Panel 2.2: Building Disaster Resilience and Response

A Collaborative Approach to Post-earthquake Rebuilding in Nepal

The 2015 earthquake in Nepal resulted in a huge loss of lives and multi-billion dollar damages to various sectors of the Nepalese economy. The Nepalese community in Australia actively raised funds to help provide relief for affected areas in their home country. Besides fund-raising, it was recognized that among Australia-based Nepalese are those with diverse professional backgrounds who could contribute to the post-earthquake rebuilding task, as well as to preparing for any future earthquake occurrences.

This presentation explores how the Nepalese community in Queensland convened to examine the recent earthquake from different perspectives, identify linkages between physical and social aspects of the disaster, and offer recommendations to inform the massive reconstruction work that lies ahead. A collaboration framework that brings together expertise from the Nepalese in Queensland and partner organizations in Nepal ensures efforts are sensitive to the Nepalese cultural/geographical context. Opportunities and challenges pertaining to the collaborative approach are also discussed.