



Economic Cooperation Organization
ECO Regional Center for Risk Management of
Natural Disasters
(ECO-RCRM)

Annual activities Report (2025)

to be presented at
36th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (36th RPC)
17-20 May, 2026
Tehran, Iran

1. ECO-RCRM

With reference to ECO Secretariat note no. AIH/0141/2004/0862, dated 11 May, 2004, and AIH/0141/2004/1521, dated 8 August, 2004, ECO Member States expressed their support to the proposal put forward by the Islamic Republic of Iran Meteorological Organization to establish a "Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters" at the National Center for Climatology in Mashhad, I. R. of Iran. Since climate change has resulted in severe droughts in the world during last years, especially in some ECO Member States, the necessity for the establishment of a Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters was approved by the 1st ECO Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture (26-28 July, 2004, in Tehran, Iran) and the 3rd ECO Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture (07 March, 2007 in Tehran, Iran) and the 17th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) (20 October, 2007 in Herat, Afghanistan). It was agreed to establish such a center in the National Center for Climatology (Mashhad) based on the proposal submitted by the I.R of Iran Meteorological Organization to the 2nd ECO Ministerial Meeting (6-7 December, 2007, Antalya, Turkey).

In the 16th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC) held in January, 2006 in Tehran, the Council agreed on allocating ECO feasibility funds of 50,000USD to the establishment of a Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters from ECO Feasibility Funds. The Council appreciated the efforts made by the concerned authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran for establishing a Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters (ECO – RCRM) in Mashhad, noting that the Center would be inaugurated during the first Meeting of the ECO Heads of Meteorological Organizations in September, 2007.

2. Objectives and Functions of ECO-RCRM

2.1. Regarding the draft statute of the ECO Regional Centre for Risk Management of Natural Disasters which was finalized by ECO Secretariat Working Group, the Centre aims to promote cooperation among Member States for effective natural disasters risk management.

2.2. The objectives of the Center with a view to promote cooperation among Member States for effective natural disasters risk management especially risks of hydro-meteorological and climatic disasters, are as follows:

- a. Establishing an efficient information management system
- b. Short and Long-Term Forecasting/Predictions
- c. Disaster Risk Assessment/Analysis
- e. Disaster Monitoring and Early Warning System
- f. Capacity-Building (Education and Training, etc.)

2.3. In order to achieve the objectives, as defined in Article III, the Center shall, inter alia, have the following functions and responsibilities:

2.3.1. To promote regional disasters surveillance and provision of early warning system through:

- a. Establishing regional standards and protocols for data quality control and assurance
- b. Facilitating exchange of data, information and products
- c. Providing seasonal and long-term climate forecasting, modeling and early-warning system

2.3.2. To strengthen national capacities through holding seminars, workshops and training courses

2.3.3. To provide Member States with technical assistance in research, through application of new technologies, especially using satellite and radar for meteorological purposes and application of community-based approaches

2.3.4. To exchange information, knowledge and best practices as well as experts, instructors and trainers

2.3.5. To develop cooperation with relevant international bodies/institutions for technical and financial assistance

2.3.6. To facilitate policy dialogue as well as national and regional strategy development for disaster management risk reduction.

3. Activities Report of ECO-RCRM during year 2025

A: Educational section

In this section, considering the existing scientific potential and the Center's commitment to increasing the knowledge of ECO experts in the field of natural disaster risk management, in terms of knowing of the world in these days by using of hardware and software, as well as how to deal with various disasters and managing them, the following training courses are recommended in programs. Of course, it should be noted that the amount of credit available to the contractor by the Secretariat as well as the committed organizations can be a condition for the implementation of the programs presented. This section include:

Preparing to hold workshop/Training course titled: Natural Disaster Early warning and loss estimating System. *“35th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC), Working Papers on Human Resources and Sustainable Development, F Sector, No: 317:“ The Council welcomed the offer of the I.R. of Iran Metrological Organization (IRIMO) and ECORCRM to co-organize a Training Courses/Workshops entitled as “Natural Disaster Early warnings and loss Estimation System” in 2025 in Mashhad.”* but unfortunately, this course has been postponed due to the lack of quorum.

B: Research section

Since the research topic is one of the key factors for promoting the knowledge of the center as well as the management potential of natural disasters in ECO countries, it is recommended that this center be able to carry out the research programs in order to achieve the set goals and it has taken positive steps and met some of the member states' needs in the field of risk management knowledge of the member states. Again, it should be noted that achieving any of the items requires the provision of necessary funds and the provision of them. Research topics are:

- The follow-up and final approval of a proposal title " Site Selecting for Road Weather Stations via Mashhad-Ashgabat to improve Road Weather Monitoring (RWN)". That is clearly stated at the recent RPC (32th, 33th, 35th) meeting:

“32th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC), Working Papers on Agriculture, Industry and Tourism, D. SECTOR, No 4: The Council, while appreciating the ECO-RCRM for their progress on the project proposal titled "Site Selecting for Road Weather Stations via Mashhad-Ashgabat to improve Road Weather Monitoring (RWN)", requested Turkmenistan to continue its cooperation with ECO-RCRM and consider contributing to the project with a view to improve the road weather monitoring.

“33th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC), Working Papers on Human Resources and Sustainable Development, No 63: The RCRM has proposed the project proposal for "Site Selecting for Road Weather Stations via Mashhad-Ashgabat to improve Road Weather Monitoring (RWN)", during the 29th & 30th RPC meetings and the Council requested the RCRM to send the details of the project to the Secretariat.

“35th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC), Working Papers Human Resources and Sustainable Development, F. Sector, No313: “The Council, while appreciating the ECO-RCRM for their progress on the project proposal titled "Site Selecting for Road Weather Stations via Mashhad-Ashgabat to improve Road Weather Monitoring (RWN)", requested Turkmenistan to continue its cooperation with ECO-RCRM and consider contributing to the project with a view to improve the road weather monitoring”

In this regard, the center was able to obtain 20% in-kind financial support from the I.R. of Iran Meteorological Organization (IRIMO) and started the first phase of Project and hopes to continue this fundamental project with the support of Turkmenistan, which has an important role in managing the transit of goods between two countries and reducing Accident Risks in this rout.

- According to the *Reports of the:*

“35th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC), Working Papers Human Resources and Sustainable Development, F. Sector, No315: The Council, while appreciating the ECO-RCRM for preparing the first phase of the project titled “Implementation of Seasonal Climate Prediction over the ECO Region” with in-kind support from the I.R. of Iran Meteorological Organization (IRIMO), requested other Member States to continue their cooperation and support for the completion of the subsequent phases of this project” and

“6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture Preceded by the 5th High Level Experts Meeting on Agriculture/ Agenda Item No.7 / No. 21 titled: “The meeting approved the implementation of the project proposal titled “Monthly to seasonal prediction of precipitation and temperature” in close collaboration with ECO Secretariat and the ECO-RCRM”,

ECO-RCRM is trying to obtain the necessary financial support for the implementation of the project. In this regard, I.R. of Iran Meteorological Organization (IRIMO) has in-kind financially supported 20% of the above project. The First phase of project started in 2023 and this report of project with detail was sent to secretariate and also the results of the initial phase of this project in forecast of rainfall and temperature for ECO member states to be

uploaded monthly at the center's website at the following address. (www.cri-rcrm.ir). Some facilities such as computer servers and equipment required to analyzing Data and run the relative models are prepared and used in the ECO-RCRM. In this regard, given the importance of climate forecasts in the region and related risk management, ECO Member states are requested to provide financial support for improve project. Now about 17 production of project results are uploaded daily in ECO-RCRM website that could be useful for all ECO states.

- According to the *Report of the “35th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC), Working Papers Human Resources and Sustainable Development, F. Sector, No314: “The Council requested Member States to designate national focal points to establish a task force for coordinating and conducting country-specific meetings on disaster risk management issues in the region and for developing a Data Bank of Natural Disasters”* ECO-RCRM corresponded several times with the secretariat to nominate their relevant focal points to holding task force committee. However, the quorum for holding the above meeting has not been reached yet. In this regard, again requested all ECO member states to nominate their representative focal points immediately.
- The center intends to be able to improve drought risk management in the ECO region and take an important step in the field of drought monitoring and forecasting over ECO member countries, by implementing drought models for updating and obtaining the required data. Results of Drought monitoring and Forecast also are uploaded in our site that could be available for members to use. improving in results with details, requires the cooperation of member states to nominating their representative focal points to have cooperate in this category.
- Preparing fire risk maps for ECO member states by receiving meteorological and satellite data and implementing the models on a daily and weekly time scale. The results are uploaded daily on the center's website. These results can also be generalized on a monthly basis. Certainly, the presented results can play a key role in managing the agricultural risk of ECO member states.
- Following-up to create a science and research journal with ISC / ISI indexed
- automatically climate analysis and Forecasting at the time of the occurrence of natural inflammation in each ECO countries: such as Fire hazards, Icing, Snow cover, Drought, ...are provided and these productions are published in ECO-RCRM website(www.eco-rcrm.ir).

C: Development Section:

Some activities of ECO-RCRM in development sections regarding to its responsibility:

- The outputs of Numerical Prediction Models NWP on a daily time scale and in the form of a three-day forecast are run by the ECO-RCRM and with cooperation by Meteorological and Atmospheric Science Research Institute (ASMERC) and becomes practical products, forecasts and warnings. in this field some Monitoring and Forecast Products like Frost Fires Map, Chilling days, Icing Days, Heavy Rainfall and Strong Wind, Hot days, Monthly Anomaly Maps, Sand and dust Storms, Tropical Nights, Snow Cover Maps, Monthly Temperature and Precipitation Forecast Maps, are produced and extracted. Now about 17

productions are uploaded daily in ECO-RCRM website that could be useful for all ECO states.

- Attending to the 29th COM, November 2025, Online Format, Iran. And sending annual report of ECO-RCRM
- Sending annual report of ECO-RCRM to the 10th Minstrel Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction (10-MM-DDR), 21-22 Jan2025, Islamabad Pakistan, and present center Activities with ECO secretariate.
- Updating website of ECO-RCRM (<http://www.eco-rcrm.ir>). Website of ECO-RCRM has been launched on 2010 prior to the second ECO heads of Meteorological Organization meeting in Turkey. The contents of the website cover all of ECO activities related to the natural disasters especially climatic and hydrology disasters. All of documents of ECO-RCRM and newsletter are available in the website. Other related and required products are being uploaded on the site.
- Follow up to receive ECO region satellite data for drought monitoring of ECO countries
- Creation and promotion of a comprehensive database of ECO-Disaster Data base according to the 28th RPC Meeting Resolution
- Follow up the signature of the Center's Statute in the Council of Ministers of the member states and its final approval. Signature was final approved in 26th CoM in Tashkent and was signed by Iran and requested the Secretariat to ask the member states to sign the Statute of the ECO-RCRM.
- follow up the budget of ECO-RCRM that echoed by the ECO Secretariat to set up the Center
- Developing a drought-warning system for ECO-countries
- Creating an automated receiving, post-processing and seasonal forecasting system for ECO member states and placing the results in English language newsletters on the Center's website
- Creation of a high-resolution analytical and climatically data bank for ECO-countries
- Upgrading the hardware and software of the facilities and equipment provided at the Center for Natural Disaster Risk Management
- Attending to the 35th Regional Planning Council (35th RPC), Feb 2025 and present center Activities.
- Preparation of the center program in line with ECO Vision 2035 and submission to the ECO Secretariat.