



Government of Sri Lanka



4th MINISTERIAL
CONFERENCE



Department of Irrigation

RIMES Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early
Warning System for Africa and Asia

4th MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE



6-9 May 2025
Colombo, Sri Lanka



The **RIMES 4th Ministerial Conference**, targeting formalization of RIMES' future directions, builds on:

- **1st Ministerial Conference**, in June 2012 in India, which established country-led annual contributions enabling RIMES to support Member States;
- **2nd Ministerial Conference**, in July 2015 in India, which integrated RIMES into development partner-supported funding facilities for project implementation; and
- **3rd Ministerial Conference**, in September 2017 in Papua New Guinea, which established national institutional mechanisms to enhance data sharing and co-production of early warning and climate information services, via cutting-edge DSSs, to translate forecasts into actionable information.

The **RIMES 4th Ministerial Conference** centers on the theme “**Actionable early warnings and climate services for all**”.

The **RIMES 4th Ministerial Conference** is hosted by the **Government of Sri Lanka**, and supported by the **World Bank through CARE Component 1** and the **Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO) of the United Kingdom**

The **RIMES 4th Ministerial Conference** is on 8 to 9 May 2025, with forerunner events on 6 and 7 May, as below.



For more information about the RIMES 4th Ministerial Conference, please contact:

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BACKGROUND *Note*

Enhancing Data Availability and Accessibility

a) Data Availability

RIMES' focus is two-pronged to maximize data availability for its Member States and Collaborating Countries: i) facilitating establishment/upgrading of observation stations³; and ii) development and upkeep of global/regional digital platforms for cross-country multi-hazard observation data sharing.

b) Data Accessibility

RIMES makes quality-checked observation data accessible to its Member and Collaborating States. Non-Global Telecommunication System (GTS) data sharing, among participating NMHSs, is pursued via the Data Exchange (DataEx) platform, a digital hub for sharing/accessing, curating, archiving and visualizing observation data. Weather/climate observation data are shared with the European Center for Medium Range Forecasting (ECMWF), and Indian National Center for Medium Range Weather Forecast (NCMRWF) for utilizing observation data in model enhancement.

For geohazards, RIMES leverages real-time earthquake and water level observation data from its established seismic and sea level monitoring stations, with real-time observation data from regional/global centers, to improve the estimation/validation of earthquake and tsunami events.

PILLAR 2: Modeling and Forecasting

RIMES leverages weather/climate forecast data from ECMWF, NCMRWF and various other global/regional centers and generate customized downscaled and value-added forecast data as per country context and shares with each country. Moreover, RIMES enhances capacities of NMHSs to tailor/downscale/enhance forecast data for their country contexts through trainings.

To enhance collaborative engagements among NMHSs to address weather/climate forecast accuracy/customization, RIMES facilitates/provides technical support to the South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF)⁴, the Association of Southeast Asian

³ These include telemetered seismic, sea level, deep ocean, weather, water level, and agro-meteorological observation stations/systems.

⁴ South Asian nations, supported by the WMO, came together to establish the SASCOF in 2010. Since then, SASCOF sessions are organized every year before the summer monsoon season, while winter sessions are organized from 2015 per stakeholders' demand.

Nations Climate Outlook Forum (ASEANCOF)⁵, and the South Asia Hydromet Forum (SAHF)⁶. SAHF established the Weekly Forecasters' Forum to facilitate collective expertise/knowledge/insights and experience sharing, and forecast refinement among operational meteorologists.

RIMES provides 24/7 earthquake monitoring and tsunami early warning advisories for the reference of NECs/NTWSs, upon receipt of country demands.

PILLAR 3: Translating Data into Actionable Information

a) Institutional Mechanisms

RIMES established the National Seasonal/Monsoon/Climate Forums as a first-generation platform for co-production of early warning-informed decision guidance products between NMHSs and sectoral institutions (includes agriculture, water resources, disaster risk management, etc.). RIMES have been facilitating the transformation of these Forums into formal national institutional mechanisms through the signing of Memoranda of Agreement/Understanding (MoAs/MoUs) for data sharing and coproduction of Decision Support Systems (DSSs)⁷. The IMD-RIMES Unit (IRU) for impact forecasting in India, the Sri Lanka National Center for Climate Application (SNCCA), and the Bangladesh National Center for Climate Application (BANCCA) are in operation. RIMES will engage with the countries to establish such formal institutional mechanisms to facilitate the coproduction of Impact Based Forecasting/Climate Services as an integral part of the RIMES Master Plan implementation.

Earthquake and tsunami preparedness are integrated into National Seasonal/Monsoon/Climate Forums for sustainable, multi-hazard approach.

⁵ The ASEANCOF, established in 2013, provides a regular platform for collaborative development, among Southeast Asian nations, of seasonal climate outlooks and related information for the region.

⁶ SAHF – involving the 8 countries in South Asia, and Myanmar, and with support from the World Bank and WMO – was established in 2018 to strengthen regional collaboration to address common and differentiated needs of NMHSs. In 2019, the SAHF Executive Council (EC), via SAHF II, was established to define the strategic direction of SAHF. The SAHF EC is comprised of the Heads of NMHSs in the region; RIMES is the SAHF Secretariat.

⁷ As with any system, the DSSs require life-long work to constantly fine-tune them to evolving advances in science and technologies, risks and opportunities profile, and user requirements.

b) Tailor-made Decision Support Systems

Bringing together NMHSs/NTWCs/NECs and sectoral institutions, RIMES co-develops and operationalizes user-driven digital DSSs to generate Impact Based Forecast/Climate services. Currently, these DSSs are available for disaster risk management, agriculture, and water resources, health, livestock, planning, and transport sectors. These digital systems translate different timescales of weather/climate data into actionable information for sector-specific decision-making. Information products/outputs from DSSs are further tailored to ensure best fit solutions that address variable information requirements of different users institutions/communities, communicate uncertainties, and disseminate decision guidance information efficiently to drive decisions/actions by end user institutions/communities.

PILLAR 4: Societal Engagements and Feedback

RIMES facilitates mechanisms for empowering local institutions and communities through actionable risk information and two-way interaction for enhanced resilience. RIMES adopts a unified user-centric approach that combines the overall enhancement of national institutional frameworks underpinning DRR/DRM planning, emergency response, and disaster reporting, with robust context-driven last-mile communication and feedback mechanisms.

RIMES supports the national frameworks for climate services and provides feedback to authorities for identifying and addressing gaps in the climate services/early warning information value chain through capacity building on end-to-end early warning at all levels. RIMES links vulnerable groups to available institutional resources and services for adaptive response with the goal of strengthening resilience and preparedness. RIMES facilitates customization of DSSs and demonstrations at the community level to ensure that information reaches communities timely and is acted upon to undertake forecast-based actions.

RIMES enhances capacities at all levels: early warning agencies to generate user-tailored forecast products and services, and end-users to receive, understand, and internalize forecasts and

warnings through improved dissemination of impact forecasts and risk management advisories of various timescales (in Figure 2).

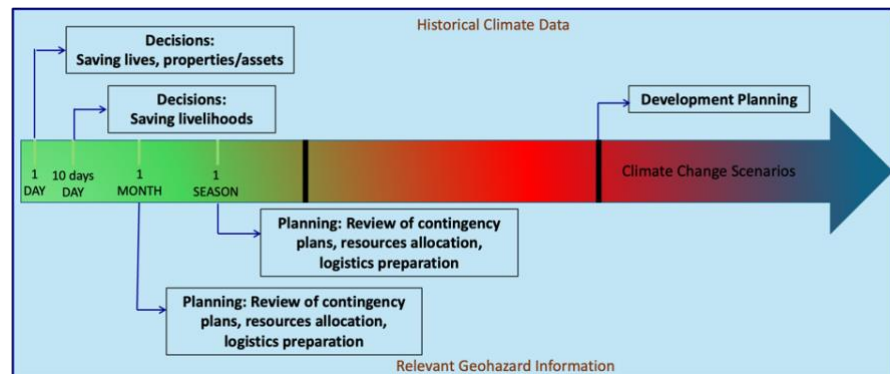


Figure 2. Societal engagements capacitate sectoral institutions/end users in nuanced application of multi-hazard decision guidance products, ranging from decisions that need to be undertaken most immediately to long-term development planning. These societal engagements also serve as an effective feedback loop, to regularly steer products and services to dynamic stakeholder's requirements.

These institutional and community engagements also serve as robust feedback platform, for experience-based evaluation of decision guidance products by institutional/end users. To assess and address evolving societal demands and needs, RIMES adopts a user-centered bottom-up approach that focuses on the user needs and demands as a driving factor to guide the entire process of climate/weather service coproduction.

RIMES engages with both the service providers and end-users to create an enabling environment to sustainably deliver and integrate advanced early warning and climate products to meet societal needs.

PILLAR 5: Research and Development

RIMES undertakes research and development, focusing on delivering cutting-edge technologies and building capacity in innovative techniques and tools. Its research agenda prioritizes the development of cost-effective yet efficient solutions for improving accuracy, value addition, last-mile communication of advisories, and ensuring timely and appropriate responses by recipients. RIMES undertakes research in collaboration with national stakeholder institutions, to dynamically update/refine/upgrade the processes and products associated with Pillars 1 to 4. This includes applied research for development of high-resolution climate/weather models and integration of DRM/DRR and CCA into climate services/early warning information delivery, as well as demand-driven services like custom

applications, toolkits, manuals, and SOPs for effective implementation of risk response.

2. Current Programs and Future Outlook

With valuable contributions from the Government of India, Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Kingdom Meteorological Office (UKMO)/Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank, and other humanitarian and development partners, RIMES has incrementally developed its **Regional Multi-hazard, Multi-scale, and Multi-purpose Early Warning Center**⁸. This RIMES Regional Early Warning Center underpins the following:

i. Economies of Scale

Limited-resource countries particularly Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and other developing states achieve economies of scale through shared resources, expertise, tools, and infrastructures. RIMES Regional Early Warning Center allows countries of various capacities to draw from and contribute to the system optimally and cost-efficiently.

ii. Advanced Technologies

One of the challenges that most of SIDS/LDCS/LLDCS and other developing states face is to keep pace with the ever-changing technological advancements and harness their potential benefit. RIMES Early Warning Center addresses this gap to offer advance data

⁸ A multi-hazard system ensures that early warnings account for diverse and interconnected risks, from hydro-meteorological events like storms and floods to geohazards such as earthquakes and tsunamis, and are ready to be scaled up to meet potential biohazards threats

A multi-scale system draws from and contribute to global, regional, national, systems through partnerships. Through these partnerships, it provides services across different space and temporal scales to provide demanded services – from immediate short-term alerts to seasonal and long-term projections for national/ sub national / local applications.

A multi-purpose system expands the scope of early warnings beyond disaster response, supporting broader societal and economic resilience. By generating tailored climate services, it empowers diverse sectors to undertake proactive decisions to anticipate and manage extreme weather events (weather scale); harness benefits associated with favorable weather/climate resources (weather/sub-seasonal/seasonal climate scales), while informing development plans (multi-seasonal/decadal scale); and reduces disaster risks and supports economic vitality for resilience.

and analytics services through its Regional Data Center. Participating countries could draw data, tools, and systems from the Regional Data Center to customize/deliver specialized services and products such as sector-specific, location-specific digital impact forecasting/climate services tools at marginal additional costs.

iii. Connectivity of all the Components of the Climate/Early Warning Information Value Chain

Investments/engagements from development partners are frequently compartmentalized to one or two specific pillars of the climate services/early warning information value chain. RIMES integrates these compartmentalized investments – from the upstream domains of scientific/technical capacity building (e.g. observation data availability/accessibility, modeling and forecasting) to the downstream domains of transforming data into tailor made climate/early warning information and enhancing capacities of user sectors institutions and communities to anticipate and manage risks – with small additional investments.

iv. Delivery of Common but Differentiated Services

RIMES offers a portfolio of services tailored to the differential requirements, demands, and capacities of countries at different stages of development.

v. Sustained Backup Support

Sustainability of interventions in climate services/early warning information value chain in capacity/resource-challenged countries require sustained backup support in specialized domains such as data generation and analysis, software/digital tools enhancements, refinement of models, integration of new/advanced technologies, and human resources capacity enhancement through co-development of systems/information products. RIMES provides this sustained backup support to maximize gains from development interventions in climate services/early warning information value chain.

vi. Intergovernmental Mandate and Ownership

The RIMES Council, comprised of Heads of NMHSs and are accountable to RIMES Member Countries and Country Stakeholders, ensures collaborative undertakings that are responsive to the differential requirements of Member States and Collaborating

Countries. The operational context of the heads of NMHSs, enriched with feedback from respective national stakeholder/user sector institutions on demanded services/information products, steers the direction of the RIMES Early Warning Center.

Among RIMES' key programs are the World Bank-supported Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CARE) for South Asia Component 1 and South Asia Hydromet Forum (SAHF)⁹. Appendix 2 elaborates details of CARE Component 1 and SAHF. CARE and SAHF, together, respond to all the pillars of the climate services/early warning information value chain.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), noting the salience of RIMES programs and the centrality of NMHSs in these programs, formalized its priority engagements with RIMES, via the WMO-RIMES Joint Strategy Action Plan (JSAP). The JSAP anchors on enhancing the capacities of NMHSs and translating these capacities into socio-economic and other tangible benefits. The instrument - considering the evolving context of opportunities, risks, science, technology, and therefore user requirements - calls for updating of the same, as necessary.

With the growing demands from its Member States and Collaborating Countries to deepen CARE Component 1/SAHF initiatives in South Asia, and to replicate best practices to other sub-regions, viz.: Africa, Southwest Indian Ocean, Middle East, Central/Southeast Asia, and the Pacific, the JSAP provides a conducive framework.

The period from 2025 to 2030 is a critical window for RIMES Member States and Collaborating Countries of varying capacities but exposed to common challenges driven by increasingly frequent extreme events. With more pronounced variability of natural hazards, the increased vulnerabilities from these natural hazards, the pockets of good practices and lessons that can benefit broader societies, and the unprecedented rate of technological advancements, the need for cross-national collaborations and cooperations, anchored on RIMES Regional Early Warning Center, has never been more vital.

The value of RIMES Early Warning Center that is multi-hazard, multi-timescales, and multi-purpose (Triple M) is elaborated in the document "Policy Incentives and Economic Rationale for Investing in Multi-Hazard, Multi-Timescale, and Multi-Purpose Regional Early Warning Systems to Supplement National Efforts" (in Appendix 3). The document, prepared by

⁹ SAHF, operating with various funding streams and transcending various projects, has been part of CARE Component 1 since May 2023.

RIMES in collaboration with UNESCAP, identifies three key interconnected benefits (Triple Dividend) from investments in Regional Triple M Early Warning Center, viz.:

- risk management, where losses from extreme events are reduced
- resource management and optimization, where resources are efficiently used to maximize gains from favorable weather conditions while informed decisions are also undertaken for development planning
- enhanced resilience, where disaster risks are strategically and tactically reduced, while development and economic benefits are stimulated

The achievements of CARE Component 1 and SAHF contribute to the WMO-RIMES JSAP.

The RIMES Master Plan 2026 – 2030 offers a portfolio service to meet the requirements of RIMES Countries and will be implemented within the framework of the WMO-RIMES JSAP. The RIMES Master Plan 2026 – 2030 is designed to leverage RIMES' Triple M and Triple Dividend Regional Early Warning Center's technical resources for the benefit of RIMES Member Countries.

The 4th Ministers Conference is vital for formalizing the RIMES Master Plan 2026 – 2030 and its associated processes.

3. The 4th Ministerial Conference and its Associated Activities

The RIMES 4th Ministerial Conference, with the target outcome of formalizing RIMES direction until 2030, as above, has the following objectives:

- a) identify pathways to deepen the World Bank-supported CARE Component 1 and SAHF in South Asia and replicate its best practices to Africa, Southwest Indian Ocean, Middle East, Central Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific under the WMO-RIMES JSAP to contribute to the Early Warning for All Initiative
- b) identify financial instruments to support the RIMES services demanded by Member States and Collaborating Countries (i.e. national budget of focal/recipient government institutions and/or funding from donor institutions)
- c) adopt the RIMES Master Plan 2026 – 2030 and implement it within the framework WMO-RIMES JASP

The RIMES 4th Ministerial Conference culminates on 8 and 9 May 2025, with forerunner activities scheduled from 6 May 2025. These are below:

- [SAHF Executive Council \(EC\) Meeting](#), on 6 May, to evolve the priority development directions of early warning/climate services in South Asia, identify resources required, and zero-in on pathways to secure such resources, to strengthen NMHSs in South Asia.
- [RIMES 17th Council Meeting/Pre-Ministerial Conference](#), on 7 May, to prioritize actions from RIMES' program in South Asia (CARE Component 1 and SAHF) for deepening in the region and replication to other regions in RIMES domain (i.e. Africa, Southwest Indian Ocean, Middle East, Central Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific); identify global/regional/national resource mechanisms and decentralized service delivery through RIMES sub-regional institutional mechanisms as per IDP 2026 – 2030 to support implementation of RIMES Master Plan 2026 – 2030; adopt the RIMES IDP 2026 – 2030; and prepare a draft declaration to be placed before 4th Ministerial Conference for its consideration and adoption.
- [RIMES 4th Ministerial Conference](#), on 8 to 9 May, will discuss and commit to the implementation of RIMES Master Plan 2026 – 2030 through a Ministerial Declaration.

AGENDA

Day 1: 6 May 2025

4th Session of the SAHF Executive Council 09:00 – 17:30 (Colombo Time, UTC+5:30)

Time	Session
09:00 – 09:30	Registration
09:30 – 09:50	<p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome address <p>Mr. Athula Karunanayake, DG, DoM, Sri Lanka</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remarks: <p>Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, DG, IMD, India/Chair, SAHF EC (Online)</p> <p>Mr. Karma Dupchu, Director, NCHM, Bhutan/Co-Chair, SAHF EC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of the session's objectives and expected outcomes <p>Mr. A. R. Subbiah, Director General, RIMES</p>
09:50 – 10:00	<p>Adoption of Agenda by Chair/Co-Chair of the SAHF EC</p> <p>Mr. Karma Dupchu, Director, NCHM, Bhutan/Co-Chair, SAHF EC</p> <p>This session will formally adopt the agenda and confirm the session objectives of the 4th Session of the SAHF EC.</p>
10:00 – 10:15	<p>Re-appointment/selection of the SAHF EC Chair and Co-Chair</p> <p>The second 2-year term of the SAHF EC Chair and Co-Chair has concluded. EC Members will discuss and vote on the re-appointment or selection of new Co-Chairs.</p>
10:15 – 10:45	<p>SAHF Progress and Next Steps</p> <p>Dr. Anshul Agarwal, Lead-SAHF, RIMES</p> <p>RIMES will present, through PowerPoint, SAHF's progress (2023-2025), impact of SAHF/CARE integration, key achievements, opportunities identified and onward priority areas.</p>
10:45 – 11:15	Group Photo & Morning Refreshments

11:15 – 11:45 Observational Networks (OBN) Strategy and Roadmap

Dr. Alice Soares, Senior Hydromet Adviser, World Bank and OBN Working Group (WG) Co-Chairs

The OBN Strategy and Roadmap will be presented for the EC's discussion, endorsement, and decision on action items.

11:45 – 12:15 Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) Roadmap

Dr. Alice Soares, Senior Hydromet Adviser, World Bank and NWP WG Co-Chairs

The NWP Roadmap, developed in consultation with SAHF NWP WG members to strengthen regional forecasting capabilities and cross-border collaboration, will be presented for the EC's endorsement/decision on action items.

12:15 – 12:35 Impact-based Forecasting (IBF) Workplan

Ms. Helen Caughey, Deputy Chief and International Meteorologist, United Kingdom Met office (UKMO)

The IBF Workplan outlining key activities, timelines, and collaborative efforts for implementation in South Asia will be presented. Discussions will focus on stakeholder coordination, data-sharing mechanisms, policy integration, and capacity-building needs, to feed into the IBF workplan with implementation timeline.

12:35 – 12:45 Climate Services WG Rationale, Framework, and Roadmap

Mr. David Corbelli, Senior International Development Manager, UKMO

The ToR for Climate Services WG, highlighting the WG's role in enhancing Climate Services in South Asia, will be introduced. Discussions will focus on securing EC endorsement for the WG, integrating IBF within the broader Climate Services framework, and defining a roadmap for its operationalization.

12:45 – 13:45 Lunch Break

13:45 – 14:15 Hydrology WG Priorities

Mr. Ben Churchill, Director, WMO Regional Office for Asia and the Southwest Pacific (RAP)

This session will focus on the identification of hydrology priorities in South Asia and linking these with ongoing activities like FFGS and HydroSoS for a regional approach. Technical

assistance needed to enhance SAHF's effectiveness and WMO's plan and support for Hydrology WG will be underscored.

14:15 – 15:15 Maximizing the Value of SAHF NMHSs: Testing new approaches to long-term sustainability – an invitation to collaborate

Dr. Alan Thorpe, Advisor, SAHF Technical Advisory Group (TAG; online participation)

Dr. David Rogers, Senior Hydromet Advisor, World Bank (online participation)

Dr. Shiromani Jayawardena, Advisor, Weather and Climate Services, SAHF, RIMES

New approaches for sustainability of capacity enhancement of NMHSs in South Asia will be presented, for the EC's decision on the way forward.

15:15 – 15:45 Resources and Funding to Support the SAHF Program

Dr. Melanie Simmone Kappes, DRM Specialist, World Bank (online participation)

Mr. David Corbelli, Senior International Development Manager, UKMO

Mr. John Harding, Head of CREWS Secretariat, WMO

Key details of the RAP, WISER AP, and CREWS programs supporting SAHF will be presented, and potential funding and technical support for SAHF activities will be deliberated.

15:45 – 16:15 EC Resolutions

SAFC EC Chair & Co-Chair

This session will review key EC discussions and draft resolutions, facilitate agreement on SAHF's strategic priorities and commitments for 2025-2027, and pursue approval of resolutions by EC Members.

16:15 – 16:30 Closing Remarks Highlighting Key Takeaways and Future Collaboration

SAHF EC Chairs & Members

16:30 – 17:30 High Tea

Day 2: 7 May 2025

RIMES 17th Council Meeting/Pre-Ministerial Conference Session 08:30 – 17:00 (Colombo Time, UTC+5:30)

Time	Session
08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:07	Welcome Remarks <i>Mr. D.P. Wickramasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation, Government of Sri Lanka</i>
09:07 – 09:25	Address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Celeste Saulo, Secretary-General of WMO (Recorded Video) • Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary, UNESCAP (Recorded Video) • Dr. Ayman Salem Ghulam, CEO, National Center for Meteorology, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and President, Regional Association II (Asia), WMO <p>Chairman's Address</p> <p><i>Dr. M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, and Chair of RIMES Council</i></p> <p>Vote of Thanks</p> <p><i>Eng. Ajith Gunasekara, Director General of the Irrigation Department, Government of Sri Lanka</i></p>
09:25 – 09:30	Secretariat Remarks and Adoption of Agenda <i>Mr. Ali Shareef, Focal Point, RIMES Secretariat</i> RIMES Secretariat's Focal Point will deliver the Secretariat Remarks and facilitate the adoption of the agenda in the plenary.
09:30 – 10:30	Plenary Session: Strengthening National Early Warning Systems Through Regional Cooperation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evolution of RIMES Program and Institutional Development Plan Framework <p>RIMES Program from 2009 – 2025, Mr. Raihanul Haque Khan, Country Program Lead for Bangladesh, RIMES</p>

RIMES IDP 2025 – 2030 Updates, **Mr. K. Ganesan Kolandavelu**, Adviser, IDP Unit, RIMES

- Regional Approaches to Strengthen National Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems

Strengthening South Asian NMHSs through SAHF, **Dr. Anshul Agarwal**, Lead for SAHF, RIMES

CARE Contributions: RDAS and DSSs and the Operationalization of RIMES Multi-hazard, Multi-scale, Multi-purpose System, **Ms. Ruby Rose Policarpio**, CARE Project Director, RIMES

RIMES Master Plan 2026 – 2030: Leveraging RIMES Multi-hazard, Multi-scale, and Multi-purpose EWS, **Ms. Ruby Rose Policarpio**, CARE Project Director, RIMES

From 2009 – 2021, RIMES Countries founded, evolved, and implemented a regional EWS that responds to common but differentiated requirements of the Countries per the five pillars of the climate/early warning information value chain. Thereafter until 2025, efforts from RIMES Countries and contributions from development partners, such as World Bank-supported CARE Component 1/SAHF, operationalized the Regional Multi-hazard, Multi-scale, and Multi-purpose EWS in South Asia. The RIMES Master Plan 2026 – 2030 will build on and leverage the RIMES Multi-hazard, Multi-scale, and Multi-purpose EWS, to cater to the differential needs/demands of Member Countries through decentralized RIMES sub-regional institutional cooperation mechanisms as per IDP 2026 – 2030.

RIMES milestones, outcomes, and way forward will be presented in this plenary session. This session will underpin onward sessions on the prioritization of initiatives and resources for enhancing multi-hazard early warnings and climate services in RIMES Countries.

- Snapshot on RIMES-DoM Co-Development: Impact-Based Forecasting Decision Support System (CIDSS), **Mr. Athula Karunanayake**, Director General, DoM, Sri Lanka

The CIDSS, being co-developed by RIMES and DoM, will be presented.

10:30 – 10:45 Morning Refreshments

10:45 – 11:45 Group Breakout Session

- **Group 1: RIMES Africa Member Countries**

Identifying and Addressing Gaps in Multi-Hazard Early Warning as per WMO-RIMES JSAP

*Facilitation: **Dr. Agnes Kijazi**, Director, WMO Regional Office for Africa (RAF)*

- **Group 2: RIMES Asia Pacific Member Countries**

Identifying and Addressing Gaps in Multi-Hazard Early Warning as per WMO-RIMES JSAP

*Facilitation: **Mr. Ben Churchill**, Director, WMO Regional Office for Asia and the Southwest Pacific (RAP)*

- **Group 3: Planning/Economy Ministries of RIMES Member Countries**

Policy Incentive and Economic Rationale for Investing in RIMES Regional Multi-Hazard, Multi-Scale, and Multi-Purpose Regional Early Warning Systems to Strengthen National Efforts

*Facilitation: **Dr. Sanjay Srivastava**, Chief, Disaster Risk Reduction, UNESCAP*

RIMES Member Countries, Development Partners, Resource Partners, and other participants per the above groups will deliberate to identify priority interventions to strengthen multi-hazard early warnings in Africa and Asia-Pacific, and policy interventions to lock-in investments in Regional Multi-hazard, Multi-scale, and Multi-purpose EWS.

The thematic deliberations will be guided by the facilitators. The outcomes from these thematic deliberations will feed into the Council Resolution/draft Ministerial Declaration.

A documenter, in each group, will capture take away points which will be presented in the plenary by group representatives/presenters.

11:45 – 12:30 Group Presentations and Discussions

Group representatives/presenters will present take-away points from the breakout session, in the plenary.

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 14:30 Development Partners' Contributions to RIMES Programs

- **UNESCAP**
 - **WMO CREWS SECRETARIAT**
 - **WMO RAP**
 - **WMO RAF**
 - **UKMET/FCDO**
 - **UNEP (online)**
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- **ACMAD**
- **ADB (Online)**

RIMES' Development Partners will highlight their current and way forward engagement with RIMES, to address RIMES Countries demands/requirements.

Development Partners have the flexibility to aid their discussion with PowerPoint, video, and other visual presentations. Each Development Partner is allotted 5 to 7 minutes for discussion/presentation.

14.30 – 15.45 Resource Partners Contribution to RIMES Programs

- **ECMWF (Video)**
- **IMD**
- **NCMRWF**
- **INCOIS**
- **CMA:** Introduction of Early Warning Capacities in China
- **CMA:** Introduction of World Meteorological Centre Beijing of CMA and International Trainings

In the plenary, RIMES Resource Partners will discuss their current and onward engagement with RIMES to optimize resources/capacities within the framework of the climate/early warning information value chain, to cater more efficiently and more effectively to the differential demands/requirements of RIMES Countries.

Resource Partners have the flexibility to aid their discussion with PowerPoint, video, and other visual presentations. Each Resource Partner is allotted 5 to 7 minutes for discussion/presentation.

15:45 – 16:45 Discussion and Finalization of Draft resolution

The Chair will lead the plenary in finalizing the 17th Council draft Resolution that includes a draft Declaration to be placed before the 4th Ministerial Conference for adoption.

16:45 – 17:00 Afternoon Refreshments

Day 3: 8 May 2025

4th RIMES Ministerial Conference 08:30 – 17:30 (Colombo Time, UTC+5:30)

Time	Session
08:30 – 09:30	Registration
09:30 – 09:47	<p>Ceremonial Protocols, Government of Sri Lanka</p> <p>Ceremonial program protocols of the government of Sri Lanka will be observed. This will include the entrance of the President and his entourage, the singing of the national anthem, and lighting of the oil lamp.</p>
09:47- 09:50	<p>Event Introductory Video</p> <p>A 3-minute video will be shown to introduce the Ministerial Conference. The video will provide a background on RIMES, its work in Member Countries and the outcomes thereof, the rationale for hosting of the 4th Ministerial Conference by the Government of Sri Lanka, and the target outcomes from the Conference.</p>
09:50 – 10:05	<p>Welcome Remarks</p> <p>His Excellency Mr. K.D. Lalkantha, Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation, Government of Sri Lanka, and Chair, RIMES Ministers Conference</p>
10:05– 10:12	<p>RIMES Council Address</p> <p>His Excellency Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister for Earth Sciences, Government of India, and Co-Chair, RIMES Ministers Conference</p>
10:12– 10:19	<p>Address</p> <p>His Excellency Andrew Patrick, British High Commissioner to Sri Lanka</p>
10:19 – 10:26	<p>Address</p> <p>His Excellency Dr. Abdullah Ahmed Al-Mandous, Deputy Minister and Director General, National Center of Meteorology, United Arab Emirates, and President, WMO</p>
10:26-10:33	<p>Dr. Ayman Salem Ghulam, CEO, National Center for Meteorology, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and President, Regional Association II (Asia), WMO</p>

10:33 – 10:40 Address:

Her Excellency Dr. Maryam Mariya, Minister for Agriculture and Animal Welfare, Government of Maldives (on behalf of RIMES Secretariat)

10:40 – 11:00 Inaugural Address

His Excellency Mr. Anura Kumara Disanayake, President, Government of Sri Lanka

11:00 – 11:05 Vote of Thanks

Mr. D.P. Wickramasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation, Government of Sri Lanka

11:05 – 11:30 Group Photo & Morning Refreshments

11:30 – 11:40 Review and Adoption of Agenda

His Excellency Mr. K.D. Lalkantha, Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation, Government of Sri Lanka, and Chair, RIMES Ministers Conference

His Excellency Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister for Earth Sciences, Government of India, and Co-Chair, RIMES Ministers Conference

11:40 – 11:55 Outcomes/Key Takeaways from the 17th RIMES Council Meeting/Pre-Ministerial Conference Proceedings

Dr. M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of earth Sciences, Government of India, and Chair, RIMES Council

The Chair of the RIMES Council will expound on the key takeaways from the 17th Council Meeting/Pre-Ministerial Conference.

11:55 – 13:30 Country Ministerial Statements

- Africa
- Asia and Pacific
- Planning Ministries

Ministers/Secretaries, each in 7 minutes, will deliver Country Statements focusing on current and future engagement with RIMES. The Country Statements will highlight country requirements/demands vis-a-vis the climate services/early warning information value chain.

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch Break

14:30 – 16:45 Country Ministerial Statements *continues*

- Africa
- Asia and Pacific

- Planning Ministries

16:45 – 16:55 Afternoon Refreshments

16:55 – 17:30 Draft Ministerial Declaration: Introduction, Review, and Discussions

- Introduction of the draft Ministerial Declaration, **Her Excellency Dr. Maryam Mariya**, Minister for Agriculture and Animal Welfare, Government of Maldives
- Review and Discussions

The plenary, led by Her Excellency Dr. Maryam Mariya, will review, deliberate on, and finalize the draft Ministerial Declaration. The Draft Ministerial Declaration is scheduled for final review and adoption on the final day of the Ministerial Conference.

Day 4: 9 May 2025

Conclusion of the 4th RIMES Ministerial Conference

09:00 – 17:00 (Colombo Time, UTC+5:30)

Time	Session
09:00 – 10:30	Adoption of Ministerial Declaration Chair: His Excellency Mr. K.D. Lalkantha , Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation, Government of Sri Lanka, and Chair, RIMES Ministers Conference Co-Chair: His Excellency Dr. Jitendra Singh , Minister for Earth Sciences, Government of India, and Co-Chair, RIMES Ministers Conference The Chair and Co-Chair will lead the plenary in the final review and adoption of the Declaration from the 4 th Ministerial Conference.
10:30 – 10:45	Morning Refreshments
10:45 – 11:00	Closing Session
11:00 -17:00	Colombo City Visit

*Lunch for participants on 9 May 2025 is available at the All-Day Dining Restaurant, Level 9, Cinnamon Life, from 11:30 to 14:30.

