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Oct. 3, 2026

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U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS/TAIPEI, TAIWAN – The USVI was represented and were included with the US Delegation as observers and partners to the newly established **World Alliance for Disaster Management (WADM)**. WADM concluded its historic inaugural event in Taipei, marking the launch of the first Taiwan-initiated intergovernmental organization in over 50 years. Held from September 19 to 21, 2026, the summit brought together delegates from around the globe to establish a new transnational framework for disaster resilience, resource sharing, and tech-driven emergency response. USVI Delegates in attendance were Ms. Regina Browne, Deputy Director of VITEMA, and Anthony Weeks, USVI Special Economic Envoy to Taiwan & Asia-Pacific Region, and Managing Director of SEDI-CASE.

A New Global Blueprint for Humanitarian Action

Confronted by accelerating climate risks, the alliance aims to bridge critical gaps in the global humanitarian architecture. Operating outside traditional, rigid international frameworks, WADM offers an inclusive platform where nations can collaborate transparently on risk reduction and mutual aid.

The three-day inaugural event focused on transforming localized emergency expertise into global public goods, heavily leveraging Taiwan's advanced disaster governance and state-of-the-art emergency training facilities.

Global Coalition: Members and Strategic Alliances

The alliance launches with a diverse coalition of founding nations, key global partner states, and international observers:

- **Founding Members:** The alliance is anchored by **12 founding members**, including **Taiwan, its 11 formal diplomatic allies, and Somaliland**. These nations will form the operational core of the organization's immediate joint-resource deployment network.
- **The United States Role:** The **United States** officially joined the initiative as a **prominent observer and partner nation**. Operating via strategic alignment with the *United States Agency for International*

Development (USAID) and drawing on institutional experience from the *Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF)*, the U.S. will provide vital strategic, logistical, and technical backing.

- **International Partners and Observers:** A broader group of **21 observer and partner nations** [1] participated in the inaugural summit, including major global stakeholders such as **Japan, Germany, and the United Kingdom**.

Deploying "Tech Diplomacy" for Disaster Response

Central to the alliance's mission is the integration of cutting-edge technology into frontline disaster response. Summit delegates ratified frameworks to share and co-develop next-generation resilience tools, focusing on:

- **Advanced Early Warning Systems:** Cross-border integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and satellite systems to predict and track extreme weather anomalies.
- **Frontline Robotics:** Deploying coordinated drone fleets for rapid search-and-rescue operations in hard-to-reach catastrophe zones.
- **Smart Infrastructure:** Utilizing smart manufacturing to build rapidly deployable logistical supply chains during post-disaster recovery phases.

Looking Ahead

With the inaugural summit concluded, WADM will transition into its first operational phase. The alliance will begin coordinating cross-border disaster preparedness drills, establishing standardized real-time data-sharing protocols, and positioning mutual-aid logistics to ensure member and partner nations are equipped to "Prepare Better Together" in the face of shared global crises.

About SEDI, Inc. (SEDI-CASE), St. Croix Economic Development Initiative (SEDI) & Caribbean Americas Single Economy (CASE), a macroeconomics and public policy strategic planning, research and business development non-profit think tank organization based in Saint Croix, US Virgin Islands. www.Sedivision.org