



## National Training Workshop Entitled, “Building Capacity of Health Journalists on Reporting Disasters Triggered by Natural Hazards and Human Activities”

19<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2023, Karachi, Pakistan  
(10.00 am- 4.00 pm)



Co-organized by

**International Center for Chemical and  
Biological Sciences (ICCBS),  
Sindh Innovation Research, and Education  
Network (SIREN),  
Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS, Sindh  
Chapter),  
and  
Avoidable Deaths Network (ADN)**

### Background:

Communication plays an important role in advancing public health goals, as well as in greater appreciation of underlying science and public policies. It is critical at all times, be it promoting health benefits of immunisation, importance of taking personal measures for prevention of non-communicable diseases or bringing emerging health issues to the knowledge of policy makers. Communication assumes even greater importance in the time of health emergencies due to disasters triggered by hazards such as floods, and earthquakes.

Pakistan has experienced one of the worst floods in its history, with over 36 million citizens affected. Over 1,600 have lost their lives, and many more are still in danger due to the spread of dengue fever and other infectious diseases. The economic cost of the floods has been estimated to be over 18.5 billion USD, at a time when the country is already at the brink of economic collapse. The situation demanded an immediate and urgent response from Pakistani media, which could have played a vital role in issuing early warnings, educating the public, and drawing the attention of policymakers to the situation on the ground. In a country like Pakistan, destruction from predictable and semi-predictable disasters can be mitigated if awareness is timely spread to improve preventive, precautionary and rehabilitative measures. Instead media in journal reacted rather slowly, and a need of capacity building of health journalists was felt far and wide.

In view of the above facts, a national training workshop entitled, “Building Capacity of Health Journalists on Reporting Disasters Triggered by Natural Hazards and Human Activities” will be organized at Latif Ebrahim Jamal National Science Information Center (LJNSIC, International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences, University of Karachi, Karachi-75270, Pakistan, in collaboration with Avoidable Deaths Network (ADN) on 19<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2023.

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES



### PROGRAM

Jan 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2022	
10:30-10:35	Welcome remarks by Dr. Nimra Iqbal (Auckland University, New Zealand)
10.35 -11:05	Lecture by Mr. Waqar Bhatti entitled “The importance of Accurate and impactful Health reporting.”
11.10-11:40	Lecture by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Wasay entitled, “Burden and Challenges of Health Care in Pakistan”
11.40-11.50	Introduction to Avoidable Death Network (Mr. Julian Coetzee)
11.50-12:20	Lecture by Dr. Nibedita S. Ray-Bennett entitled, “What are avoidable deaths and how can they be avoided?”
12.20-12:50	Lecture by Aditya Gosh entitled, “Challenges and Opportunities of Reporting Avoidable”.
12:50-1:10	Lecture by Dr. Hideyuki Shiroshita entitled, “The Value of Disaster Education”.
01.10-02.10	Lunch break
02.10-03.10	Writing Session
03.10-03.30	Q&A; interactive discussion
03.30-03.45	Concluding Remarks (Dr. Humaira Zafar-ICCBS) <i>Certificate will be provided to the Participants</i>

**Venue:** Latif Ebrahim Jamal National Science Information Center (LEJNSIC), International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences, University of Karachi, Karachi-75270, Pakistan.

### REGISTRATION

**Topic:** Building Capacity of Health Journalists on Reporting Natural and Human-Made Disasters

**Time:** Jan, 2023 10:00 AM

**FOR REGISTRATION USE THE GIVEN LINK:**

[bit.ly/3bchjrhd-SIREN](http://bit.ly/3bchjrhd-SIREN)

**Contact Persons (ICCBS):**

**Dr. Humaira Zafar**

Assistant Professor

PCMD, ICCBS

[hamramalik@gmail.com](mailto:hamramalik@gmail.com)

**Mr. Nadeem Ahmed Khan**

Manager, SIREN

[nakhan@uok.edu.pk](mailto:nakhan@uok.edu.pk)

## Co-organizers:

### Dr. Nimra Iqbal

*Avoidable Death Network (ADN), UK  
Auckland University of Technology  
[nimra\\_choudhary@yahoo.com](mailto:nimra_choudhary@yahoo.com)*

### Mr. Waqar Bhatti

*Special Correspondent health,  
The News International and Geo News  
[faruq16@hotmail.com](mailto:faruq16@hotmail.com)*

## Organizing Partners

### Avoidable Deaths Network



The Avoidable Deaths Network (ADN) is a diverse, dynamic, inclusive and innovative global membership network dedicated to avoiding human deaths from natural hazards, naturally triggered technological hazards and human-made disasters in low- and middle-income countries.

### International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS)



The International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) is one of premier research establishments in the developing world. Its reputation for scientific research and training extends far beyond the country's borders. ICCBS emerged from generous support of private sector, and sustained by the governments grants. In the last 51 years has earned major recognition from Pakistan, apart from training thousands of young researchers from home and abroad in frontiers areas of science and technology.

### Sindh Innovation, Research, and Educational Network (SIREN)



Sindh Innovation, Research, and Educational Network (SIREN) project is sponsored by Government of Sindh and implemented by L. E. J. National Science Information Center, International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi, Pakistan. SIREN aim is to promote quality education system in Sindh, (Pakistan). SIREN has linked universities of Sindh, by modern technologies through focal center, L.E.J. NSIC, ICCBS as a seamless learning and research platform.

### Prof. Dr. Mohammad Wasay Secretary Karachi Chapter Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS)



Dr. Wasay is currently a Professor of Neurology at Aga Khan University, President - Pakistan Society of Neurology, Chairman - advocacy and awareness task force of World federation of Neurology, Editor- Pakistan Journal of Neurological sciences, Chief Editor- Jahan e Aasab (Neurology public awareness magazine), Interim Director- Clinical Trials Unit and Chair- FHS research committee at Aga Khan University.

### Mr. Waqar Bhatti Special Correspondent Health The News International and Geo News



He is a senior health journalist and covering health, environment, climate change, water issues as well as diplomatic activities for the last 22 years.

### Prof. Dr. Nibedita S. Ray Bennett Associate Professor in Risk Management University of Leicester



Nibedita S. Ray-Bennett is a social scientist specialising in disaster risk reduction and international development at the interface with public health. Nibedita's research is inter-disciplinary and focuses on: **i)** understanding the nuances of 'vulnerabilities' and 'risks' that exist in societies and the seams of disaster management organisations; **ii)** developing the capacity of disaster responders including the health workforce at primary health care for the continuity of [sexual and reproductive health] services during disasters and crises; **iii)** reducing disaster mortality and morbidity, especially of women and adolescent girls from lack of reproductive health care during disasters and crises through the use of RHCC intervention; and **iv)** reducing avoidable deaths from the direct and indirect effect of disasters and epidemic through novel theories, methods and interventions. She is the author of *Caste, Class and Gender in Multiple Disasters* (VDM Verlag, 2010) and *Avoidable Deaths* (Springer Nature, 2018). Currently, she is working on her third monograph, *Avoidable Deaths from the Impact of COVID-19 and Economic Fall Out in India*.

### Dr. Hideyuki Shiroshita Associate Professor at University of Kansai, Founding President of the ADN



As the Founding President of the ADN, Hideyuki works closely with Nibedita for the development of ADN's strategy and plans and in the delivery of the public engagement activities, manages the poll surveys for knowledge exchange events, IT, conducts research analysis and leads the ADN's Junior Champion project in Japan. Hideyuki is an Associate Professor at the Graduate School and Faculty of Societal Safety Sciences, Kansai University in Japan. He is an affiliate member of the Disaster and Development Network (DDN) at Northumbria University, UK. His research interests are in the areas of disaster education, risk communication and Science, Technology and Society (STS).

### Dr. Aditya Gosh University of Leicester Teaching fellow in Environmental Geography



Aditya Ghosh has specialised in human geography, political ecology, development studies, environmental justice, postcolonial studies, media and cultural studies. He has won several prestigious global awards including Chevening from the UK-FCO, DAAD (German academic exchange – Federal government of Germany) and Chancellor's endowment (Sussex University). He has worked and studied at the universities of Heidelberg and Leuphana, Germany; Sussex-IDS and Lincoln, UK; Arizona State University, USA. Net apart from working in senior editorial positions at the Hindustan Times and The Times of India, two of India's largest English language newspapers.

### Dr. Nimra Choudhary Avoidable Death Network (ADN), UK Auckland University of Technology



Dr Nimra is a medical graduate from Dow University of Health Sciences. In addition to clinical practice she has been involved in health promotional activities with many organizations, including WHO Sindh chapter. She is currently pursuing her Master in Public Health from Auckland University of Technology and working with ADN as an intern, Nimra has been engaged with the operations team in a number of projects focusing on disaster risk management. More specifically, Dr. Nimra is currently involved on the ADN projects – Sexual and Reproductive Health Services in Remote and Hard to Reach (H2R) Areas of Bangladesh and Relief organizations involved in 2022 Pakistan floods.



