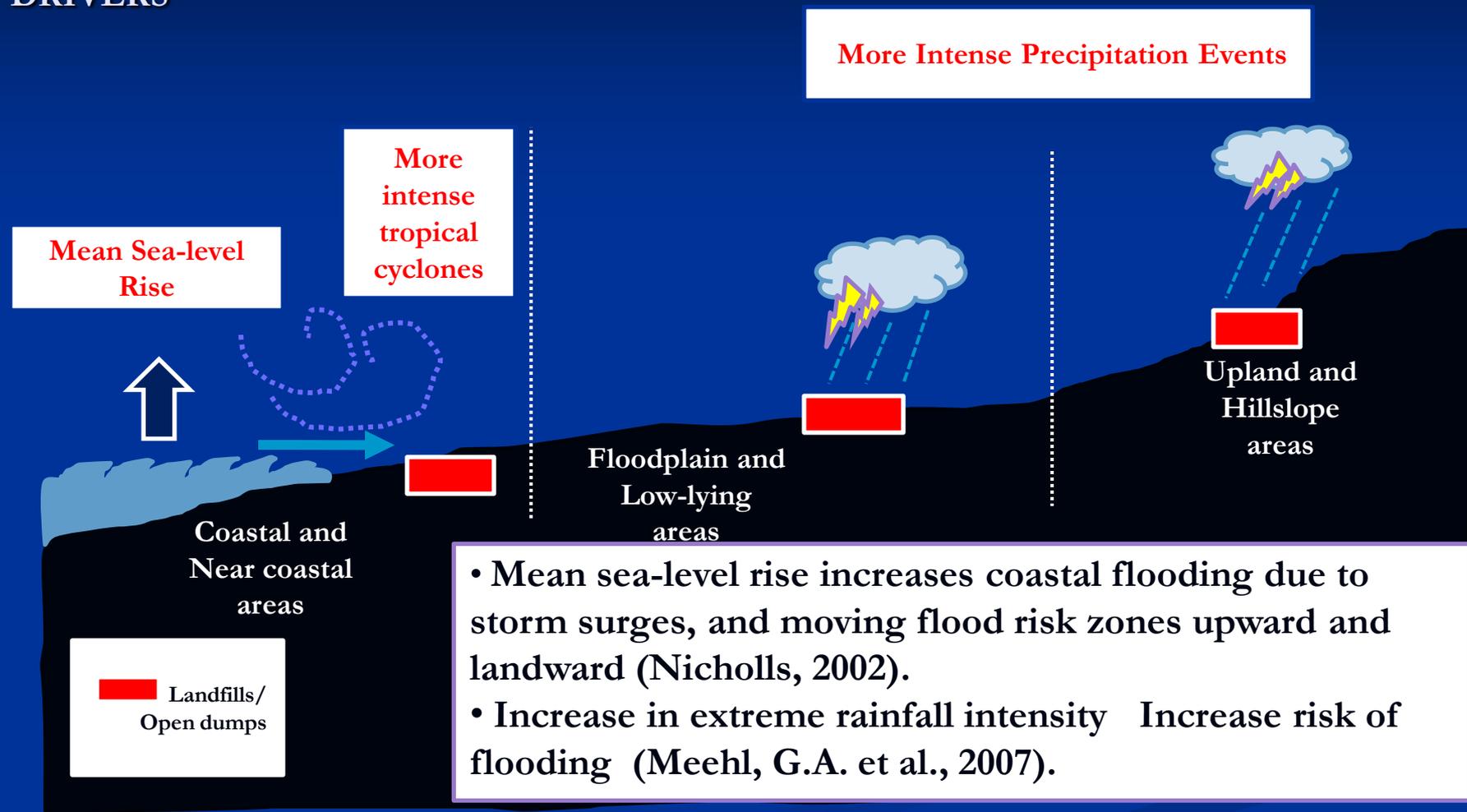


(2) Upward and landward movement of FW-SW interface  
**Effect:** Saltwater intrusion into aquifer system

Source: Umi Amira et al. 2013

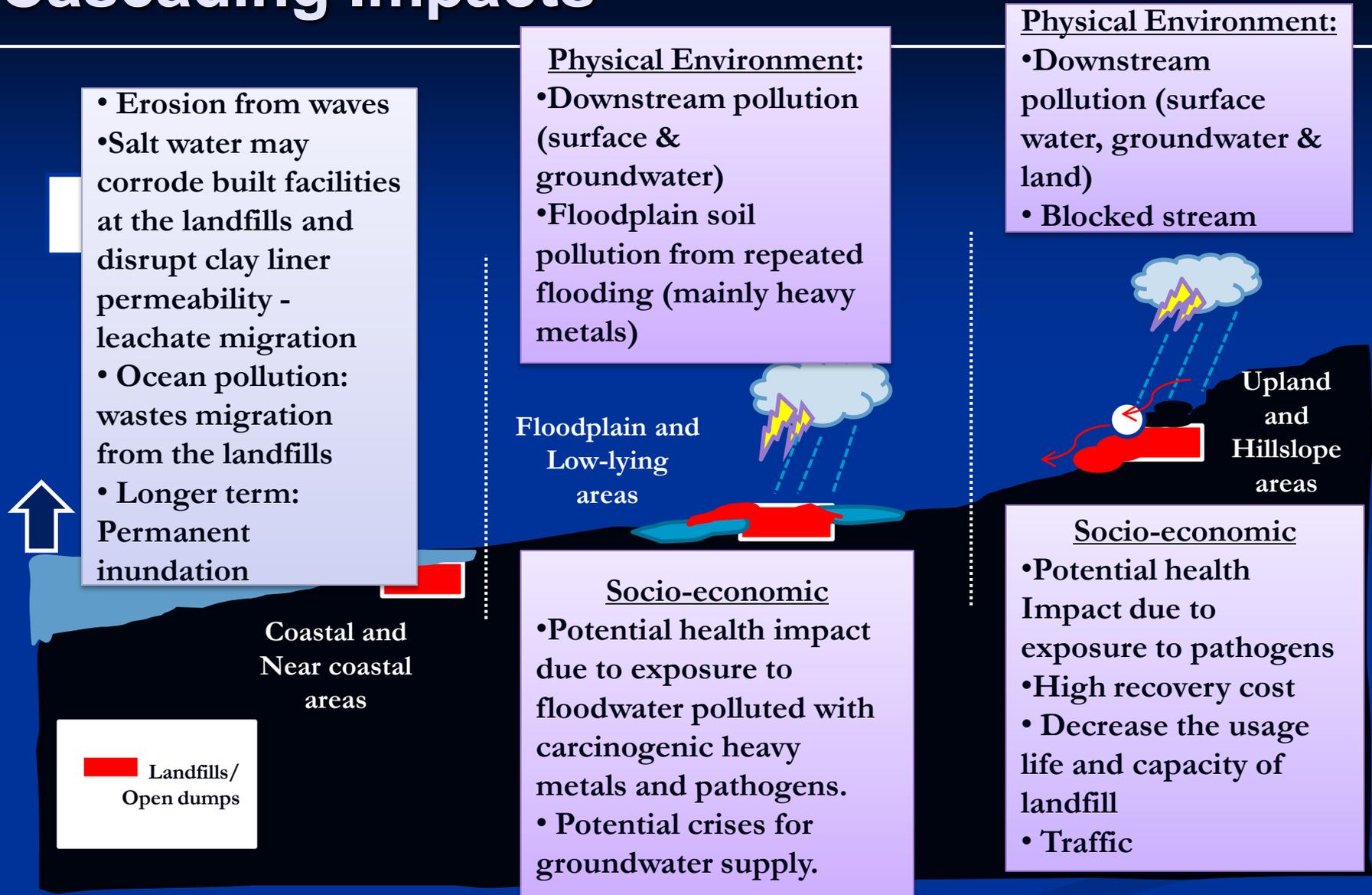
# Cascading Hazards: Climate Drivers

## CLIMATE DRIVERS

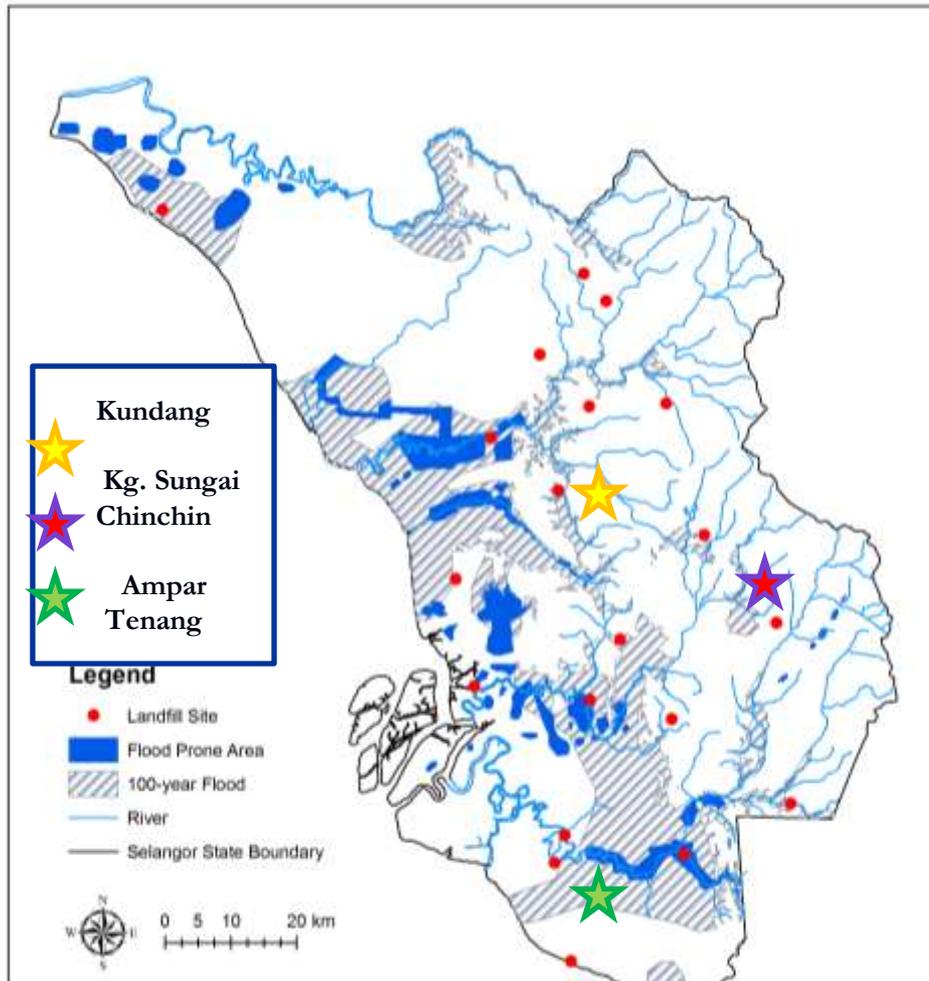


Source: Nurul, Lim and Pereira 2013

# Cascading Impacts



# Potential Cascading Hazards in Selangor



Flood prone area and 100-year flood map with identified active and closed landfill sites in Selangor. (Sources: Flood map adapted from RFN-2 Report 2009, landfill sites from NAHRIM and NRE 2010) **Source: Nurul, Lim and Pereira 2013**

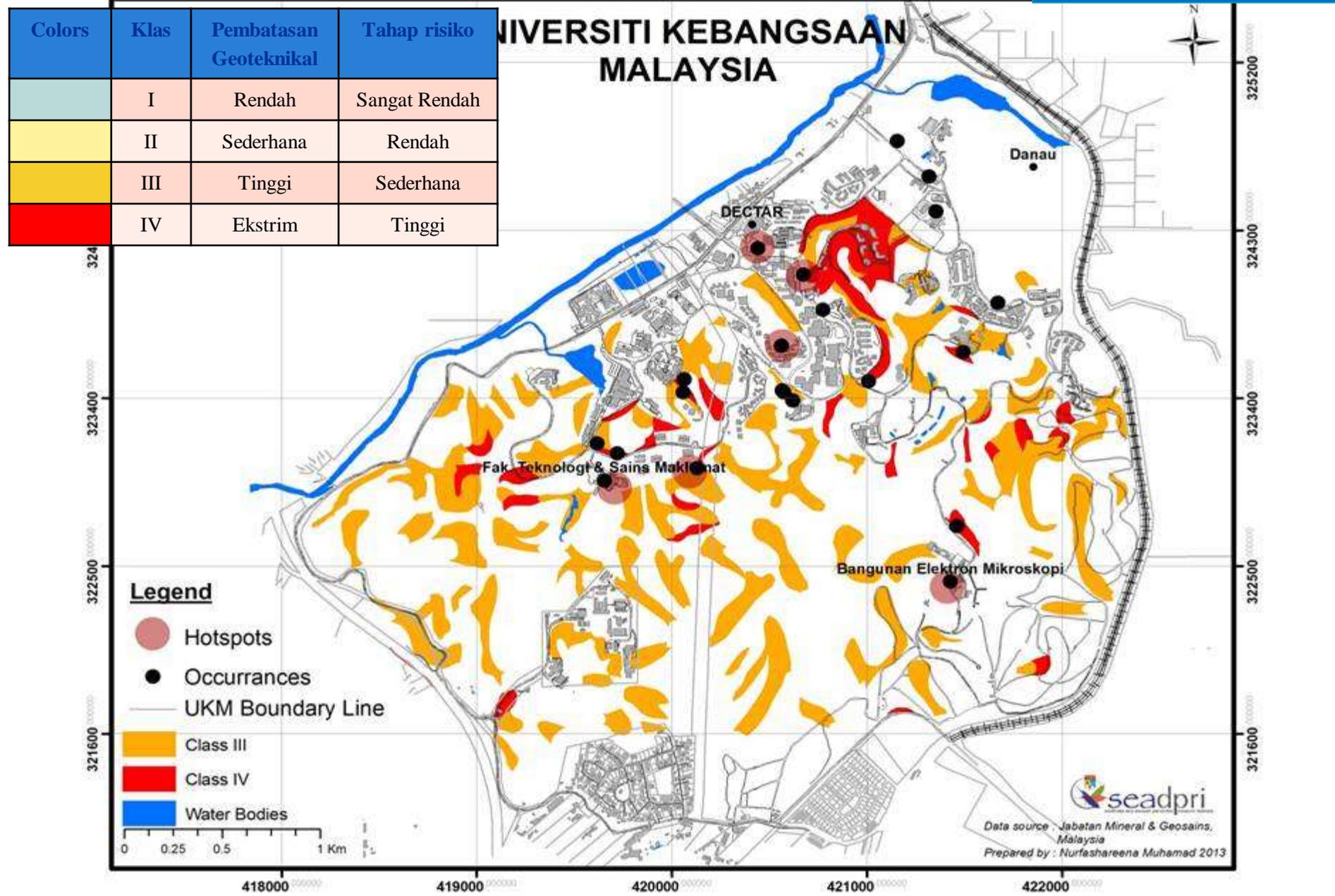
## Landfill Sites Exposed to Flooding:

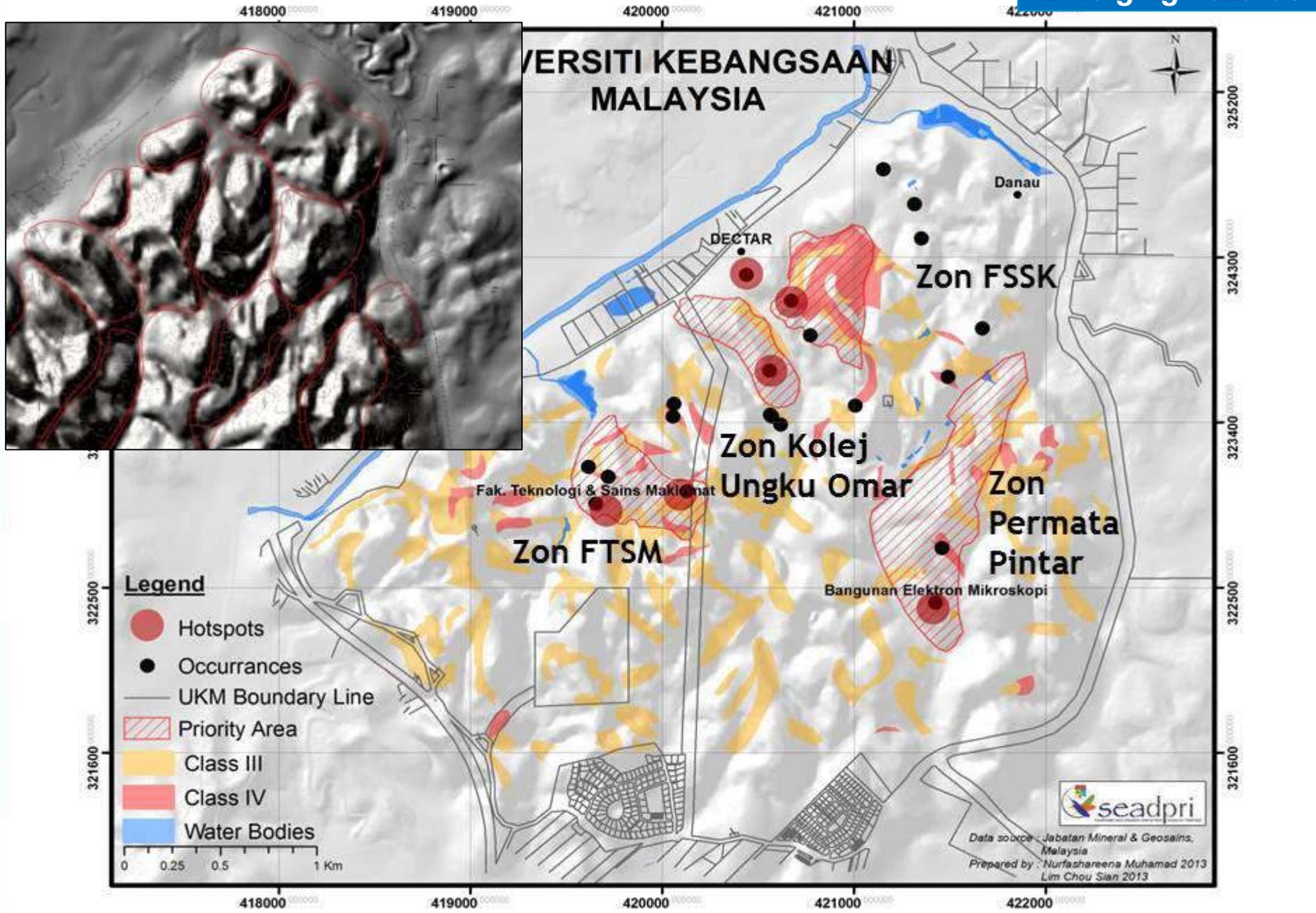
- Number of sites located within flood prone area: 4
- Number of sites located within 100-year flood: 9
- Number of sites potentially exposed to impacts from sea level rise: 3



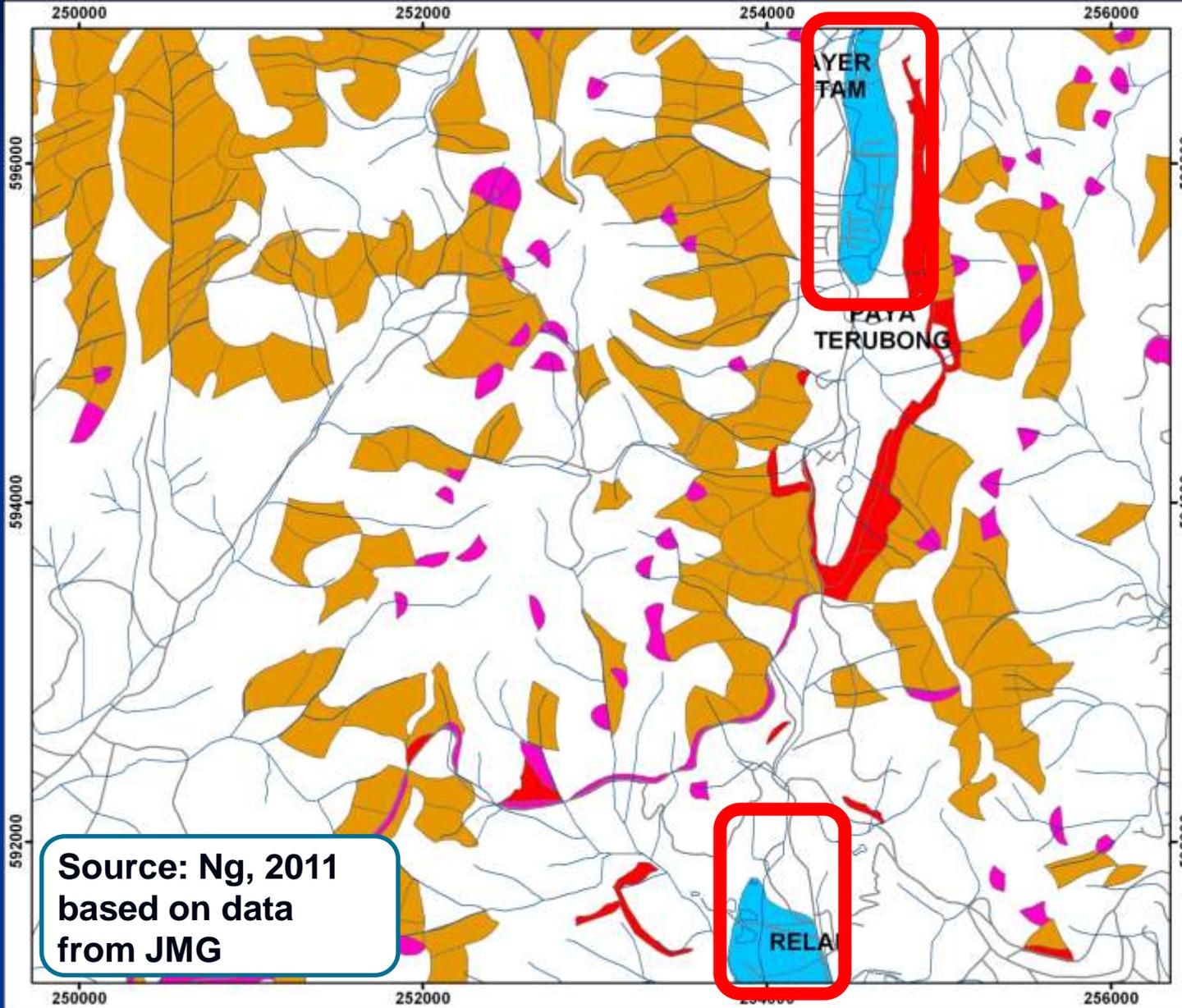
**Peta lokasi kejadian tanah runtuh bersama kedudukan binaan UKM ditindan-lapis bersama**  
**Peta Terain Geologi**

**Emerging Hazards**



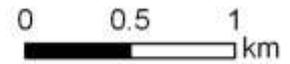


# Landslide Susceptibility



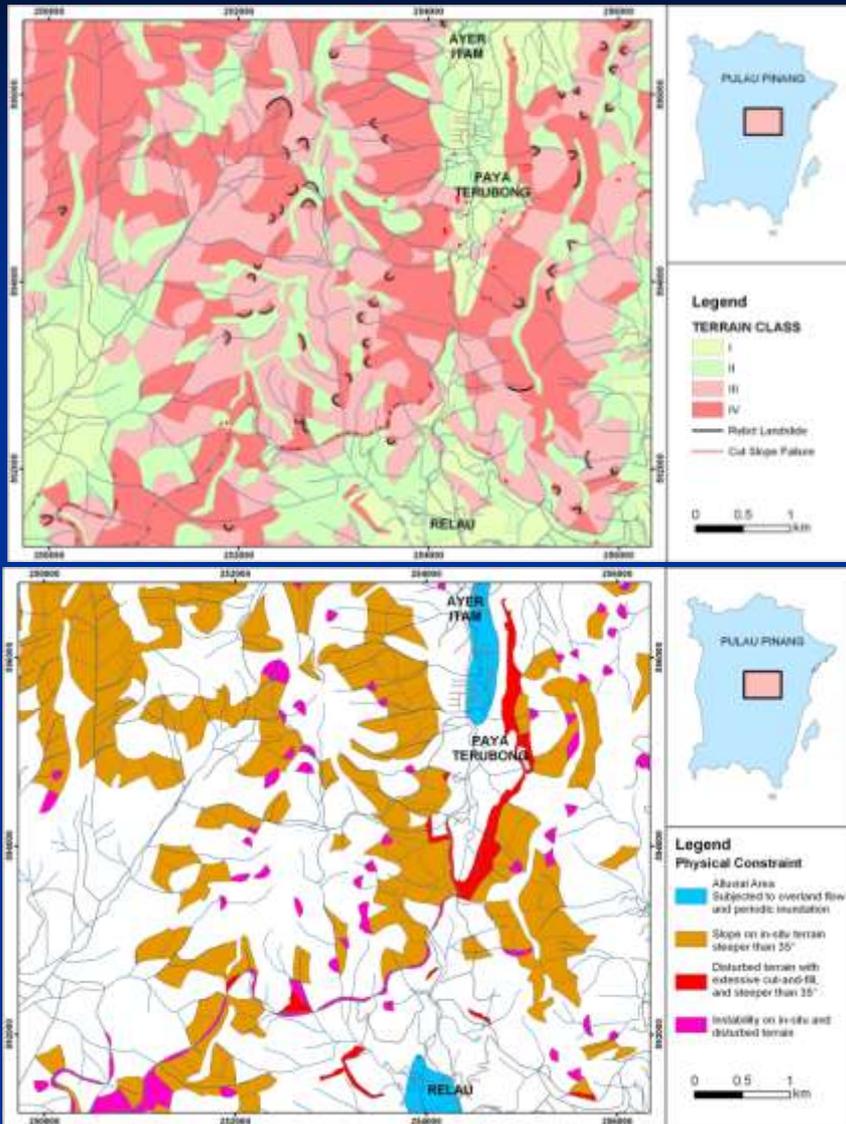
## Legend

- Physical Constraint**
- Alluvial Area  
Subjected to overland flow and periodic inundation
  - Slope on in-situ terrain steeper than 35°
  - Disturbed terrain with extensive cut-and-fill, and steeper than 35°
  - Instability on in-situ and disturbed terrain



Source: Ng, 2011 based on data from JMG

# Managing Risks



## Risk Factors:

- Uninformed planning
- Development in unsuitable terrain
- Cleared areas/blocked drainage

## Adaptation Measures:

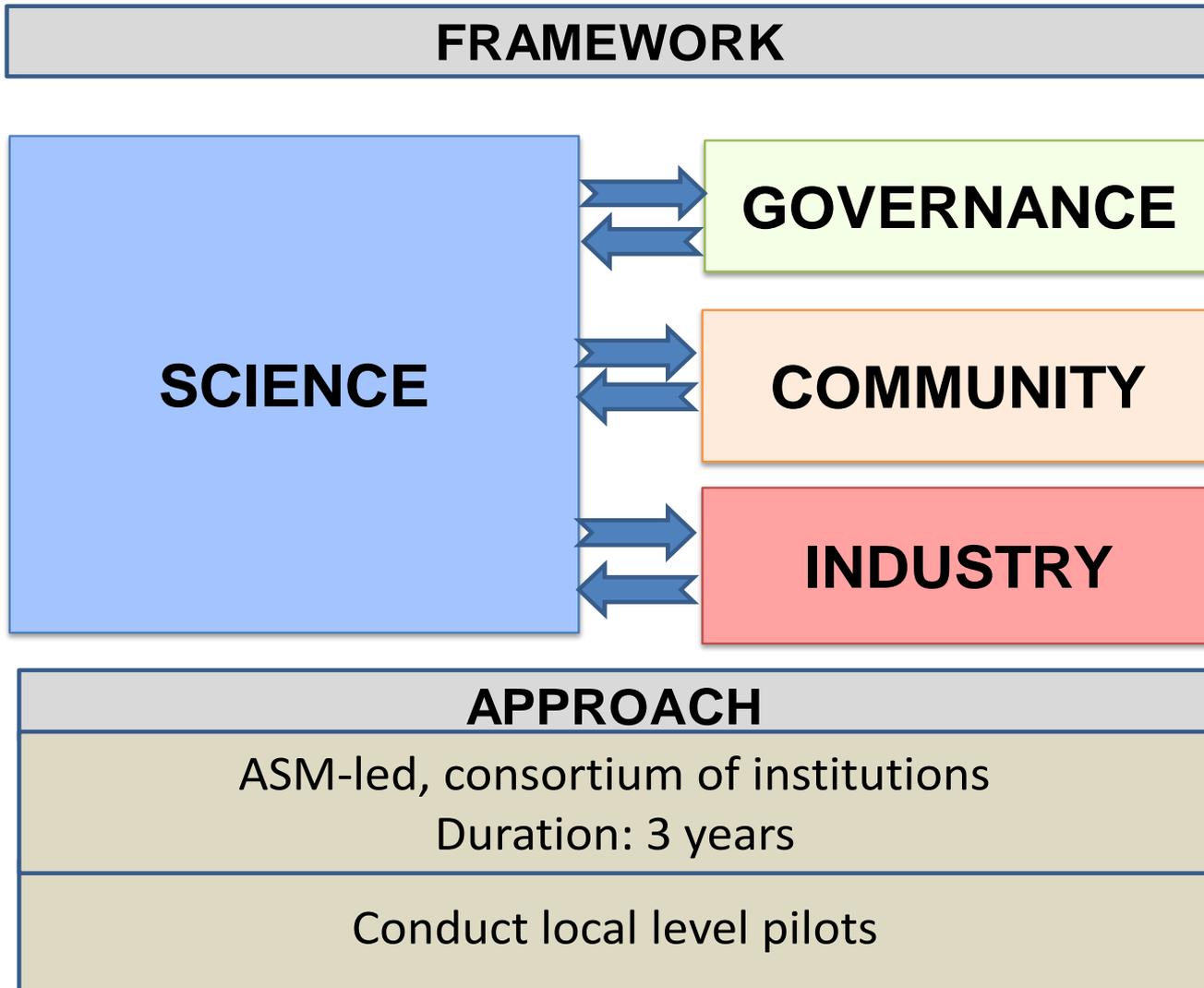
- Informed planning
- Regular slope/drainage inspection and maintenance
- Early warning systems
- Local community engagement
- Risk Pooling, etc.

Source: Ng, 2011 based on data from JMG

# CHALLENGES

- ❑ Excessive rainfall and increase in sea-levels, in conjunction with varying urban patterns within floodplains will see an increase in extent and frequency of flooding.
- ❑ The frequency and magnitude of rainfall-triggered landslides is expected to increase in rugged terrain and other susceptible areas.
- ❑ New approaches are required that take into account multiple hazards and delineate susceptible areas, exposed assets, vulnerable communities and high-risk zones.
- ❑ Communities in susceptible areas need to be the focus for building disaster and climate resilience in conjunction with relevant stakeholders, including the local authorities.
- ❑ Gaps in knowledge, policy and information management with respect to disasters and climate extremes have to be addressed.

# A PROPOSED WAY FORWARD



# KEY ELEMENTS

- ❑ Area specific focus on science, governance, community and industry serves as the basis for building a disaster resilient society.
- ❑ Near term projections and spatially explicit multi-hazards maps through crowd sourcing to support policy and decision makers reduce risks and build resilience.
- ❑ Integrated DRR Decision Support System has the potential to influence the banking and insurance sectors, promote area-based Business Continuity Plans and reduce economic losses. due to disasters and extreme climate.
- ❑ Web-based Tool-kits for local areas can be used for educational purposes, enhance disaster awareness, implement action oriented resilience building and indirectly enhance S&T awareness.
- ❑ Area specific, consortium approach, stakeholder participation and subject matter experts with ICT support .

# Asian University Network of Environment and Disaster Management (AUEDM):



[www.auedm.net](http://www.auedm.net)

Kabul University, **Afghanistan**  
BRAC University, **Bangladesh**  
Royal University of Phnom Penh, **Cambodia**  
Beijing Normal University, **China**  
Tata Institute of Social Sciences, **India**  
University of Madras, **India**  
Jadavpur University, **India**  
Institute of Technology Bandung, **Indonesia**  
Kyoto University, **Japan**  
University of Tokyo, **Japan**  
Tokyo Polytechnic University, **Japan**  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), **Malaysia**  
Tribhuvan University, **Nepal**  
University of Peshawar, **Pakistan**  
University of Philippines Los Baños, **Philippines**  
Nanyang University of Technology, **Singapore**  
Inje University, **South Korea**  
University of Colombo, **Sri Lanka**  
University of Peradeniya, **Sri Lanka**  
National Yunlin University of Science and Technology, **Taiwan**  
Chulalongkorn University, **Thailand**  
Danang University of Technology, **Vietnam**  
Hanoi Architectural University (HAU), **Vietnam**  
Hue College of Economics, **Vietnam**

## Observers and /or Advisors

ADRRN, Myanmar Engineering Society  
GTZ Pakistan, SEEDS, United Nations University

*Updated list as of March 2011*

[www.auedm.net](http://www.auedm.net)

**APN**  
Asia Pacific Network for Climate Change Research

**ASIA PACIFIC  
ADAPTATION  
NETWORK**

**Asian Network on  
Climate Science &  
Technology (ANCST)**

- IPCC Workshop on AR5, 4 July 2014, Shangrila Putrajaya [100 participants]
- ANCST Workshop on Atmospheric Chemistry and Climate Change, 14-15 July 2014, UM, K.L. [50 participants]
- Asia Pacific Adaptation Forum, 1-3 October 2014, PWTC, K.L. [200 Malaysians + 600 International]

**17 countries and region**



Asian University Network of Environment and Disaster Management (AUEDM)

# CONCLUDING REMARKS

- **Networking among researchers, academics and practitioners of multidisciplinary background is critical for advancing science, technology & innovation in DRR and CCA.**
- **Communication among policy and decision-makers (at all levels), and with researchers and academics is critical for building capacity as well as developing policy relevant tools and techniques.**
- **Availability and access to data is a challenge, limited use of data from geological, archaeological, social and historical studies.**
- **DRR and CCA as an iterative process using the best available science; combine top-down and bottom-up approaches, participation of all stakeholders, and community engagement should be a priority.**
- **Future lies in collaborative research with an area-based approach:**  
**AREA BASED DISASTER RESILIENCE PLAN**

# *Terima Kasih!*

**Science:** Southeast Asia Disaster Prevention Research Initiative (SEADPRI UKM), Malaysian Meteorological Department (MMD), Universiti of Malaya (UM), Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Minerals and Geoscience Department Malaysia (JMG), National Hydraulic Research Institute of Malaysia (NAHRIM), Drainage and Irrigation Department (JPS), University of Cambridge, City University of Hong Kong, etc.

**Governance:** National Security Council (MKN), Town and Country Planning Department Malaysia, Public Works Department, etc.

**Community:** MERCY Malaysia, Civil Defense Department of Malaysia (JPAM), Schools and Community/Youth Organizations of selected pilot sites, etc.

**Industry:** Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT), Param Agricultural Soil Survey, etc.

