

## Delivering geospatial data to the Asia Pacific disaster management community

The Asia Pacific Natural Hazards Information Network (APNHIN), hosted by PDC, has been designed to directly support disaster and resource managers, planners, governments, and nongovernmental organizations with a suite of applications and information services designed to search for, evaluate, and access high-quality geospatial data for natural hazard applications within the Asia Pacific region. APNHIN can be reached at <http://apnhin.pdc.org>.

Identifying, collecting, processing, and maintaining geospatial data layers can be extremely time consuming—accounting for nearly 80% of the cost of deploying a GIS-based decision support or resource management application. By providing instant access to a wide spectrum of high-quality data resources, APNHIN becomes an indispensable asset to disaster management decision-makers.

Built upon the underlying specifications and technologies of ESRI's Geography Network ([www.geographynetwork.com](http://www.geographynetwork.com)), APNHIN is customized to specifically provide natural hazards information for the Asia Pacific region.

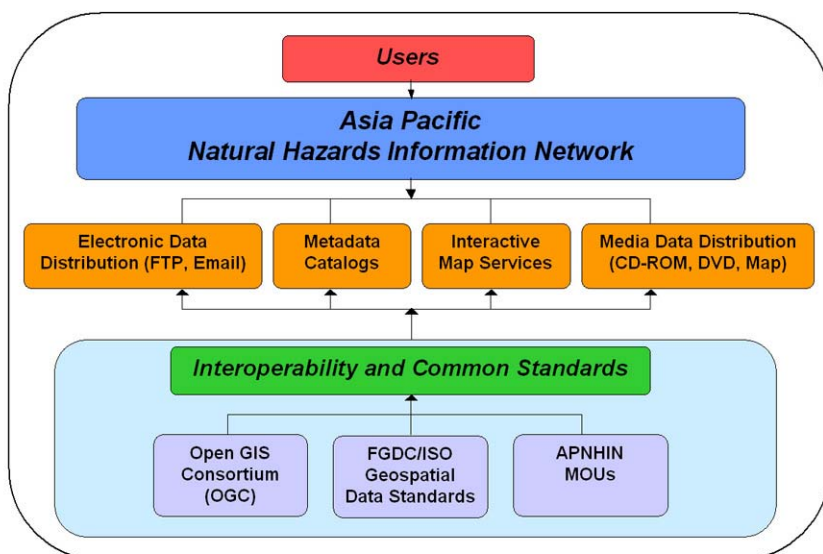
PDC formalizes participation in APNHIN through the establishment of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with partner organizations. Participating organizations enter into an MOU with the Pacific Disaster Center\* to register their organization with APNHIN. They provide detailed descriptions of the information resources they are making available as well as the mechanism by which these resources are accessible. This process will build a region-wide community of information sharers to support natural hazard risk and vulnerability assessments.



Decision and Policy Support



Institutional Capacity Development



*Building on community interoperability and standards, APNHIN provides direct access to a wealth of natural hazards geospatial information.*

Find out more about the Asia Pacific Natural Hazards Information Network at: <http://apnhin.pdc.org>

\*Memorandums of Understanding will be executed by the East-West Center, managing partner of, and on behalf of the Pacific Disaster Center.

## APNHIN Services and Implementation

Recognizing that data providers have a variety of legacy information systems as well as potentially varying levels of desires with respect to providing real-time access to data, APNHIN accommodates different modes of information availability. Accordingly, APNHIN supports a range of service levels at participating organizations including:

- Catalogue Services - metadata server describing resources available and how they can be accessed
- Interactive Data Services - ArcIMS services (e.g. image services, integrated viewer/data services such as the PDC Natural Hazards Atlas, and extract services), and the Open GIS Consortium (Web Map Services)
- Internet Access - ftp or e-mail (shape files, image files, map files, or .tif/.gif/.pdf/.xls/.doc/ referenced to a geospatial location)
- Limited or No Internet Access - paper maps, compact discs and other media

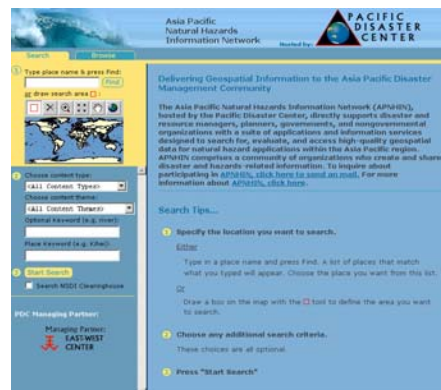
The creation of metadata records is crucial for APNHIN participation. All information, either map services or data files, need to have compliant metadata meeting some minimum standard (preferably either Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) or International Standards Organization (ISO) minimum content, but at least enough information to allow users to search and locate desired datasets).

Recognizing that effective metadata authoring can be a daunting task to those not currently working with metadata standards and tools, PDC has prepared templates for many of the commonly used data sets. As part of our "Startup Kit," PDC will provide these templates and other training documents to new members of the APNHIN.

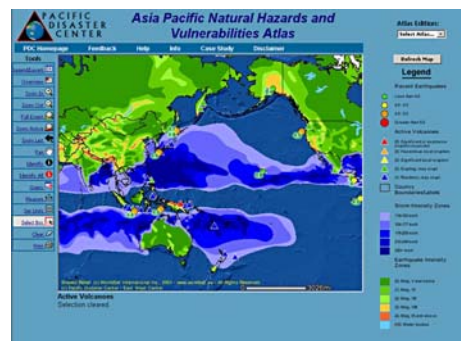
## APNHIN builds upon existing PDC resources

APNHIN draws upon the PDC's comprehensive geospatial data management environment. This environment supports a wealth of remote sensed imagery and GIS layers that have been processed to consistent specifications, integrated, and have undergone quality control steps. Each dataset is also linked to metadata records that are fully compatible to FGDC and ISO standards.

APNHIN provides access to PDC's unique dynamic data, such as those currently deployed in PDC's Asia Pacific Natural Hazards and Vulnerabilities Atlas. APNHIN users will be able to access frequently updated, value-added information on phenomena including tropical storms, earthquakes, volcanoes, wildfires, rainfall totals and cloud cover.



*The APNHIN Metadata Explorer (above) taps a wealth a geospatial data including PDC's Natural Hazards and Vulnerabilities Atlas (below).*



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*Mission: To provide applied information research and analysis support for the development of effective policies, institutions, programs and information products for the disaster management and humanitarian assistance communities of the Asia Pacific and beyond.*