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LESSON NOTES

WORKSHEET 16

YEAR 12: GEOGRAPHY

NAME: _____

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|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Strand | 2.1 Natural Hazards |
| Sub Strand | 12.1.1.2 |
| Content Learning Outcome | The types of Hazards |

Tropical Cyclones

The year 2018 was a year of surprises but probably a sign of things to come.

Despite the historical prevalence of disasters in the region, the year 2018 stands out. Almost half of the 281 natural disaster events worldwide occurred in the Asia-Pacific region, including 8 out of the 10 deadliest.

2 Although there were no mega-disasters, water-related disasters caught many by surprise, bringing new risks that were dynamically complex and challenging.

Indonesia alone was hit by the three deadliest disasters of the year. Two tsunamis and one earthquake in quick succession resulted in nearly half of the region's deaths. Even Japan, perhaps the country most prepared for disasters in the world, experienced unprecedented flooding, followed by an anomalous heatwave that killed more than 300 people in July 2018.

In South Asia, Cyclone Ockhi developed near the equator. This was unusual especially since a cyclone had been recorded only three times in the Comorin area and the Kerala coast since 1891. Furthermore, the cyclone had a very long track, approximately 2,540 kilometres, and it developed from a depression to a cyclonic storm in just 24 hours. In South-West Asia, a dynamic storm corridor of sand and dust collided with heavy thunderstorms and rain that brought widespread and cascading impacts as hundreds died, and livestock and livelihoods were decimated across Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and North West India.

Climate change and the complexity of disasters are also creating deep uncertainty. While enhanced technology and greater data availability allow many disasters to be predicted with greater accuracy, disasters triggered by climate change deviate from the usual tracks. It is therefore increasingly difficult to determine which areas should prepare for what kinds of disaster.

The Asia-Pacific region has considerable experience in reducing disaster risk. Yet, it will be difficult to stay ahead of the curve as climate change, expanding disaster hotspots, inequality and environmental degradation cumulatively create a more complex riskscape in which to implement disaster risk reduction actions. The Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network can help countries in Asia and the Pacific to strengthen regional cooperation by promoting best practices and the use of innovative technologies and measures for smart resilience. At the national level, all ministries and departments should consider how they can work together in a more integrated way, to utilize new opportunities that identify the populations most at risk of disaster and to support and empower them in building sustainable and resilient livelihoods.

