

## **PROF. V. RAMGOPAL RAO**

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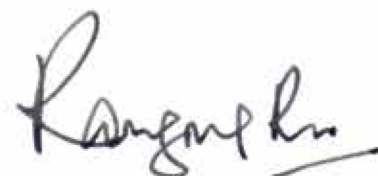
Indian Institute Technology Delhi is delighted to host in its campus the Fifth World Congress on Disaster Management (WCDM-2020) on 9-12 December 2020. This mega event is expected to draw more than 1500 scientists, researchers, policy makers and practitioners across multiple disciplines from around the world to discuss some of the most critical issues of sustainable development of the world.

These issues are clustered around the overarching theme of WCDM-2020: *Technology, Finance and Capacity for Building Resilience to Disasters*. These issues figure prominently in every framework of 2030 global development agendas – Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Paris Agreement on Climate Change, UN Sustainable Development Goals, and New Urban Agenda.

Innovative, affordable and cutting edge technologies in every sector of development ranging from constructions to communications, infrastructure to social protection, agriculture to health can be the game changer in the challenging tasks of building resilience to disasters. Technology development, transmission and application require investment and capacity development, which are lagging behind critically in most of the developing regions. Yet there are significant initiatives and experiments across sectors and regions, which need to be further encouraged, promoted and replicated for addressing the gaps and meeting the challenges of building resilience to disasters.

The four-day WCDM-2020 would be packed up with thought provoking keynote addresses, panel discussions, technical sessions, special feature events, exhibitions etc that would present excellent opportunities to contribute, learn, enrich and take away.

I call upon researchers, policy makers and practitioners to join WCDM-2020 to make it a grand success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ramgopal Rao'.

(V. Ramgopal Rao)