EARLY WARNING FOR ALL: A 30-HOUR VALUE-ADDDED PROGRAMME

JOINTLY CONDUCTED BY RIKA INSTITUTE, INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, LORETO COLLEGE, KOLKATA AND KEIO UNIVERSITY, JAPAN

Duration – 30 hours
Nature of Course – Value-Added Programme
Days of the Week – Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays
Duration – September 5 to November 6, 2025
Time – 2:00 to 5:00 pm
Mode – Online

Rationale

The course was designed to build technical and practical competencies in multi-hazard early warning systems (EWS) in alignment with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and India's national disaster management strategies. The course emphasized inclusive, actionable, and community-linked early warning mechanisms, integrating theory and hands-on tools. The participants gained an understanding of the four key pillars of early warning systems – risk knowledge, monitoring and forecasting, dissemination and communication, and response capability – while engaging with institutional stakeholders such as the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), State Disaster Management Authorities, and communities in hazard-prone areas. Key components included: sessions on EWS frameworks, policy, and institutional mechanisms; hands-on training in GIS, hazard mapping, app-based alerts, and community-based EWS. The course encouraged multi-disciplinary learning and fostered cross-sectoral collaboration to make early warning accessible, inclusive, and effective for all.

Course Objectives

1. To introduce the fundamentals of disaster risk and early warning systems.

2. To provide exposure to institutional mechanisms and field-level application of early warning systems (EWS).

3. To foster understanding of early warning for both sudden and slow-onset disasters, including climate risks like heatwaves.

4. To equip participants with practical skills in early warning tools, community engagement, and technology use.

Course Outcomes

1. At the end of the course a participant would be able to:

2. Understand the structure and functioning of early warning systems in India.

3. Read and interpret early warning messages and hazard forecasts.

4. Identify gaps in community outreach and design inclusive dissemination strategies.

5. Practice coordination across institutions during mock drills.

6. Apply GIS and other tools in risk communication and planning.

7. Engage with real-world examples through field visits and document best practices.

Number of Participants – 28

Course Fees – 3000/- and 3540/- (GST inclusive).