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Between 2014 and 2018, the **Pan-Asia Risk Reduction (PARR) fellowship program** provided a unique opportunity for learning, training, and networking to early-career researchers and professionals working on urban disaster risk reduction.

PARR Partners include:



Oscar M. Lopez Center  
Science for Climate Resilient Communities



IRDR ICoE  
Integrated Research on Disaster Risk  
International Centre of Excellence



國家災害防救科技中心  
National Science and Technology Center  
for Disaster Reduction



# Welcome

By Dr. Cheikh Mbow

Executive Director, START International

**PARR provided a space for early-career scientists to cultivate their expertise and leadership skills, for institutions to explore solutions to regional priorities, and for local communities to engage.**

*-Cheikh Mbow*

We could tell the story of the Pan-Asia Risk Reduction (PARR) fellowship program through the numbers, but numbers alone do not do justice to the footprint of the program, which has greatly contributed to building a community and establishing momentum for collaboration on disaster risk reduction in the region.

Seeds of transformation can only mature when there is the right environment for innovation and participation. PARR provided a space for early-career scientists to cultivate their expertise and leadership skills, for institutions to explore solutions to regional priorities, and for local communities to engage and gain recognition through the dissemination of research outputs.

We are pleased to share, in this first edition of START's magazine, the findings of action-oriented research

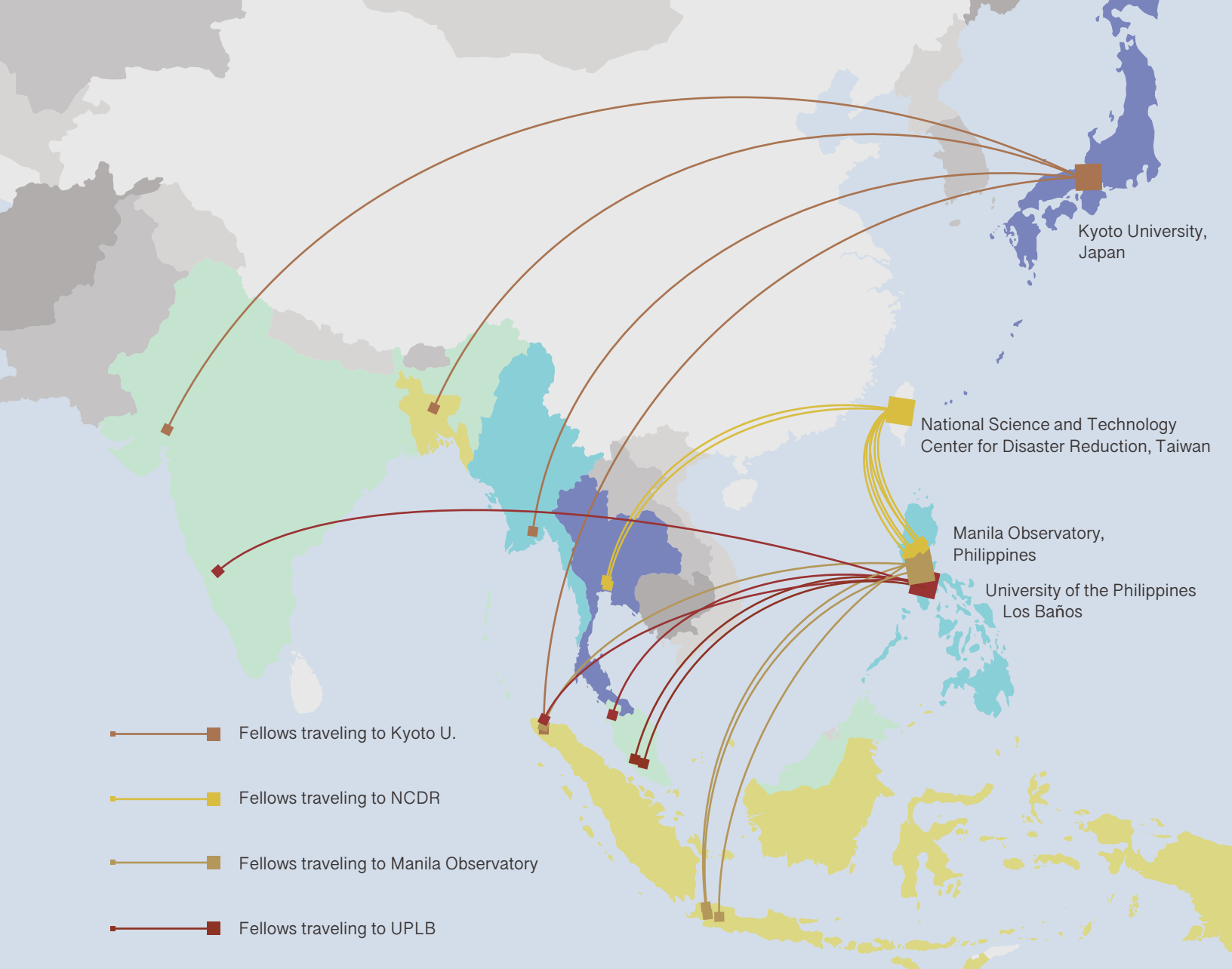
conducted by the program's 2016-2018 fellows. Their outstanding work, with support of their institutions and all PARR partners, is contributing to the advancement of regional knowledge to meet pressing urban disaster risk reduction challenges.

The PARR program has developed a network and a platform for learning exchanges and leadership development in Asia. START looks forward to continued engagement with fellows and partners and supporting and strengthening this network. The successes and lessons learned from PARR are a valuable resource for START and partners, as we look at replicating and scaling-up the model to benefit other regions as well.

Congratulations to all fellows; warmest compliments to the mentors and support institutions for the excellent work done.

Fellows, mentors and experts at the PARR culmination meeting that took place December 2017 in Manila.





## The PARR Network

A total of twenty-two fellows from seven countries participated in the Pan-Asia Risk Reduction (PARR) fellowship program, a yearlong fellowship experience which included an immersive one- to three-month stay at a host institution in Asia. A competitive process granted additional funding to select fellows to carry out independent research projects. Fellows produced manuscripts for submission to peer-reviewed journals, policy briefs for local government, or communications materials targeted to local stakeholders and communities.

START led two fellowship rounds between 2014 and 2018, with the support of the United States National Science Foundation, the Oscar M. Lopez Center, the Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research, the IRDR International Center of Excellence (ICoE) Taipei, and strategic direction from the PARR Alliance, a consortium of science-focused research, education, and capacity building institutions in Asia.

**Learn more at: [start.org/programs/PARR](http://start.org/programs/PARR)**





## NURTURING TALENT TO ADVANCE RISK REDUCTION

3 questions to  
Prof. Rajib Shaw

### Why are programs like PARR important for the region?

PARR provides a cross learning experience to young professionals and practitioners. It is a unique process, which nurtures these young talents by engaging them in action research and exposing them to state-of-the-art disaster risk reduction facilities in the host institutes.

### What has PARR's biggest achievement been in your view?

PARR has created a network of motivated researchers and practitioners, who have jointly pursued innovative research and published peer reviewed journal articles. Seed funding has also allowed them to conduct cutting edge action research.

### What would be your advice to young researchers and practitioners starting their career in disaster risk reduction in Asia?

Young researchers are the key to a successful implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development Goals. Thus, my message to them is to keep motivated, continue co-designing risk reduction solutions along with other stakeholders, and finding appropriate options for their implementation.

Rajib Shaw is a Professor at the Graduate School of Media and Governance, Keio University. Previously, he served as Executive Director of IRDR (Integrated Research on Disaster Risk). He is Chair of the United Nations Science Technology Advisory Group (STAG) for disaster risk reduction and Co-Chair of the Asia Science Technology Academic Advisory Group (ASTAAG). Prof Shaw is the editor of a Springer book series on disaster risk reduction and has published more than 45 books and over 300 academic papers and book chapters.

## READING LIST

A quick look at three knowledge briefs developed during PARR's pilot phase



[Exploring the Existing School-Community Network and Enabling Environment for Enhancing Community Resilience to Disaster](#)



[Design and Framework for a Decision Support System for Highly Urbanized MegaCities: Case Study Metro Manila](#)



[Flood Risk Vulnerability of Peri-urban Communities: The Case of Surat](#)