

## Special Session Proposal

### **RSPP Special Session on “Breaking the Vicious Cycle of Vulnerable Regions”**

*Organizers*

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#### **Abstract**

Vulnerability is intrinsically linked with disaster outcomes. Across the globe, disasters give rise to varied dimensions in terms of its impact upon reconstruction of life and livelihoods in the post-disaster phase. In regions of abundance of resources and efficient governance, reconstruction is quick and effective, while in regions of poverty, communities often face irreversible futures. The progression of vulnerability has been aptly defined as having three components of root causes, dynamic pressures and unsafe conditions – if analyzed in tandem with the socio-economic status of communities, the nature of resilience may be found to vary accordingly. This Session is dedicated to the understanding of the progression of vulnerability in case of both physical and man-made disasters. Disaster management can be better addressed by formal and informal agencies only if a nuanced understanding of the ground realities of vulnerable communities is attempted and subsequently, clearly assessed. It is often found that crores have been spent of relief and reconstruction, but vulnerabilities continue to wreak havoc in the lives of the poor. We hope to bring out case studies from across the world, where the insights into the community dynamics and the holistic approach to the losses may bring forth effective management strategies. The attempt of this Session is to address and identify the elements that may break the progression of vulnerability and make a strong impact in addressing the issues that may help to build resilient communities.

#### **Confirmed Presenters**

1. Abdul Shaban - Riots in Mumbai. The complex interaction of vulnerable communities.
2. Sebastian Rodrigues – Looking into the vulnerabilities of fisheries communities in India.
3. Said and Hicham – Vulnerabilities of Sahel Regions. From a mined land to a sustainable soil.
4. Lakshmi Sivaramakrishnan and Sumana Bandyopadhyay - Addressing homeless in coastal Sundarbans in West Bengal. A journey from vulnerable to resilient communities.
5. Tomaz Dentinho – Floods in Beira (Mozambique). How to manage external help.