Islamabad - 7 May 2015: More than 170 participants from higher education institutions across Asia-Pacific participated in an interactive e-learning ‘MasterClass’ on Community-Based Flood Management, jointly hosted by UNESCO and the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) Islamabad, Pakistan. The three-hour event featured lectures lived-streamed from Islamabad by Dr. Hamza Farooq Gabriel, Dr. Kamran Akhtar and S. Muhammad Jamil from NUST, and from Jakarta by Prof. Shahbaz Khan of UNESCO, and a question and answer session with students and faculty from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), the University of Indonesia, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) and Keio University.

This MasterClass was the first of two events focusing on flood management in Pakistan and in the Asia Pacific Region as a whole. The class aimed to build awareness the various phases of flood management (preparedness, response, and recovery), to develop synergies among participating institutions in the field of flood management, and to improve the classification of information during flood warning and management. The MasterClass series of e-learning events has been coordinated by UNESCO Jakarta since 2009, and is implemented within the framework of the Japanese Funds-in-Trust-supported programme COMPETENCE (Comprehensive Program to Enhance Technology, Engineering and Science Education in Asia: The Role and Contribution of Higher Education Institutions). More information is available at http://www.connect-asia.org/