

FLOOD DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT IN ASIA : AN INSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE

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States no longer respond to disasters, they manage disaster risks, and do so with increasingly sophisticated institutional frameworks. But are these efforts leading to reduced risks? Are capacities for risk reduction being institutionalized? Are the livelihoods of poor and vulnerable groups being secured? This opening article of a special issue reviews experiences in reforming flood disaster management and from this derives an initial framework for assessing institutional capacities for flood disaster risk reduction. The paper raises several questions that lead up to this framework: When is a flood a disaster? Who and what should be at risk? Who is or should be responsible? How were risks of disaster changed? How was performance evaluated?
