



Avoidable Deaths Network

Newsletter

Issue No. 5

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Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

29 December 2023

Dear readers and the ADN community,

Welcome to our fifth Newsletter for the Avoidable Deaths Network (ADN). ADN is a global membership network, dedicated to finding theoretical and practical solutions to reducing avoidable deaths from disasters.

As I reflect on 2023, it has been an eventful year for the ADN community. We launched the global campaign 'International Awareness Day for Avoidable Deaths (IAD4AD)' in the city of Izumiotsu and we will be celebrating this campaign annually on 12 March. The theme of our global campaign 2024 is 'Do One Thing'. I hope you will be celebrating this campaign in your own town, city, village or organisation.

We also launched the Junior Champion Magazine led by Master Arokneil Ghosh and a field research Case Station for Avoidable Snakebite Deaths (in short CaSA) in the village Burujhari in Ganjam District of Odisha. Thanks to Mr Dillip Pattanaik who hosts the ADN's India Hub for launching CaSA.

This Newsletter showcases a small vignette of newsworthy work conducted by the ADN Team, Regional Coordinators, Advisors and Organisational Partners across the globe. Wherever possible, we have provided photos to give you a sense of the place, time, and context. I hope that you will enjoy reading and viewing the photos in this newsletter.

I would like to thank Ms Dinushi Arambegedara, Ms Lauren MacLeod, Dr Madhulika Sahoo, Dr Hideyuki Shiroshita, Mr Alex Skinner and Ms Denise Corsel for their contribution to the production of this Newsletter. I would also like to thank the reviewers Dr Christian Morgner, Dr Edris Alam and Mr Krishna Clarke.

I wish you all a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Nibedita S. Ray-Bennett

President and Editor-In-Chief for the Avoidable Deaths News



Comments from Our Readers

No comments were gathered from our readers last year, but this is a practice we would like to adopt going forward. Therefore, we welcome your comments and suggestions on this Newsletter, which we can then feature in our next edition. Please email us at: contact@avoidable-deaths.net



Noteworthy News

ADN News

- The ADN Community has steadily been growing. In total, ADN has attracted 21 Advisory Board Members, 21 Organisational Partners, 19 Regional Coordinators and 804 Affiliates (a 17% increase from last year).
- As of December 2023, ADN has attracted 886 followers on [LinkedIn](#) (34% increase from last year) and 169 followers on [Instagram](#) (31% increase from last year).
- This year, we welcomed four new ADN Operation Members, one Intern, two Junior Champions and four new Advisors.

- **Operations Members:** Dr Aditya Ghosh as Policy Interface Coordinator, Dr Winifred Ekezie as Evidence Synthesis Coordinator, Ms Marina Yagi as ADN Japan Administrator, and Catalogue of Avoidable Disaster Deaths Expert, Dr Edris Alam.
- **Future Leader Intern:** Ms Dinushi Arambegedara
- **Junior Champions:** Miss Anushka Koner and Miss Prarthona Datta
- **Advisors:** Dr Stephen Samuel, Dr Matthew Lewin, Rt Colonel Sanjay Srivastava,
- In 2023, the ADN in collaboration with eight Organisational Partners, delivered four Special Sessions knowledge-exchange webinars in countries which featured 19 speakers. In total, there were 408 registered participants.
- On 12 March 2023, ADN launched the International Awareness Day for Avoidable Deaths (IAD4AD) in the City of Izumiotsu in Japan. The launch was announced by the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Ms Mami Mizutori. Her message can be watched on [YouTube](#).



Figure 1: Inauguration of IAD4AD by Ms Mami Mizutori

- This year we introduced two Awards - the ADN Presidents Award and the Future Leader Award. The former is decided by the ADN Presidents and the latter is voted by the Operation Members.
- On 18 June 2023, ADN **Bangladesh Country Chapter** was launched - led by Dr Fatima Akter (University of Dhaka) and Mr Maqbul Hossen Bhuiyan (Data Management Aid).
- On 25 June 2023, ADN **Oman Country Chapter** was launched - led by Mr Mohammed Al Said Al Badi (YAS Centre for Environment and Health).
- On 17 August 2023, the **ADN Annual Report August 2022 – July 2023** was released.
- On 23 August 2023, Drs Madhulika Sahoo and Nibedita Ray-Bennett convened the panel 'Gender and Technology' at the World Anthropology Congress 2023 organized by Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) in Bhubaneswar, India Panel.
- On 19 September 2023, the ADN India Hub launched the **Case Station for Avoidable Snakebite Deaths in Odisha, India**.

- On 13 October 2023, [ADN Junior Champion Magazine](#) (ISSN 2759-0380) was launched – led by Dr Madhulika Sahoo at Kalahandi University, India. The event was attended by the ADN Junior Champion Magazine editor, Master Arkoniel Ghosh.
 - On 7 December 2023, in preparation for the first year of the ADN's Global Campaign International Awareness for Avoidable Deaths, two meetings were conducted with Regional Coordinators and Advisors.
 - On 15 December 2023, ADN's Fourth Annual General Meeting took place.
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Congratulatory News

We would like to congratulate the following ADN members on their personal achievements:

- In November 2023, Mrs Denise Corsel (University of Leicester), Ms Srastha Chowdhury and Mr Biswajit Paul (University of North Bengal) successfully defended their PhD theses. Congratulations Dr Denise Corsel, Dr Srastha Chowdhury and Dr Biswajit Paul.
 - In August 2023, Dr Winifred Ekezie obtained her first academic position as Lecturer in Public Health Epidemiology at Aston University in Birmingham, UK.
 - Mrs Denise Corsel and Mr Shahid-UI Hoque won the ADN Presidents Award 2023.
 - Ms Lauren MacLeod won the ADN Future Leader Award 2023.
 - Prepared International won the Averted Disaster award for their outstanding work in disaster diplomacy and civil protection and cooperation.
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News from the Regional Coordinators and Advisory Board Members

- From January to August 2023, *Advisors* Dr Stephen Samuel, Dr Matthew Lewin, Col. Sanjay Srivastava, Professor Heiko Balzter, Mr Steve Glovinsky, Professor Alois Hirschmugl, Mr Mihir R. Bhatt, Dr Ambika Prasad Nanda; *Regional Coordinators* Mr Dillip Pattanaik and Ms Anuradha Bharwaj collaborated for the project entitled [Exploring the Feasibility and Value of Pioneering Partnerships to Reduce Avoidable Snakebite Deaths in India](#).

This project was led by Dr Nibedita Ray-Bennett and funded by the University of Leicester's Institute for Advanced Studies and the Institute for Environmental Futures.

On 18 August 2023, *Advisor* Dr Ambika Prasad Nanda (on behalf of the project) submitted the Proceedings Report in person to Mr Pritiranjana Gharai, the Honourable Minister of Rural Development, Skill Development and Technical Education of Odisha, India.

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Figure 3: High-Level Round Table Meeting in Delhi

- From 20 – 23 October 2023 the *Regional Coordinator* for West Bengal/India Mr Snehendru Konar organised three awareness raising avoidable deaths stalls at the UNESCO's non-tangible cultural heritage - Durga Puja festival in Kolkata.

The stalls were in three pandals across the city in Jodhpur Park, Suruchi and Maddox Square. These were run by local and international volunteers, attracting up to 70,000 people during the night hours. A Certificate of Recognition was awarded to Mr Snehendru Konar by the ADN Presidents for his instrumental role in organising the event.



Figure 4: Inaugural Speakers at Maddox Square Pandal

- On 13 March 2023, *Advisor Professor Emeritus Norio Okada* of Kyoto University attended the launch of the ADN's [Global Campaign: International Awareness Day for Avoidable Deaths](#) in Japan and delivered a lecture titled 'Value of networking and launching of an awareness raising public engagement global campaign such as IAD4AD to promote Sendai's targets A and B'.
- On 13 March 2023, *Advisor Professor Heiko Balzter*, Director of the Institute for Environmental Futures of the University of Leicester delivered a keynote speech remotely at the launch of the ADN's [Global Campaign: International Awareness Day for Avoidable Deaths](#) in Japan.
- On 19 September 2023, *Regional Coordinator Mr Dillip Pattanaik*, Executive Director of Orissa State Volunteers and Social Workers Association launched the [Case Station for Avoidable Snakebite Deaths \(CaSA\)](#) in Burujhari village of Ganjam District in Odisha, India. [CaSA](#) exists to promote a social learning laboratory at the village level; foster village-level communities of practice (aka local level action network (LAN)) to find solutions; and develop the capacity of primary and secondary responders to reduce avoidable snakebite deaths. The event was attended by 150 participants, including five esteemed guests, 130 people from the local community and 15 members of the virtual ADN community.
- On 19 January 2023, *Regional Coordinator for Pakistan Ms Shaiza Khawaja*, *Operations Team Members Dr Nimra I. Choudhary* and *Project Volunteer Ms Anusha Manahil* organised the Special Session on [Building Capacity of Health Journalists on Reporting Disasters Triggered by Natural Hazards and Human Activities](#). This national training workshop took place at the Latif Ebrahim Jamal National Science Information Center (LJNSIC), International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences at the University of Karachi.
- On 18 June 2023 *Regional Coordinator Dr Fatima Akter* launched the [Bangladesh Country Chapter](#) at the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. The State Minister of Disaster Management and Relief, Rt. Hon. Dr Md. Emanur Rahman, the Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dhaka, Professor A.S.M. Maksud Kamal, the Vice Chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University, Professor A.Q.M. Mahbub, graced the event. The launch event was attended by the Founding Presidents of ADN, Drs Hideyuki Shiroshita and Nibedita Ray-Bennett.



Figure 5: Launch of Bangladesh Chapter

- On 25 June 2023 *Advisor* Mr Mohammed Ali Said Albadi Chairman of the YAS Centre for Environment and Health (a unit of the YAS Hospital) launched the [Oman Country Chapter](#). The Founding President of ADN, Dr Nibedita Ray-Bennett, and the ADN Catalogue of Avoidable Disaster Deaths Expert, Dr Edris Alam, attend the launching event.



Figure 6: Launch of Oman Chapter

- On 13 March 2023, *Regional Coordinator* Dr Yazidhi Bamutaze of Makerere University, Uganda attended the [launch of a Global Campaign: International Awareness Day for Avoidable Deaths \(IAD4AD\)](#) in Japan. Dr Yazidhi Bamutaze was also a visiting research fellow at Kansai University, Japan.
- On 10 March 2023 *Regional Coordinator* Mr K.G. Mahendra Jagath Deputy Director, Emergency Operations Centre, Disaster Management Centre Sri Lanka organised a Celebration of ADN's Fourth Birthday with a session on the launch of International Awareness Day for Avoidable Deaths.



Research and Reflective Articles

- Dr Aditya Ghosh has written a short article titled: *Losses and damage funds must target the most vulnerable and be just*. To read this article, please [click here](#).
- Dr Edris Alam has written a short article titled: *Hazards catalogue of Bangladesh and Oman: A first step in risk assessment*. To read this article, please [click here](#).
- Dr Nibedita S. Ray-Bennett and Ms Lauren Macleod have written a short article titled: *Shine Light on an ADN's Project: Avoidable snakebite deaths*. To read this article, please [click here](#).
- Dr Hideyuki Shiroshita has written a short article titled: *Shine Light on an ADN's Project: Junior champions in Osaka have been working on avoiding tsunami deaths since 2013*. To read this article, please [click here](#).



Perspectives on Avoidable Deaths

Short interviews were conducted to gain multiple perspectives on avoidable deaths.

Dr Nibedita S. Ray-Bennett interviewed Regional Coordinator, Mr Daniel Mendez of National Emergency Management Organization – Belize; Professor A. Q. M Mahbub, the Vice-Chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University, Bangladesh; and Advisor, Emeritus Professor Norio Okada of Kyoto University, Japan to gain multiple perspectives on avoidable deaths. To read Mr Daniel Mendez's interview transcript, please [click here](#). To read Professor A. Q. M Mahbub's interview transcript, please [click here](#). To read Professor Norio Okada's interview transcript, please [click here](#).



Updates on Sendai Goals 1 and 2

As part of the Sendai Update, Dr Nibedita Ray-Bennett has written a short article titled: *Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework: Implications for Avoidable Deaths Network*. To read this article, please [click here](#).



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