



Australia Awards



Guest Lecture

'Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation for Sustainable Development and Community Well-being'

By: Associate Professor Iftekhar Ahmed

Friday, 10 April 2026

1:45pm to 4:00pm (Jakarta time)

Indonesian graduates and scholars of Australian tertiary institutions who are interested in attending this event, please RSVP by Wednesday, 8 April, via this link:

<http://oz.link/rsvpGL10APR>

**Due to the limited availability of places, early registration is recommended. A link to this event will be shared with you after registration.*

Lecture overview

Disasters, both from natural and human-induced causes, are becoming increasingly frequent and complex, particularly in disaster-prone countries such as Indonesia. Recurring floods, earthquakes and climate-related hazards, compounded by rapid urbanisation and socioeconomic inequalities, highlight the urgent need to strengthen resilience at all levels of society. Against this backdrop, this presentation explores the interconnections between disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change adaptation (CCA) and sustainable development. It emphasises that resilience is not only about surviving disasters, but also about enabling communities to adapt, recover and thrive amid uncertainty. By integrating social, economic and environmental dimensions, DRR and CCA contribute directly to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to cities, housing and human well-being.

Drawing on his research and international experience, A/Prof. Iftekhar Ahmed highlights the critical roles of urban planning, the built environment and community engagement in building long-term resilience. His work in post disaster housing, urbanisation and climate adaptation across the Asia Pacific region demonstrates that sustainable recovery must extend beyond physical reconstruction to address social inclusion, governance and local capacity. Through real-world examples, this lecture illustrates how community-led recovery, participatory design, policy coherence and innovative financing mechanisms—including climate funds and inclusive microfinance—can translate global frameworks into meaningful local action while strengthening adaptive capacity. To enhance learning and engagement, the session will incorporate interactive Zoom breakout discussions. Participants will work in small groups to reflect on key issues, share local experiences, and identify practical strategies to strengthen resilience in their own contexts. The breakout discussions will be followed by a plenary session to synthesise insights and connect them to the broader themes of DRR, CCA and sustainable development presented throughout the lecture.

A/Prof. Ahmed is an internationally recognised scholar whose work spans disaster risk reduction, resilience, sustainable development and climate change adaptation. He is an Associate Professor and Program Convenor of the Master of Disaster Risk and Resilience at The University of Newcastle and teaches in the School of Architecture and Built Environment. With an academic background that bridges architecture, disaster and climate resilience, A/Prof. Ahmed brings an interdisciplinary perspective to understanding how societies, economies and the built environment can adapt to and thrive amid complex global challenges. At The University of Newcastle, A/Prof. Ahmed teaches and researches disaster resilience, the built environment and construction management, with particular expertise in post disaster housing, urbanisation and climate adaptation across the Asia Pacific region. He is the lead author of *Disaster Resilience in South Asia: Tackling the Odds in the Sub-Continental Fringes* and has contributed extensively to policy and practice through research and evaluation projects in disaster risk reduction. A/Prof. Ahmed holds a PhD from Oxford Brookes University, an MSc in Architecture Studies from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a Bachelor of Architecture (Hons.) from the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur. His work has been published in leading academic journals and has informed policy reports for humanitarian and international development organisations.



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