



3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on
Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

From National to Local



Conference Report

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National Security Council, Government of Malaysia & Southeast Asia Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (SEADPRI-UKM), 2009

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Editors:

Joy Jacqueline Pereira, Sarah Aziz Abd. Ghani Aziz, Sharifah Munirah Syed Hussein Alatas
& Er Ah Choy, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

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Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia 2008

Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Kuala Lumpur, 2 – 4 December 2008

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the countries of Asia and the Pacific, attending the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Kuala Lumpur on 2 – 4 December 2008,

Alarmed by the increasing impact of recent disasters in Asia, including Cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh; the Wenchuan Earthquake in China; the recent floods in Bihar and Orissa in India and Nepal; and Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar;

Concerned that the Asia and Pacific region, home to 61 percent of the world's population, thus remains by far the region most affected by disasters in terms of human and economic impacts, but also in occurrence, threatening to roll back hard-earned development gains and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the region;


Appreciating that the losses, damages and costs of disasters have been reduced where Governments and the international community made effective investment in the field of disaster risk reduction;

Aware of the changing nature of disaster risk in the region brought about by the likely increase in weather and climate hazards and the increased vulnerability of communities to disasters;

Recognising the need to scale up commitment and promote innovative approaches to reduce disaster risk to achieve the goals of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 – 2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (HFA);

Noting recent global and regional developments, which are expected to further the course of disaster risk reduction (DRR) in Asia and the Pacific, such as the recognition for the first time of disaster risk reduction by the Bali Action Plan 2007; the South-South Cooperation Program under the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR); the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) resolutions 64/1 establishing a new intergovernmental Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction and 64/2 on the implementation of the HFA; the Tripartite Core Group comprising the Government of Myanmar, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the United Nations following Cyclone Nargis under the ASEAN led mechanism; the cooperation in the area of disaster risk management decided at the Trilateral Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea held in Japan, 2008; the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum's Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, Emergency Preparedness and Response; and the Australia – Indonesia Disaster Reduction Facility;

Noting also other important initiatives such as the calls made at the Seventh Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC 07) in Colombo, Sri Lanka to undertake national community-



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

based disaster risk reduction programmes in all communities at risk; the recommendations adopted by the Third Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO)-International Conference on Disaster Risk Management held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran in 2008, the proposed courses of action in advancing DRR at the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2008 in Bali, Indonesia; the call to advocate and implement programmes for the protection of the health of the population before, during and after disasters as in the Global Disaster Risk Reduction Campaign, “Hospital Safe from Disasters”, 2008 – 2009; and the International Recovery Forum as one of the International Recovery Platform (IRP) activities;

Acknowledging the leadership of the Governments of the People’s Republic of China and India in hosting the First and Second Asian Ministerial Conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction and noting the achievements of the Asian Ministerial Conference process, including the raising of awareness at the high level on the importance of disaster risk reduction issues in the region, the facilitation of national activities led by Governments and civil society organisations, the implementation of activities called for by the Delhi Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia 2007 by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Asia Partnership (IAP), including improved regional coordination, regional mapping of activities on disaster risk reduction, and the improved monitoring and reporting of progress against HFA in the region;

Recognising that governments have responsibility to reduce risks of disasters, there is a need for support and assistance from other stakeholders including international, regional and national organisations, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, civil society organisations and their networks to ensure appropriate implementation of the recommendations of the Asian Ministerial Conferences (AMC);

Appreciating the theme and objectives of the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction “Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction: From National to Local”;

DO HEREBY call on regional and national disaster reduction stakeholders:

On *public-private partnership* for disaster risk reduction: to promote corporate social responsibility and business continuity plans; to promote fiscal policies that enhance disaster risk management including micro-credit and micro-finance schemes; to encourage the establishment of multi-stakeholder mechanisms for the promotion of private and public partnerships; and to create an enabling environment for the development of catastrophe risk insurance markets that provide financial incentives for disaster risk reduction.

On *high technology and scientific application* to disaster risk reduction, *including climate change adaptation (CCA)*: to encourage dialogue and collaboration between ministries and agencies at the national level; to promote innovative partnership with scientific communities and academic institutions to enhance scientifically informed national policies for DRR and CCA; to develop partnerships between existing regional knowledge sharing mechanisms and networks on DRR and CCA with other information sharing and analysis mechanisms; and to further encourage cost-effective and widely accessible technologies in support of early warning at national to local and community levels, multi-hazards risk assessment and disaster risk reduction efforts.

On *involvement and empowerment* of local governments and civil society in disaster risk reduction: to encourage ongoing efforts towards decentralising disaster risk reduction by building

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

local capacity to integrate disaster risk reduction into local development planning; to encourage effective national legal and policy frameworks, financial and technical support to local authorities and community-based organisations to undertake DRR programmes; to enhance multi-stakeholder collaboration with local governments and communities to reduce climate and disaster risk in urban and rural areas; to empower an increasing number of vulnerable communities, including elderly people, children and in particular people with disabilities as a means to promote their right for protection and socially inclusive disaster reduction through community-based disaster reduction activities; to acknowledge that women are impacted differently from disasters and to make special efforts to mainstream gender in disaster risk reduction to reduce their vulnerability; and also the strengthening of legal preparedness for international disaster cooperation, in particular through the promotion and use of relevant guidelines.

On *mobilising resources* for disaster risk reduction: to encourage development of legal and institutional arrangements, including innovative financial mechanisms; to integrate disaster risk reduction into national, sub-national and sectoral development planning; to encourage the setting of voluntary targets in allocating resources including by the private sector; to build capacities to evaluate financial and economic costs and benefits of disaster risk reduction to promote greater investments in reducing disasters in the region; to promote comprehensive preparedness planning to mitigate the impacts of disasters; to promote resource sharing arrangements in the region; to call on the international donor community to increase its funding support for regional and national activities for disaster risk reduction and HFA implementation; and to apportion 10 percent of humanitarian assistance funding for disaster risk reduction by 2010.


On *engaging the media* in increasing coverage on disaster risk reduction: to promote training opportunities to regional, national and local media representatives and journalists to generate public risk reduction and disaster preparedness measures; and to develop broadcasting systems for the dissemination of early warnings for the Asia and Pacific region, in close collaboration with the concerned national, regional and international organisations, local authorities and civil society for conveying warning to the 'last mile'.

On *public awareness and education* for disaster risk reduction: to acknowledge the fundamental role of public awareness and education as the necessary starting point for all other disaster risk reduction initiatives; to promote inclusive education through systematic integration of disaster risk reduction into school curricula, regular teachers' training, informal and non-formal education; to strengthen cooperation and multi-stakeholder partnerships with international and regional organisations, and civil society; to recognise the value of indigenous knowledge and practices, as well as technological development such as e-learning; and where governments have made it a priority, to call on donors to provide support in building and/or retrofitting schools and education facilities to meet disaster resilient standards.

WE, DO HEREBY:

Invite the Asia and Pacific regional office of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and members of the IAP to carry the messages in this Declaration to the Second Session of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, in June 2009 and beyond.

Endeavour to report on progress made in implementing the HFA at the Second Session of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, in June 2009, and to establish regular and multi-



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

stakeholder mechanisms for monitoring, advising and reporting for disaster risk reduction of the HFA.

Encourage the promotion, wherever appropriate, of disaster risk reduction as an integral component of adaptation efforts in regional and international fora leading to the 15th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Copenhagen, December 2009, as suggested in the Bali Action Plan.

Take into consideration recommendations from this Declaration, where appropriate, within existing policies, strategies and action plans for effective mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, including the consideration of setting targets for public spending on multi-year disaster risk reduction programmes at the national and local levels and report on their implementation at the Fourth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2010.

Call on international organisations and regional institutions to provide technical, operational and programmatic support to accelerate implementation of HFA in Asia and Pacific countries, especially the national action plans on DRR.

Encourage all stakeholders to keep health facilities safe from disasters by intensifying efforts in advocacy, support in mobilising resources for structural and non-structural components of safe health facilities, and providing technical support in essential areas of disaster resilient hospitals such as organisation, contingency planning, and preparedness activities.

Call on regional inter-governmental bodies and regional institutions to consider contributing through their existing forums to the follow-up of the AMC ministerial declarations and preparation of future AMCs.

Invite the Asia and Pacific regional office of the UNISDR in collaboration with members of the IAP to prepare a Regional Action Plan on the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction as well as earlier declarations in Delhi and Beijing, and to report on its progress at the Fourth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, and to also call on donors to support the preparation process and implementation of the Action Plan.

Support the Kuala Lumpur initiative on the promotion of public-private partnerships for disaster risk reduction by the Government of Malaysia, the Government of India and the Government of the Republic of Korea, the present, past and in-coming hosts of the Asian Ministerial Conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction.

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the countries of Asia and the Pacific, attending the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, and on behalf of all participants, place on record our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of Malaysia for their gracious hospitality in hosting and organising the Conference and welcome the offer of the Government of the Republic of Korea to host the Fourth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Incheon, in 2010.

ADOPTED in Kuala Lumpur on 4 December in the year 2008.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction: From National to Local 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2 - 4 December 2008

CONTENTS

INAUGURAL MESSAGES

| | |
|--|-------|
| ❖ Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia | xv |
| ❖ Director of UNISDR | xviii |
| ❖ Chair of the Organising Committee | xix |
| ❖ Keynote Address of the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs | xxi |

CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY

xxiii

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| ❖ Background | 1 |
| ❖ Objectives | 2 |
| ❖ Programme Structure and Themes | 2 |
| Inter-Governmental Segment | 3 |
| Special Segment | 3 |
| Technical Segment | 4 |
| ❖ Organisers and Conference Partners | 5 |
| ❖ Conference Participants | 5 |
| ❖ Organisation of Report | 6 |

SECTION 2: HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONFERENCE

| | |
|---|---|
| ❖ Introduction | 7 |
| ❖ Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia, 2008 | 7 |
| ❖ Kuala Lumpur Initiative on Public-Private Partnerships | 8 |
| ❖ Good Practices on Public-Private Partnerships | 8 |
| ❖ Regional Champion for Disaster Reduction | 9 |

SECTION 3: MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| ❖ Introduction | 10 |
| ❖ Highlights | 10 |
| ❖ Concluding Remarks | 11 |



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

SECTION 4: PANEL DISCUSSION AND SPECIAL SESSIONS

| | |
|---|----|
| ❖ Introduction | 12 |
| ❖ Disaster Trends in Asia and the Pacific | 12 |
| ❖ Accelerating Progress in Implementing the HFA in Asia and the Pacific | 13 |
| ❖ Establishing and Improving Multi-Stakeholder Mechanisms for Disaster Risk Reduction | 15 |
| ❖ Concluding Remarks | 17 |

SECTION 5: HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLES

| | |
|--|----|
| ❖ Introduction | 18 |
| ❖ Risk Financing, National Policies and Tools | 18 |
| ❖ Innovative Partnerships | 19 |
| ❖ Facilitating Decentralization Processes and Resources | 23 |
| ❖ Parliamentarians Forum - Allocating Budgetary Resources for Disaster | 23 |
| ❖ Forging Partnerships and Policies to Engage the Media | 26 |
| ❖ Advocacy Tools and Communication Strategy for Decision-Makers | 27 |
| ❖ Concluding Remarks | 28 |

SECTION 6: TECHNICAL SESSIONS

| | |
|---|----|
| ❖ Introduction | 29 |
| ❖ Public-Private Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction | 29 |
| ❖ High Technology and Scientific Applications to Disaster Risk Reduction, Including Climate Change Adaptation | 31 |
| ❖ Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction | 34 |
| ❖ Mobilizing Resources for Disaster Risk Reduction | 35 |
| ❖ Media Involvement in Disaster Risk Reduction | 38 |
| ❖ Public Awareness and Education for Disaster Risk Reduction | 39 |
| ❖ Concluding Remarks | 40 |

SECTION 7: SIDE EVENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| ❖ Introduction | 41 |
| ❖ Reducing Disaster Risk in Urban Areas | 41 |
| ❖ Policy Dimension of Indigenous Knowledge and Disaster Risk Reduction | 42 |
| ❖ Strengthening National Response Preparedness in Asia | 44 |
| ❖ High Technology and Scientific Applications to Disaster Risk Reduction, Including Climate Change Adaptation | 45 |
| ❖ Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development: Experiences and Lessons Learned from the Regional Consultative Committee | 45 |
| ❖ Building Safer and Resilient Communities through Disaster Risk Reduction Actions of the Red Cross and Crescent National Societies | 46 |
| ❖ Innovative Partnerships for Transmitting Knowledge to National and Local Levels | 49 |
| ❖ Linking Climate Change Adaptation and the Disaster Risk Reduction Agenda: Science, Institutions and Policy | 50 |
| ❖ World Campaign on Safe Hospitals in the Asia-Pacific Region | 52 |

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

| | |
|---|-----|
| ❖ Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery: Climate Resilient Cities | 53 |
| ❖ Concluding Remarks | 55 |
| SECTION 8: PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS | |
| ❖ Introduction | 56 |
| ❖ Advancing Disaster Risk Reduction through the Implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response and the HFA | 56 |
| ❖ Disaster Risk Reduction in South Asia | 58 |
| ❖ Multi-Stakeholders Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction from National to Local | 58 |
| ❖ Climate Change, Disaster Risk Governance and Emergency Management | 59 |
| ❖ Asia Regional Task Force on Urban Risk Reduction | 60 |
| ❖ The Role of ICT in Disaster Management, Including Disaster Risk Reduction | 60 |
| ❖ Enhancing Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Preparedness Capacities of Central Asian Countries | 61 |
| ❖ The Role of ISDR Asia Partnership within the Asian Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction | 61 |
| ❖ Concluding Remarks | 62 |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | 63 |
| LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS | 68 |
| PHOTO GALLERY | 71 |
| LIST OF APPENDICES | |
| Appendix 1 : Hyogo Framework for Action | 75 |
| Appendix 2 : Beijing Action for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia, 2005 | 89 |
| Appendix 3 : Delhi Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia, 2007 | 92 |
| Appendix 4 : Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia, 2008 | 96 |
| Appendix 5 : Ministerial Statements at the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction | 100 |
| Appendix 6 : Terminology: Basic terms of Disaster Risk Reduction, ISDR | 164 |
| Appendix 7 : Programme of the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction | 174 |
| Appendix 8 : List of Participants at the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction | 175 |
| LIST OF BOXES | |
| Box 1-1 : List of Technical Sessions and High-level Roundtables | 4 |
| Box 1-2 : List of Side Events | 5 |
| Box 1-3 : List of Pre-Conference Events | 5 |
| Box 2-1 : Good Practices on Public Private Partnerships | 7 |



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

| | | | |
|----------|---|---|----|
| Box 2-2 | : | Content of Good Practices on Public-Private Partnerships | 8 |
| Box 2-3 | : | Senator Loren Legarda: Asia Pacific Regional Champion for DRR | 9 |
| Box 4-1 | : | DRR in RC/RC Movement | 14 |
| Box 4-2 | : | Composition of National Platforms | 16 |
| Box 4-3 | : | Map of Countries with National Platforms for DRR | 16 |
| Box 5-1 | : | The Heavy Burden of Natural Disasters | 19 |
| Box 5-2 | : | Comparative Advantage of the Public and Private Sectors | 20 |
| Box 5-3 | : | Natural Disasters in Indonesia | 21 |
| Box 5-4 | : | Local Government Units (LGUs) and Initiatives in the Philippines | 25 |
| Box 6-1 | : | Climate Change and Natural Disasters | 29 |
| Box 6-2 | : | Reasons for Concern | 30 |
| Box 6-3 | : | Space-based Solutions | 32 |
| Box 6-4 | : | Regional Cooperation on the Use of Space-Based Technical Tools for Disaster Management | 33 |
| Box 6-5 | : | Collaborative Projects between Space Agencies and Disaster Management Agencies | 33 |
| Box 6-6 | : | Sentinel Asia | 34 |
| Box 7-1 | : | Project PROMISE | 41 |
| Box 7-2 | : | PROMISE Countries | 41 |
| Box 7-3 | : | Indigenous Knowledge and Disaster Risk Reduction | 42 |
| Box 7-4 | : | Coordination is Key to Efficient Humanitarian Delivery | 43 |
| Box 7-5 | : | UNDAC Preparedness Missions Experience – OCHA | 44 |
| Box 7-6 | : | School Safety Programmes | 46 |
| Box 7-7 | : | Disaster Resistant Houses and Schools in Noakhali | 47 |
| Box 7-8 | : | Flood Disaster in Dagupan, The Philippines: Emergency Drills | 48 |
| Box 7-9 | : | Innovative Partnerships for Transmitting Knowledge to National and Local Levels | 49 |
| Box 7-10 | : | Rapid Response Capabilities | 50 |
| Box 7-11 | : | High Technology and Scientific Applications to DRR | 54 |


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- Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)
- Asian Disaster Reduction Center
- Asian Disaster Reduction Response Network (ADRRN)
- Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU)
- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- Australian Government
- Bank Negara Malaysia
- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- German Federal Foreign Office
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- Malayan Banking (MAYBANK)
- Malaysian Amateur Radio Emergency Service (MARES)
- Malaysian Medical Relief Society (MERCY)
- Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
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- World Bank

Exhibitors

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- Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia
- ASEAN
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- Asian Disaster Reduction & Response Network (ADRRN)
- Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union
- Crisis and Relief Squad of MCA
- CTONE Corporation (M) Sdn Bhd
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- EADS (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd
- East Southeast Asia and Oceania Region (ESEAOR) – SPRINT Initiative
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Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

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Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Hon. Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak

Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia

It gives me great pleasure to welcome Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates and Conference participants to Malaysia to the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. Malaysia is indeed honoured to be given the opportunity to host this important Conference.

The Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction has been entrusted with a significant task of ensuring that member countries remained committed towards the goals of the Hyogo Framework for Action in building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters.

Although the Conference was only initiated in 2005 in Beijing, nevertheless, it has developed as a significant regional platform for disaster risk reduction. The Conference has also been successful in raising awareness on the importance of disaster risk reduction issues as well as enhancing cooperation among countries in the region. This effort is very commendable in view of the short time span since its inception.

Disaster risk is of global concern. With the increase in vulnerabilities stemming from population growth, unplanned urbanisation, environmental degradation and climate change, geological, hydro-meteorological and man-made disasters have increased in frequency and intensity. According to the United Nations Development Programme report, for the period from 2000 to 2004, an average of 326 climate related disasters occurred per year, with more than 200 million people affected annually, of which most of them are in Asia.


As you are much aware, almost half of the disasters in the world occur in Asia, making this region the world's most disaster prone area. In the last couple of years alone, we have experienced devastating earthquakes, major floods, numerous cyclones and droughts that affected many countries in the region.

From the economic perspective, natural disasters exert an enormous toll on development. Annual economic losses associated with such disasters has shown a tremendous increase averaging from USD 75.5 billion in the 1960s to USD 659.9 billion in the 1990s. The majority of these losses are concentrated in the developed world, as such, it fails to adequately capture the impact of disaster on the poor who suffer the greatest cost in terms of lives and livelihoods and rebuilding their shattered communities and infrastructure. Today, 85 percent of the people exposed to earthquakes, tropical cyclones, floods and droughts live in cities that are either medium or low in development.

I am mindful of the fact that this is known to all of you. However, what I am alluding to is that disaster risk should be taken seriously in view of the severity of its impact to lives and livelihood as well as development of the nation. It is acknowledged that not all disasters can be prevented, but their impact and all the underlying risks can be reduced. While recognising that



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Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

preparing for and coping with disasters is essential, nevertheless, such efforts have never been sufficient.

Till a few decades ago, disasters were viewed as one-off events and responded to by the government and relief agencies without taking into account the socio-economic implications and causes of these disasters. Fortunately, the evolution of approach from relief and response to enhancing preparedness and mitigating the impact of disasters has begun to influence the way disaster management programmes are now being planned and financed. It is both tragic and futile to see the benefit of years or decades of development washed away in a typhoon or flood, when marginal investment in incorporating hazard resistance could have protected these assets.

It is acknowledged that Governments cannot reduce the risk of disasters alone. Thus, other stakeholders, including international, regional and national organisations, UN agencies, scientific and technical organisations, civil society as well as the media need to support and assist the Government in ensuring the appropriate implementation plans towards building resilient communities. In this context, the theme and objectives of the Third Asian Ministerial Conference i.e. Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction from National to Local is most appropriate.

Disaster risk reduction should not be viewed as the sole responsibility of Government. Partnerships with all stakeholders are important. Public and private sector resources need to be mobilised towards activities aimed at disaster risk reduction. In the midst of global challenges, enhanced public-private-partnerships play an important role to raise awareness and advocacy, increase social investment and philanthropy activities, contribute to sustainable economic growth and income generation as well as promote capacity building and scientific research.

In every disaster it is the communities that are on the receiving end and those who suffer the most. It is realised that disaster management is most effective at the community level where local needs and risks can be adequately assessed and managed. Community-based disaster management requires an enabling and supportive institutional framework which transcends from the national to state or province and local governments.

Disasters can be reduced substantially if people are well informed about measures they can take to reduce vulnerabilities. Communities in high risks areas thus need to be briefed and educated on disaster risks and means of protection. Such awareness will create a culture of safety and resilience among the communities.

We are well aware that risk management is not a stand alone strategy but it needs to be consciously integrated into our planning and implementation of development. By changing our planning processes and incorporating disaster risk consideration in the planning of new development projects, we can make sure that the resilient community is capable of withstanding the impact of future hazards. In line with this, there may be a need to develop or modify policies, laws and organisational arrangements to integrate disaster risk reduction into plans, programmes and project of development.

While regional governments are striving hard towards implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action in reducing disaster risk, donor nations should continue to support the disaster risk reduction agenda. Despite the current economic challenges we face today, it is hoped that donor countries commitment to fund and support developing nations in addressing disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation will continue. This will ensure that in the long run less will be required to respond to the predictable rise in disasters we may advertently face.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Allow me to share with you Malaysia's experience in our disaster management effort. Unlike other countries in the region, we are truly blessed in that we are only assailed with disasters that are not catastrophic in nature. Nevertheless, we do experience our fair share of disasters such as the annual floods. Recognising this problem the government has put in place since the 1990s, policy, infrastructure and operational mechanism that transcend from the national, state and district levels to ensure the cohesive participation and involvement of various government agencies and the non-government sector in addressing disaster management. At the national level, I am entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring effectiveness of the disaster management mechanism that we have put in place.

The Government has also established the National Disaster Fund to provide financial assistance to those affected by flood. The corporate sector too has responded positively by contributing an average of RM 20 million annually to the Fund. In addition, as a result of the widespread monsoon flood in 2006, the Government has acted promptly by allocating RM 500 million in the form of micro credits distributed through local commercial banks aimed at recovering businesses and rebuilding damaged infrastructure in the affected areas. Other efforts undertaken by the Government included the establishment of a cooperative in the form of Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia. This provides financial assistance to its members affected by the flood.

In terms of capacity development, government-linked company such as Telekom Malaysia has developed a Business Continuity Management System consisting of crisis management, business continuity and disaster recovery plan for their critical networks and services. A Fixed-Line Disaster Alert System for the dissemination of disaster alert through the use of landline to the public has also been introduced.

To establish a sustainable and resilient environment for the local community, the government has encouraged the participation and involvement of non-governmental organisations in disaster risk reduction programmes. Organisations such as MERCY Malaysia have played a profound role in exploring a more proactive function in enhancing public awareness in disaster risk prevention, mitigation and preparedness.

Recognising the importance of scientific research, the Ministry of Higher Education has established the Southeast Asia Disaster Prevention Institute at the National University of Malaysia (SEADPRI-UKM) to address knowledge gaps and education as well as promote policy-relevant solutions to reduce underlying risk factors at all levels of planning. Science and innovation play an important role in ensuring vulnerabilities are not re-built and communities that are prone to disaster and risk are more resilient in their housing, community facilities and other built structures.

The Government of Malaysia is indeed committed to disaster risk reduction and will continue its efforts towards implementing the priority areas of the Hyogo Framework for Action. We will work closely with the private sector, our national institutions, academicians and non-governmental sector to ensure our vulnerabilities are clearly understood and addressed.

The next three days will definitely pose a daunting task to all of you in your deliberations and commitment to come up with concrete action plan that can see Asia-Pacific emerging as a pro-active region, ready to face the challenges of climate change, disasters and find ways to reduce risks and adapt to these changes. I wish you all the very best and look forward to hearing the outcomes of the Conference. However, despite your busy schedule, I do hope you will be able to take time out to see our beautiful city and enjoy the Malaysian hospitality.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur



In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the Conference organisers in making this event a reality. I would also like to acknowledge the supporting organisations at regional and national levels for their invaluable contribution to the Conference. I sincerely hope that the deliberations and exchange of experiences on disaster risk reduction based on public-private-partnership and community participation is of benefit and be applicable to your countries to ensure sustainable development.

With this note, it is my pleasure to declare the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction officially open.

Thank you.

Mr. **Sálvamo Briceño**

Director

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Secretariat (UNISDR)

In 2005, China hosted the first Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, focusing on mechanisms that will assist the implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action. In 2007, India hosted the second Asian Ministerial Conference, and with its declaration launched the Asian Regional Platform on disaster risk reduction. Today we gather here in Malaysia paying particular focus on the theme of national and local issues to assist HFA implementation.

Taken together, these Ministerial Conferences are extremely important as it provides us a regional forum where we can revisit our commitments first taken when you adopted the Hyogo Framework of Action in 2005. It is also a good venue for us to celebrate our accomplishments against the commitments we have taken along the lines of the HFA priorities, and more importantly, identify remaining challenges in the achievements of the goals set within the HFA.

Looking at the interim results of your ongoing national, sub-regional and thematic reports against your achievements of the HFA, it is clear that the first critical step are in place, the development of the enabling environments – legislations, policy frameworks and institutions.

One example among many, have been the achievements made by Indonesia since 2005. A national action plan coupled with local action plans, a national framework law, new institutions, dedicated government funding for DRR and just last 20th of November, and the launch of its National Platform for DRR that is led by civil society. A clear example of the impacts of the close partnership of the ISDR System - the government, civil society, donors the UN, and other stakeholders.



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

In spite of the fact that more still needs to be done for us to reach the goals originally set within the HFA, I am confident that through renewed commitment, new and innovative approaches such as more partnership with the private sector, we will have the ability to scale up implementation of the HFA in the coming years.

I therefore call upon you to continue to share with us your successes, your challenges, the lessons you have learned and your good practices, in particular the impacts of your work so far, in measurable ways – today in this meeting, in the national reports that you will be finalizing by June 2009 and at the Second Session of the Global Platform in June 2009 in Geneva.

The challenges facing us are great, and the recent disasters in region are reminders of how much more needs to be done. This gathering here today of more than 600 participants, is clear proof of your awareness of these challenges, and of your willingness to move forward.

Through our collective efforts, I believe that we can scale up HFA implementation, and the results of your deliberations here this week, will stand as proof to my belief that despite the hard tasks ahead that we will collectively find ways and means to fully implement the HFA.

I wish you all well with your deliberations.

Thank you.

Dato' Muhammad Hatta bin Ab. Aziz


Secretary,

National Security Council Malaysia and Chair of the Organising Committee, Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

On behalf of the organisers, I warmly welcome all participants to the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. The Conference which commences today represents a new stage in partnerships at regional, national and local levels to address the challenges posed by disasters.

Disasters undermined hard-earned development and economic growth, and threaten the social fabric of nations in Asia and the Pacific. The Asia-Pacific region, home to 61 percent of the world's population remain by the far the region most affected by disasters in terms of human and economic impacts, and also in occurrence. The increased occurrence of disasters in the regions not only threatened to roll back hard-earned development gains but the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the region.





Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

inaugural messages

Over 70 percent of lives lost due to disasters occur within the Asia-Pacific region and of the ten most affected countries in the world in 2006, in term of economic impacts seven are from the region. Some countries are still recovering from the Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004, which caused hundreds of losses of human lives. In May this year thousands of people are dead or missing, with an estimated 2.4 million people affected in Myanmar as a result of Cyclone Nargis. More than 45 million people were affected by the earthquake in Sichuan province, China. The scenario is expected to worsen in the coming years due to the anticipated effects of climate change. In view of the increasing vulnerability of the Asia and Pacific region to disasters, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation is critical to ensure sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific.

The Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction represents a high-level platform for Governments to reaffirm commitment towards disaster reduction as embodied in the Hyogo Framework for Action which aims to build resilient communities to disasters. The Conference is also an avenue for countries to learn from each other and exchange practical experience in implementing effective disaster risk reduction actions.

Malaysia is proud to host the Third Conference in Kuala Lumpur. The Third Conference with its theme, "Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction from National to Local" will build on the previous two Conferences with a special focus on public-private-partnership for disaster risk reduction and community-based disaster risk reduction actions. The Conference will also review actions taken by the national governments and other stakeholders in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, as follow-up to the Beijing Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Delhi Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction.

With relevant Conference Partners involved in disaster risk reduction efforts present today, the Conference will also review the effectiveness of the ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP), as the operative arm of the Asia Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction; to take stock of initiatives in various sub-regions of Asia for the promotion of cooperation and the building of partnerships, and in the process facilitate the exchange of good practices and lessons learned on disaster risk reduction in the various sub-regions. At the national level, such efforts will facilitate better recognition of community-based activities and local actions on disaster as well as promote the mobilisation of adequate policy and financial support for disaster risk reduction. Looking ahead, in preparation of key global processes for disaster risk reduction, deliberations in the next few days allow us together to develop a vision and roadmap to strengthen existing and new partnerships for the Asia-Pacific region.

Governments that have adopted the Hyogo Framework for Action have strived hard in the implementation of the five priorities areas and this calls our attention to further highlight the need of collective efforts, at all levels, to reduce the number and effect of natural disasters. Disaster risk reduction is not the sole responsibility of government but the intertwined efforts of various stakeholders. Partnerships with all stakeholders are important. With the increase occurrence of disasters in the region, it is important to recognise that disaster risk reduction is a means of alleviating the sufferings of communities affected by disasters. And through the concerted efforts of the various stakeholders the affected communities will build their resilience towards disasters.

With these special focus, the organisers look forward to the deliberations involving the various stakeholders in providing recommendations and concrete action plans that can be implemented in the region. The next three days will also provide opportunities to explore and to exchange ideas and best practices to be implemented in your countries. In organising this

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction

From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur



Conference, I would like to acknowledge the support of all Conference Partners. And to all attending the Conference, I also hope you take the time to explore Kuala Lumpur in spite of your busy schedule in the next few days.

I wish you all a productive discussion. Thank you.

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Keynote Address

Sir John Holmes

Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Emergency Relief Coordinator and Chair of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Presented by Mr. Salvano Briceño, Director of United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Secretariat on behalf of Sir John Holmes, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Chair of the ISDR system.

It was close to four years ago when the Hyogo Framework for Action was adopted by 168 Governments at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Japan in January 2005. It was a landmark conference, which agreed on the global roadmap for planned actions to build resilience and reduce risk to disaster by 2015.

Since the Hyogo Framework for Action was adopted, many of you have taken a number of initiatives, such as the development of framework legislation, organizational mechanisms, national action plans and platforms for disaster risk reduction, and other activities in response to the five priority areas of the Hyogo Framework for Action.


This volume of work has been documented in the ongoing reporting process on the advancement of the Hyogo Framework for Action, where it is evident that commitment has been raised and many of the required frameworks have been set in place providing the enabling space necessary for reducing the risks to future disasters. However, much more still needs to be done.

This last year is a sobering reminder to all of us that despite all of our efforts, the impacts of disasters are still on the rise. During the first six months alone, we have seen that disaster impacts – human, social and economic – are well above the level of previous years.

The trend has been increasing, both in terms of the frequency and the scale of the hazards which have been further exacerbated by the impacts of climate change, and even more important, by socio-economic decisions on the development choices in our cities, our towns and our communities, which in many cases have rendered their populations more vulnerable.

There are additional processes in this region which have negatively influenced our resilience and coping capacity to absorb and rebound from disasters: In 2008, for the first time, more people are living in urban than in rural areas. This intensified disaster risk in megacities and in the emerging urban centres is particularly alarming in Asia. Also the crises related to food, health, fuel, and most recently the financial world, have gripped the whole Asia as well as other parts of the world weakening our collective ability to withstand the devastating consequences of disasters.





Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Let us ask ourselves – Are we going to stand idle and watch years, if not decades, of our investments into development be swept away in matters of days by disasters? Are we going to allow our human and social capital get the brunt of the impacts of these calamities? How are we going to achieve our development goals, including the MDGs and poverty reduction strategies, if disasters keep on setting us back and eroding our investments?

Let me ask one last question - what would be necessary in order to scale up the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action? Not just in an incremental way, but in a way where we can start seeing visible changes, namely, less people suffering and dying from disasters, and less destruction and devastation in this region?

The case for investing more in disaster risk reduction has already been made. Many of you in this region stand here as proof of what can be done and what results can be achieved as long as we keep focussed on the goal of sustained risk reduction. Bangladesh, for example, has shown in the last Cyclone Sidr how leadership and commitment to preparedness and early warning can significantly reduce the number of lives lost, even in the case of extreme floods. Let us all follow this good example.

The time to act has certainly come. This is further demonstrated by the renewed calls for action, which have recently been issued for us to ponder the road ahead, as we gather in this meeting. In September, the United Nations Secretary-General convened a ministerial meeting in New York on climate change and disaster risk reduction, which showed clear commitment of increased collective commitment to accelerate the implementation of disaster risk reduction.

Even at this very same time, more than 10,000 people are gathering in Poznan, Poland to discuss the future regime on climate change, which for the first time, will integrate disaster risk reduction as an important component of climate change adaptation measures.

In 2005, at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, Jan Egeland, my predecessor, made a call for the allocation of at least 10% of funds for humanitarian efforts to be set aside for disaster risk reduction measures. Since this call was made, only a few countries have adopted this 10% allocation.

I would like to renew that call today – and go one step further. Whilst the 10% target will help in particular to implement the principle of building back better and ensuring that post-disaster reconstruction does not repeat or increase risks, it is equally important to look at the development process and ensure that investments are sustainable and disaster resilient. For this purpose, I believe that it would be desirable to set a new target of at least 1% of development resources to be used for disaster risk reduction, and will be discussing that with my colleagues.

The achievements that have been made by many of you in reducing the risks of disasters since 2005 are substantial. In fact, countries such as – to name a few of them – China, Indonesia, India, Japan, Pakistan, Philippines, Vietnam, have made impressive progress, and I am very much encouraged. Disaster risk reduction is a critical challenge to your region, but with your active role and demonstrated commitment I am convinced that you can not only make a major difference in your region, but also to play a leadership and model role in motivating other regions' similar commitment to disaster risk reduction. I believe that we collectively have the right capability to respond to the challenge and ensure that disasters have fewer impacts on our nations and communities.

I therefore close my remarks by highlighting the importance that I believe your deliberations will produce. Thank you.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY

Dato' Muhammad Hatta bin Ab. Aziz

Secretary,

National Security Council Malaysia and Chair of the Organising Committee, Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

First of all, I would like to commend all delegates and participants of the Ministerial Conference on your deliberations for the past three days. The theme of this Conference, "Multi-Stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction from National to Local", have provided opportunities for you to deliberate on the special focus on public-private-partnership and community-based disaster risk reduction activities in the region.

As you would have remembered, the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia during his keynote address at the Inaugural Ceremony has called on all stakeholders to work together in their efforts of reducing disaster risks in the region. And the Conference has identified six topics of interests to be discussed and deliberated at the various segments, which include the pre-Conference, the Technical Sessions, the High Level Roundtable and the Special Sessions participated by you representing Government, international and national organisations, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Society, civil society, academia, and the media.

Allow me refresh you on the objectives of the Conference. Among those objectives are:

- (a) To review action taken by you in conjunction with stakeholders for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action as a follow-up to the Beijing Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Delhi Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia in 2007;
- (b) To share and exchange good practices and lessons learned on disaster risk reduction in promoting, cooperating and building partnerships; strengthening community-based disaster preparedness; and advancing science and technology in disaster risk reduction including climate change adaptation.
- (c) To prepare for key global processes such as the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction; to develop a vision and roadmap to strengthen and expand partnerships; to facilitate better recognition of community-based activities; and promote the mobilisation of adequate policy and financial support

Let me share with you the highlights of the proceedings. On the first day of the Conference the Kuala Lumpur initiative on public-private partnerships was launched. To support the Kuala Lumpur initiative, Mr. Sálvano Briceño, Director of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) launched the document on "Good Practices on Public Private Practices". The document highlights successful global examples by various stakeholders in promoting partnerships in disaster risk reduction. The Director of UNISDR has further called on Governments to emulate the practices for the benefit of local communities and encouraged the translation of the document into the various regional languages.

The Director of UNISDR also announced the designation of Senator Loren Legarda of the Philippines as the Asia-Pacific Regional Champion for Disaster Reduction. Senator Legarda is expected to promote the mission and ideals of UNISDR in advocating and advancing disaster risk reduction.

Preceding the special session, a plenary discussion with Conference Partners on "Disaster Trends in Asia Pacific" was held. The Conference Partners at the session were ASEAN, SAARC, APEC and representatives from the Governments of the People's Republic of China and



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Republic of Palau. The plenary discussion highlighted the challenges and trends in disaster risk reduction.

With regard to reviewing actions taken by national Governments and stakeholders in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) as a follow up to the Beijing Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia, 2005 and the Delhi Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia, 2007 two Ministerial Statement segments and two Special Sessions were held.

In the Ministerial Statements segments 43 Ministers, Senior Officials and representatives of international organisations delivered statements on the progress of disaster risk reduction. In Special Session 1 on "Accelerating Progress in Implementing the HFA in Asia and the Pacific" the panellists comprising ASEAN, SAARC, IFRC, and City Net reviewed follow-up actions in the region taken by them. In Special Session 2 on "Establishing and Improving Multi-Stakeholder Mechanisms for Disaster Risk Reduction" there was special focus on community-based disaster risk reduction activities where the progress of national mechanisms for multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral engagement was reviewed.

The rest of the Conference comprised six Technical Sessions, six High-Level Round Tables, ten Side Events and eight Pre-Conference events. All the events served as platforms for taking stock of initiatives taken in various sub-regions of Asia for promoting cooperation and building partnerships for disaster risk reduction among nations, both within and outside the governments; and sharing of good practices and lessons learned on disaster risk reduction in various fields.

The Conference revolved around six themes:

- (a) Public-Private Partnership in Disaster Risk Financing;
- (b) High Technology and Scientific Applications to Disaster Risk Reduction including Climate Change Adaptation;
- (c) Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction;
- (d) Mobilizing Resources for Disaster Risk Reduction;
- (e) Media Involvement in Disaster Risk Reduction; and
- (f) Public Awareness and Education for Disaster Risk Reduction.

You may recall that for each of the six themes, the Technical Session was followed by a High Level Roundtable dialogue. Each Technical Session comprised disaster risk reduction experts and practitioners, articulated the technical challenges, and made key recommendations for actions to be considered by Ministers.

Key concerns and recommendations on private partnership in disaster risk include promoting corporate social responsibility and business continuity plans; promoting fiscal policies that enhance disaster risk management including micro-credit and micro-finance schemes; encouraging the establishment of multi-stakeholder mechanisms for the promotion of private and public partnerships; and creating an enabling environment for the development of catastrophe risk insurance markets that provide financial incentives for disaster risk reduction.

In high technology and scientific application to disaster risk reduction, including climate change adaptation, recommendations include encouraging dialogue and collaboration between ministries and agencies at the national level; promoting innovative partnership with scientific communities and academic institutions to enhance scientifically informed national policies; developing partnerships between existing regional knowledge sharing mechanisms and networks; and encouraging cost-effective and widely accessible technologies in support of early warning at national to local and community levels, multi-hazards risk assessment and disaster risk reduction efforts.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Key recommendations on community-based disaster risk reduction include encouraging ongoing efforts towards decentralising disaster risk reduction by building local capacity to integrate disaster risk reduction into local development planning; encouraging effective national legal and policy frameworks, financial and technical support to local authorities and community based organisations; enhancing multi-stakeholder collaboration with local governments and communities to reduce climate and disaster risk in urban and rural areas; empowering an increasing number of vulnerable communities, including elderly people, children and in particular people with disabilities; mainstreaming gender in disaster risk reduction and the strengthening of legal preparedness for international disaster cooperation.

On mobilising resources for disaster risk reduction, recommendations include encouraging development of legal and institutional arrangements, including innovative financial mechanisms; integrating disaster risk reduction into national, sub-national and sectoral development planning; encouraging the setting of voluntary targets in allocating resources including by the private sector; building capacities to evaluate financial and economic costs and benefits of disaster risk reduction to help promote greater investments in reducing disasters in the region; promoting comprehensive preparedness planning to mitigate the impacts of disasters; and promoting resource sharing arrangements in the region. There were also calls on the international donor community to increase its funding support for regional and national activities for disaster risk reduction and HFA implementation; and to apportion 10 percent of humanitarian assistance funding for disaster risk reduction by 2010.

On engaging the media in increasing coverage on disaster risk reduction there was recommendation to promote training opportunities to regional, national and local media representatives and journalists to generate public risk reduction and disaster preparedness measures. There was also a call to develop broadcasting systems for the dissemination of early warnings for the Asia and Pacific region, in close collaboration with the concerned national, regional and international organisations, local authorities and civil society organisations for conveying warning to the 'last mile'.

On public awareness and education for disaster risk reduction recommendations were made to acknowledge the fundamental role of public awareness and education as the necessary starting point for all other disaster risk reduction initiatives. There were also calls to promote inclusive education through systematic integration of disaster risk reduction into school curricula, regular teachers' training, informal and non-formal education, to strengthen cooperation and multi-stakeholder partnerships with international and regional organisations, civil society organisations and to recognise the value of indigenous knowledge and practices

In the "Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia, 2008" Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the Asia-Pacific,

- (a) Invite the Asia and Pacific regional office of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and members of the IAP to carry the messages in the Declaration to the Second Session of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, in June 2009 and beyond;
- (b) Endeavour to report on progress made in implementing the HFA at the Second Session of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, in June 2009, and to establish regular and multi-stakeholder mechanisms for monitoring, advising and reporting for disaster risk reduction of the HFA;
- (c) Encourage the promotion, wherever appropriate, of disaster risk reduction as an integral component of adaptation efforts in regional and international fora leading to the 15th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Copenhagen, December 2009;



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Chairman's summary

- (d) Take into consideration recommendations from this Declaration, where appropriate, within existing policies, strategies and action plans for effective mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, including the consideration of setting targets for public spending on multi-year disaster risk reduction programmes at the national and local levels and report on their implementation at the Fourth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2010;
- (e) Call on international organisations and regional institutions to provide technical, operational and programmatic support to accelerate implementation of HFA in Asia and Pacific countries, especially the national action plans on DRR,
- (f) Encourage all stakeholders to keep health facilities safe from disasters by intensifying efforts in advocacy, support in mobilising resources for structural and non-structural components of safe health facilities, and providing technical support in essential areas of disaster resilient hospitals such as organisation, contingency planning, and preparedness activities;
- (g) Call on regional inter-governmental bodies and regional institutions to consider contributing through their existing forums to the follow-up of the AMC ministerial declarations and preparation of future AMCs;
- (h) Invite the Asia and Pacific regional office of the UNISDR in collaboration with members of the IAP to prepare a Regional Action Plan on the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction as well as earlier declarations in Delhi and Beijing, and to report on its progress at the Fourth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, and to also call on donors to support the preparation process and implementation of the Action Plan; and
- (i) Support the Kuala Lumpur initiative on the promotion of public-private partnerships for disaster risk reduction by the Government of Malaysia, the Government of India and the Government of the Republic of Korea, the present, past and in-coming hosts of the Asian Ministerial Conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction.

We recognise that there were consultations and deliberations among countries and stakeholders that culminated in the drafting of the Declaration. The Declaration lays testimony to public-private-partnership and community-based disaster participation in disaster risk reduction. I put it to you distinguished delegates to now approve and adopt the "Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia, 2008"

I am also pleased to report on December 3, representatives from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan agreed to strengthen coordination on natural and man-made disasters risk assessment, mitigation measures, contingency planning, monitoring and early warning information exchange, preparedness measures and emergency response. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan agreed on the establishment of a Central Asian Disaster Preparedness and Response Coordination Center. Membership to the Center is open and cordially extended to other interested nations.

As Chairman of the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction secretariat, I would like to thank Your Excellencies, and all participants for your contribution during these three days of the Conference. I would also like to thank all Conference Partners in making this event a success.

Thank you.

SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) was adopted in 2005 by 168 Governments and aims to build resilience of nations and communities to disasters. The HFA highlights five priorities for action as follows:-

1. Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation;
2. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning;
3. Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels;
4. Reduce the underlying risk factors; and
5. Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.


The HFA also calls attention to the need for collective effort at all levels, to reduce the number and effects of natural disasters (Appendix 1).

Disasters not only have immediate consequences but also far reaching effects of setting back achievement of development goals to which all nations are committed. On the occasion of the International Day for Disaster Reduction Disaster Day on 8 October 2008, the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon noted that *"Now more than ever, when we are trying to accelerate national and international efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), disaster risk reduction needs to be acknowledged and incorporated as a key plank of that work. The threats posed by climate change – including increasing droughts, floods and storms – increases the urgency further still, particularly in the world's poorest, most vulnerable communities."* Disaster risk reduction (DRR) offers a unique long-term viable solution to reduce the impact of disasters and build the resilience of communities and nations to disasters and towards achieving the MDGs and poverty reduction.

Governments of Asia take advantage of Asian Ministerial Conferences as the fora to reaffirm their commitment to the HFA. The Ministerial Conferences also serve as a platform for exchanging information on effective implementation of disaster risk reduction at national and local levels in the pursuit for sustainable development.

The First Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction was organised by the Government of the People's Republic of China in September 2005. The Ministerial Conference adopted the Beijing Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia, 2005 to promote the newly adopted HFA and seek the commitment of Asian Governments to implement disaster risk reduction, whilst strengthening existing key regional cooperation mechanisms (Appendix 2).

The Second Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction was held in India in November, 2007. The Second Ministerial Conference further reaffirmed Governments' commitment to the HFA through the Delhi Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia, 2007 (Appendix 3). The Second Ministerial Conference also instituted an expansion of the forum as the Regional Platform with participation of National Governments, regional and sub-regional organisations, United Nations agencies, financial institutions and other stakeholders including civil societies, scientific and technical organisations, the private sector and the media.



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

The Third Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction built on the First and Second Conferences, with the overarching theme of “Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local”, with emphasis on public-private-partnership for disaster risk reduction and community based disaster risk reduction activities. The Ministerial Conference was held on 2 - 4 December 2008 at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The climax of the Ministerial Conference was the adoption of the “Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia 2008” by the Ministers and Heads of Delegations involved (Appendix 4). The Declaration lays testimony to public-private-partnership and community based participation in disaster risk reduction and charts the way forward for Asia.

OBJECTIVES

The Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction provided a platform to review actions taken by countries in conjunction with stakeholders for the implementation of the HFA as a follow-up to the Beijing Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Delhi Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia in 2007. It also facilitated sharing of good practices and lessons learned on disaster risk reduction and preparation for key global meetings. The specific objectives of the Ministerial Conference were:

- a) To review the action taken by the national governments and other stakeholders for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action as a follow up to the Beijing Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Delhi Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia in 2007;
- b) To ensure an effective follow-up to the decisions taken by Ministers, supported by the UNISDR Asia Partnership, as the operative arm of the Asia Regional Platform for DRR, in particular in mapping out and reporting on the implementation of Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific;
- c) To take stock of initiatives taken in various sub-regions of Asia for promoting cooperation and building partnerships for disaster risk reduction among nations, both within and outside the governments, including private and public partnership;
- d) To share and exchange good practices and lessons learned on disaster risk reduction in various fields including application of science and technology, community based disaster preparedness, public-private partnership and enhance their replication within the region;
- e) To discuss the preparations towards key global processes for Disaster Risk Reduction such as the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction as well as contribution to regional focus on disaster risk reduction;
- f) To develop a vision and roadmap to strengthen existing partnerships and forge new ones, and engage new stakeholders’ investment in disaster risk reduction in Asia, such as the private sector, re-insurance companies etc; and
- g) To facilitate a better recognition of community-based activities and local actions on disaster risk reduction by Governments and promote the mobilization of adequate policy and financial support at the national level to facilitate the effective implementation and replication within vulnerable communities.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND THEMES

The theme of the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction was “Multi-Stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction from National to Local”. Participants were provided with ample opportunities to deliberate the special focus on public-private-partnership and community-based disaster risk reduction activities.

The Ministerial Conference consisted of the Inter-Governmental Segment, Special Segment and Technical Segment. Ministers, Senior Officials and other representatives of Government participated in the Inter-Governmental and Special Segments. The Technical Segment was open to participation

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

by scientists, professionals, representatives from government, non-governmental and international organisations as well as other stakeholders.

In addition to the three Segments, an Open Public Forum and Exhibition Booths were made available for regional and national partners to show case activities and the contributions of various entities, both public and private, to risk disaster reduction. Media Training and Related Press Events were also conducted during the Ministerial Conference by ABU and UNISDR. These included a series of trainings and briefings, highlighting to participants the role of media in response to disaster risk reduction issues in the Asia-Pacific, and briefing print and broadcast journalists on key issues surrounding the Ministerial Conference and disaster risk reduction in the region.

Inter-Governmental Segment

The Inter-Governmental Segment comprised the Inaugural and Closing Ceremonies and the segment on Ministerial Statements. The Inaugural and Closing Ceremonies were held in plenary whilst the segment on Ministerial Statements was spread over two days.

The Inaugural Ceremony was held on 2 December 2008. The Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, Y.A.B. Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak officially opened the Ministerial Conference. Also in attendance were Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Y.B. Dato'Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz, Director of United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), Mr. Sálvano Briceño and Secretary of the National Security Council, Dato' Muhammad Hatta Ab. Aziz. Mr. Briceño delivered the Keynote Address of the Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordination, H.E. Sir John Holmes.

The Closing Ceremony was held on 4 December 2008. The highlight of the Ceremony was the adoption of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia, 2008. During the Ceremony, the Government of the Republic of Korea, represented by the Deputy Administrator to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Mr. Park Yeon Soo, accepted the duty of hosting the Fourth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction at Incheon in 2010. The Ministerial Conference was officially closed by the Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Y.B. Dato' S.K. Devamany. The UNISDR was represented by Ms. Helena Molin Valdes, Deputy Director of UNISDR.

The segment on Ministerial Statements was held on 2 and 3 December 2008. The segment saw the participation of 43 Ministers, Senior Officials and representatives of international and regional organisations. They delivered statements that highlighted progress made on disaster risk reduction in furthering the goals of HFA, as a follow up to the Beijing Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia, 2005 and the Delhi Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia, 2007 (Appendix 5).

Special Segment

The Special Segment was held on 2 December 2008. The segment comprised a Panel Discussion with Conference Partners and two Special Sessions. The Panel Discussion was held in plenary subsequent to the Inaugural Ceremony whilst the Special Sessions were held parallel to the Ministerial Statements.

The Panel Discussion with Conference Partners on "Disaster Trends in Asia and the Pacific" was chaired by the Director of UNISDR, Mr. Sálvano Briceño. The Conference Partners at the session were ASEAN, SAARC, APEC and representatives from the Governments of the People's Republic of China and Republic of Palau. Subsequent to the Panel Discussion, the Director of UNISDR launched the document on Good Practices on Public Private Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction to support the Kuala Lumpur Initiative on Public-Private Partnerships. The Director of UNISDR also announced the

designation of Senator Loren Legarda of the Philippines as the Asia-Pacific Regional Champion for Disaster Reduction. Senator Legarda is expected to promote the mission and ideals of UNISDR in advocating and advancing disaster risk reduction.

The Special Sessions focused on the advancement in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in the Asia and the Pacific region and participatory engagement processes. Special Session 1 was on "Accelerating Progress in Implementing the HFA in Asia and the Pacific". In this Session, panelists comprising ASEAN, SAARC, IFRC and City Net reported on and reviewed follow-up actions taken to implement HFA in the region. Special Session 2 was on "Establishing and Improving Multi-Stakeholder Mechanisms for Disaster Risk Reduction – Progress of National Mechanisms for Multi-stakeholder and Multi-Sectoral Engagement". The session reviewed the progress of national mechanisms for multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral engagement, with special focus on community-based disaster risk reduction activities. Lessons learnt from established and emerging National Platforms in the region were shared. Key issues to be addressed by Governments in order to support and develop national multi-stakeholder mechanisms for disaster risk reduction were also highlighted.

Technical Segment

The Technical Segment comprised six Technical Sessions, six High-Level Roundtables, ten Side Events and eight Pre-Conference events. All the events served as platforms for taking stock of initiatives taken in various sub-regions of Asia for promoting cooperation and building partnerships for disaster risk reduction among nations, both within and outside the governments; and sharing of good practices and lessons learned on disaster risk reduction in various fields.

Technical Sessions and High-Level Round Tables revolved around the following six themes:

- Public-Private Partnership in Disaster Risk Financing;
- High Technology and Scientific Applications to Disaster Risk Reduction including Climate Change Adaptation;
- Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction;
- Mobilizing Resources for Disaster Risk Reduction;
- Media Involvement in Disaster Risk Reduction; and
- Public Awareness and Education for Disaster Risk Reduction.

BOX 1-1

List of Technical Sessions and High-level Roundtables

Each Technical Session comprised disaster risk reduction experts and practitioners, who articulated challenges and made key recommendations for actions to be considered by Ministers from selected Asia Pacific countries at discussions during the High-Level Roundtables on the same theme. Key policy recommendations from the High-Level Roundtables are reflected in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia 2008.

Technical Sessions

- Public-Private Partnership for Disaster Risk Financing (Theme 1)
- High Technology and Scientific Applications to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Including Climate Change (CC) Adaptation (Theme 2)
- Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR), Involvement and Empowerment of Local Governments and NGOs in DRR (Theme 3)
- Mobilizing Resources for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) (Theme 4)
- Media Involvement in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) (Theme 5)
- Public Awareness and Education for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) (Theme 6)

High-Level Roundtables

- Risk Financing, National Policies and Tools (HLRT 1)
- Innovative Partnerships (HLRT 2)
- How to Facilitate Decentralization Process and Resources? (HLRT 3)
- Parliamentarians Forum - Allocating Budgetary Resources for Disaster (HLRT 4)
- Forging Partnerships and Policies to Engage the Media (HLRT 5)
- Advocacy Tools and Communication Strategy for Decision-Makers'

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction

From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Side Events focused on specific topics related to the six themes as well as additional subjects on disaster risk reduction. The emphasis was on sharing of experiences of implementing partners, discussions with experts and practitioners and forging partnerships. Pre-Conference Events were held on 1 December 2008. They included briefings and meetings on subjects related to disaster risk reduction.

BOX 1-2 *List of Side Events*

Side Events

- Reducing Disaster Risk in Urban Areas - (ADPC, RTF-URR) (Side Event A)
- Policy Dimension of Indigenous Knowledge (IK) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) - Kyoto University (KU) (Side Event B)
- Strengthening National Response Preparedness in Asia – UNDAC Preparedness Missions Experience - OCHA (Side Event C)
- High Technology and Scientific Applications to Disaster Risk Reduction, Including climate Change Adaptation - Northumbria University (Side Event D)
- Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development: Experiences and Lessons Learned from the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development Programme (MDRD) - ADPC RCC, UNDP (Side Event E)
- Building Safer and Resilient Communities through Disaster Risk Reduction Actions of Red Cross Crescent National Societies - IFRC (Side Event F)
- Innovative Partnerships for Transmitting Knowledge to National and Local Levels - (SEADPRI / ITU) (Side Event G)
- Linking Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Agenda: Science, Institutions And Policy - (ADPC CCA) (Side Event H)
- World Campaign on Safe Hospitals in the Asia Pacific Region - (WHO) (Side Event I)
- Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) Briefing and Presentation on “Climate Resilient Cities - A Primer on Reducing Vulnerabilities to Climate Change Impacts and Disaster Risk Management” – World Bank and UNISDR

BOX 1-3 *List of Pre-Conference Events*

Pre-Conference Events

- ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting (ASEAN)
- IAP Meeting (ISDR)
- Disaster Risk Reduction in South Asia (SAARC/SDMC)
- Engagement of the Private Sector in Disaster Risk Reduction (ADRRN/MERCY Malaysia)
- Climate Change, Disaster Risk Governance and Emergency Management (Northumbria University)
- Regional Task Force on Urban Risks (RTF)
- The Role of ICTs in Disaster Management Including Disaster Risk Reduction (ITU)
- Disaster Risk Reduction Initiatives for Central Asia (ADRC)
- Briefing on Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (World Bank)

ORGANISERS AND CONFERENCE PARTNERS

The Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction was organised by the Government of Malaysia through the National Security Council, Prime Minister’s Department, with support of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and other Conference Partners. Conference Partners constituted regional and international bodies as well as local agencies and organisations from the host country.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

The Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction saw the participation of 43 countries and institutions. Participants included Ministers, Senior Government Officials, scientists, academicians and practitioners from local and international non-governmental organisations, civil society members and representatives from the United Nations, international and regional organizations.

ORGANISATION OF REPORT

The outcomes of the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction are highlighted in this document. In documenting the Conference, the basic terms of disaster risk reduction has generally been drawn from the terminology of UNISDR (Appendix 6). The initial part of the document is a record of messages delivered by key proponents of the Asian Ministerial Conference.

Section 1 sets the context with respect to the history of Asian Ministerial Conferences. An overview of the objectives, programme structure, themes, organisers and participants is provided. The final programme of the Third Asian Ministerial Conference and list of participants are also provided (Appendices 7 and 8).

Section 2 records the highlights of the Third Asian Ministerial Conference where a brief account of the formulation of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia, 2008 is given. Other highlighted events include the launch of the Kuala Lumpur Initiative on Public-Private Partnerships and Good Practices on Public-Private Practices as well as announcement of the UNISDR Regional Champion for Disaster Reduction.

Section 3 documents the segment on Ministerial Statements, which saw the participation of Ministers, Senior Officials and representatives of international and regional organisations. In view of the importance of Ministerial Statements, an attempt has been made to reproduce as accurately as possible, the communication from this segment in Appendix 5.

Section 4 captures key issues from the Special Segment that comprised a Panel Discussion with Conference Partners and two Special Sessions. The Panel Discussion was on "Disaster Trends in Asia and the Pacific" whilst Special Sessions 1 and 2 focused on "Accelerating Progress in Implementing the HFA in Asia and the Pacific" and "Establishing and Improving Multi-Stakeholder Mechanisms for Disaster Risk Reduction: Progress of National Mechanisms for Multi-Stakeholder and Multi-Sectoral Engagement".

Section 5 highlights key issues discussed in the High-Level Roundtables involving Ministers and Senior Officials in charge of disaster management from selected countries in the Asia Pacific, where the Chairperson of related Technical Sessions acted as moderators. The discussions served as a basis for policy recommendations that are reflected as part of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia.

Section 6 captures key concerns from the Technical Sessions involving experts and disaster risk reduction practitioners. The recommendations from these sessions were channelled to the High-Level Roundtables on a similar topic for the consideration of Ministers and Senior Officials.

Section 7 records highlights and recommendations of the Side Events organised on special risk reduction aspects, which focused on sharing of experiences between experts and practitioners. The aim was to forge partnerships between various stakeholders for effective disaster risk reduction.

Section 8 focuses on the pre-conference events that served as an introductory platform to bring together experts, practitioners and stakeholders. Key points and challenges raised in the events have been recorded.

The final part of the document consists of the bibliography, list of abbreviations and acronyms, photo gallery and appendices comprising key documents for disaster risk reduction. These have been reproduced with as much accuracy as possible to serve as a quick guide. Readers are requested to refer to the original documents for citation purposes.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

SECTION 2 - HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONFERENCE

INTRODUCTION

The Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction served as the platform for a modest beginning on a regional plan to consolidate the implementation of the HFA, the launch of two new initiatives in the region and an announcement of the inaugural regional champion. The following section briefly describes the process of formulating the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia, which makes a call for the preparation of a Regional Action Plan. This is followed by a short outline of three highlights of the Conference i.e. the launch of the Kuala Lumpur Initiative on Public-Private Partnerships and the document on “Good Practices on Public Private Practices” as well as announcement of the Asia Pacific Regional Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction.

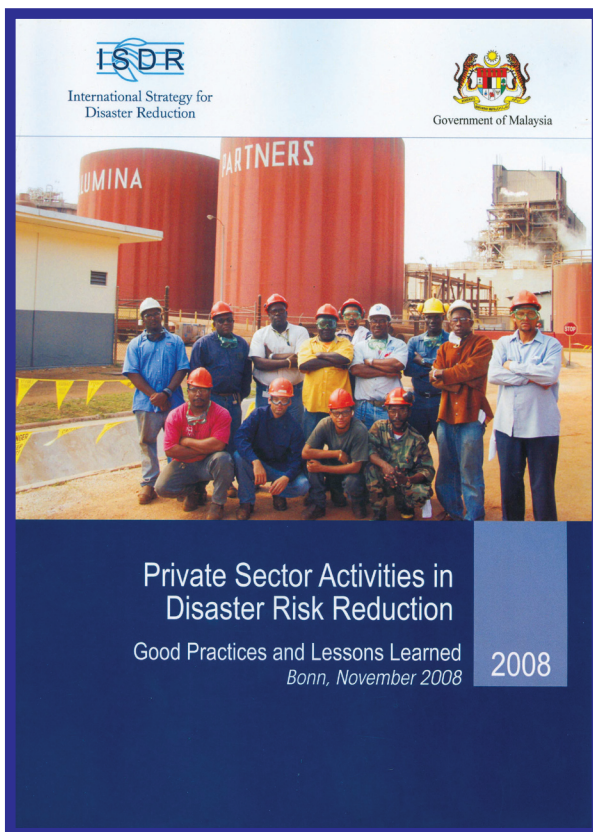
KUALA LUMPUR DECLARATION ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN ASIA, 2008

The Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia, 2008 was formulated by a Drafting Committee chaired by Dato’ Muhammad Hatta bin Ab. Aziz, Secretary of the National Security Council, representing the Government of Malaysia. Members of the Committee comprised representatives of the National Governments and Conference Partners. The draft text was circulated to all National Governments of Asia to solicit feed-back, prior to the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

BOX 2-1

Good Practices on Public-Private Partnership

The Drafting Committee met twice during the Ministerial Conference. The first meeting was held on 1 December 2008 and the second on 3 December 2008. The Drafting Committee took into account inputs from the Inter-Governmental, Special and Technical Segments, to make substantial revisions and consolidate the document. The revised text was circulated to Committee Members after each meeting. Representatives of National Governments agreed to the final text, which was presented and accepted for adoption during the Closing Ceremony on 4 December 2008.



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

The next step involves preparation of a Regional Action Plan on the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction as well as the earlier declarations in Beijing and Delhi. The Asia and Pacific Regional Office of the UNISDR has been invited to prepare the Regional Action Plan, in collaboration with members of the UNISDR Asian Partnership (IAP) and report on its progress at the Fourth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction at Incheon, Korea in 2010.

KUALA LUMPUR INITIATIVE ON PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

The Kuala Lumpur Initiative on Public-Private Partnerships was launched on the first day of the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. The Initiative promotes public-private partnerships for disaster risk reduction. The Initiative is supported by the Governments of Malaysia, India and Republic of Korea, representing the present, past and in-coming hosts of the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. The Kuala Lumpur Initiative will be mobilised through the Regional Action Plan of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction.

GOOD PRACTICES ON PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

The Director of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), Mr. Sálvano Briceño, launched the document on "Good Practices on Public Private Practices" on 2 December 2008 to support the Kuala Lumpur Initiative on Public-Private Partnerships. The Director of UNISDR called on National Governments to emulate the practices for the benefit of local communities and encouraged the translation of the document into the various regional languages. The document highlights successful global examples in promoting partnerships encompassing advocacy and awareness raising, social investment and philanthropy and core business in disaster risk reduction.

BOX 2-2: Content of Good Practices on Public-Private Partnerships

| | |
|--|--|
| Foreword | |
| Introduction | |
| Advocacy and Awareness Raising Partnerships | |
| Central America and the Caribbean | |
| Building a Disaster Resistant Community: Project Impact in Central America | |
| James Lee Witt Associates | |
| France | |
| A dedicated association launched by the French insurance market to address natural risk knowledge and prevention | |
| Mission Risques Naturels (MRN) | |
| France | |
| Conferences series for geographers and insurers focusing on disaster risk reduction in France | |
| Mutuelle assurance des instituteurs de France (MAIF) | |
| India | |
| Human Resources Development Programme in Disaster Risk Management in India – HRDP-DRM | |
| Capacity Building International, Germany (InWEnt) | |
| Indonesia | |
| All together now: Indonesia's Tourism Industry is getting 'Tsunami Ready' | |
| Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Indonesia (BUDPAR) and Bali Hotels Association (BHA) | |
| Japan | |
| Building Public-Private Partnerships to Ensure Safe Gas Use | |
| Tokyo Gas Company | |
| Japan | |
| Promoting Disaster Reduction Activity by Consumers' Co-operative Union in Collaboration with the Government | |
| Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU) | |
| The Philippines | |
| Private Sector Mobilization in Empowering Communities on Disaster Risk Reduction (PRIME-DRR) – The Dingalan, Aurora experience | |
| Corporate Network for Disaster Response (CNDR) | |
| Social Investment and Philanthropy Partnerships | |
| Africa and Asia | |
| SivHydrant – high-efficiency potable water filtration system for disaster prone, high-risk areas | |
| Siemens AG | |
| Japan | |
| Puppet Show Project "Inamura no Hi" | |
| Sompō Japan's Efforts to Raise Disaster Awareness Through Puppet Shows | |
| Sompō Japan Insurance Inc. | |
| Samoa | |
| Building Samoa's Disaster Risk Management Capacity and Capability: A Partnership – Approach | |
| Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa | |
| Worldwide | |
| Real-time and Scenario Loss Estimates for Earthquakes Worldwide | |
| World Agency of Planetary Monitoring and Earthquake Risk Reduction (WAPMERR) | |
| Core Business Partnerships | |
| Africa and Asia | |
| Safety net for the Poor | |
| Allianz SE | |
| India | |
| Private fund for a Public Good – Public Private Partnership Initiative with the Steel Industry in India | |
| The United Nations Development Program (UNDP), India | |
| Jamaica | |
| Hurricane Dean case study | |
| United Company RUSAL | |
| Japan | |
| Glass Power Campaign: Providing Safety and Ease of Mind Through Glass | |
| Asahi Glass Company, Ltd | |
| Sri Lanka | |
| Micro-Credit Scheme for Better Livelihood for Communities Living in Disaster Prone Areas of Kalutara (Sri Lanka) | |
| Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) | |
| Acronyms | |

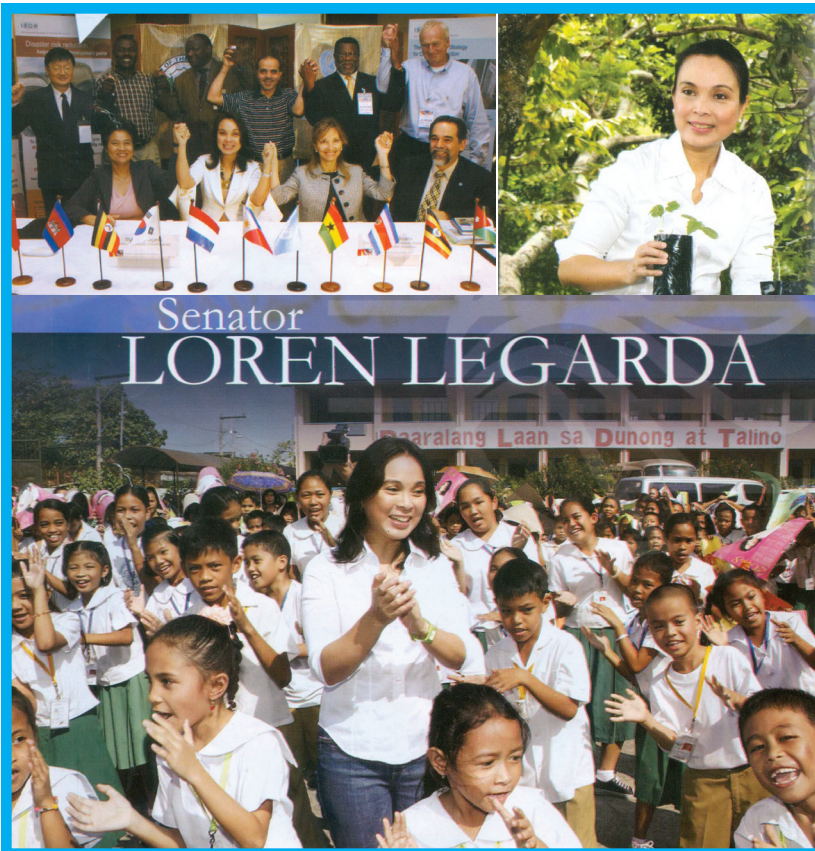
Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

REGIONAL CHAMPION FOR DISASTER REDUCTION

The Asia Pacific Regional Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction is an honorary title designated by the UNISDR on someone who embodies its mission and ideals in advocating and advancing disaster risk reduction. The Regional Champion is a person of integrity who has consistently demonstrated a deep concern for the world's poor and a commitment to making the world safer and a better place for all. In addition, the Regional Champion is someone who has shown a strong desire to help mobilize public interest in, and support for, purposes and principles that promote the core values of human development in general and the five priority areas of the HFA in particular.

On 2 December 2008, the Director of UNISDR, Mr. Sálvamo Briceño, announced Senator Loren Legarda as the Asia Pacific Regional Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction. She was presented with a certificate and an appointment letter. Senator Legarda exemplifies all the values of a Regional Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction. She has distinctive contributions in the field of environment, climate change, disaster management and environmental law. She is also very active in the United Nations System. Senator Legarda, together with the UNISDR, will advocate and promote the goals, activities and implementation of the HFA, at all levels.



BOX 2-3

*Senator
Loren Legarda:
Asia Pacific
Regional
Champion for DRR*

SECTION 3 - MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Ministerial Statements was held over two days on 2 and 3 December 2008. The segment saw the participation of 43 Ministers, Senior Officials and representatives of international and regional organisations. They delivered statements on progress made in implementing disaster risk reduction to further the goals of HFA, as a follow up to the Beijing Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia, 2005 and the Delhi Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia, 2007. The following section highlights key issues and recommendations from countries and international organisations.

HIGHLIGHTS

Countries and organisations generally reported their progress with respect to the five priorities for action. These are (i) ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation; (ii) identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning; (iii) use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels; (iv) reduce the underlying risk factors; and (v) strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

Countries reported on trends in disaster occurrences including loss of lives, property and infrastructure. Such disasters were mainly of the geological and meteorological variety. Lessons learned from the occurrence of disasters were also elaborated. Such lessons encompassed the need for development and strengthening of institutions, knowledge sharing and cooperation, education and training activities, awareness to build resilience, research and development as well as integration of risk reduction into development. Some countries also reported on their budget allocation for disaster risk reduction.

Ongoing programmes to reduce the risk of disasters and strengthen community resilience were also highlighted. Among these are enactment of legislation, policies and strategies to mainstream disaster risk reduction and strengthening of national coordination mechanisms as well as formation of National Platforms for disaster risk reduction. Efforts to strengthen preparedness, build capacity for disaster monitoring, risk assessment to support early warning, generate knowledge, enhance public awareness and stakeholder involvement were also reported. Several countries emphasised urban and rural community disaster management. Countries also reported progress in regional efforts to build community resilience and engagement with regional and international organisations to implement disaster risk reduction activities.

Organisations such as the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Muslim Aid, United Nations Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) were among those that reported their activities to enhance implementation of the HFA. The organisations also reported on expansions of work programmes and mandate. For example, ESCAP reported the establishment of a new intergovernmental committee and programme of work on disaster risk reduction. Activities reported by the organisations include empowering local communities in most vulnerable and disaster-prone areas to build a culture of safety, building capacity at the different levels of government, providing

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction

From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

appropriate training on emergency rescue, emergency relief and rehabilitation, raising awareness on stakeholder roles and responsibilities as well as mobilizing stakeholder groups such as youths, school teachers, public representatives and religious leaders, among others.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The progress of implementing HFA in the region is varied. Some countries have sufficient resources while others have restricted budgets and require assistance for disaster risk management, both in terms of resources and capacity building. The following recommendations have been condensed from the Ministerial Statements.

The implementation of disaster risk reduction can only be effective if countries and regions strengthen coordination and cooperation. There were calls to prioritise bilateral and multilateral disaster reduction and relief cooperation in the region. The establishment of a regional cooperation mechanism on disaster reduction was also proposed.

In addition, capacity building for monitoring, assessment and early warning needs to be enhanced. The importance of empowering local communities, increasing public awareness and education was also emphasized. Innovative partnerships among stakeholders including non-government organisations, scientific institutions and universities as well as the private sector are critical for this purpose.

Many countries, particularly the Pacific Island Developing States also highlighted the need to enhance cooperation to combat the onset of climate change, which is expected to intensify the occurrence of disasters in the region. Poverty, drought and food security issues need to be linked in the context of disaster risk reduction.

Countries also acknowledged the role of the UNISDR in promoting and accelerating implementation of the HFA, especially in the Asia Pacific region. The UNISDR was encouraged to continue fostering this role and enhancing its capacity to support disaster risk reduction in Asia and also the Pacific Region.

SECTION 4 - PANEL DISCUSSION AND SPECIAL SESSIONS

INTRODUCTION

The implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and Regional Strategy for National Platforms on Disaster Risk Reduction lies hinged on partnerships and shared goals. The HFA, adopted by 168 countries, received further acknowledgement with express statements being made in the Beijing Action for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia (2005) and the Delhi Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia (2007). In both Declarations, parties have expressed their support to implement the framework within respective regional and national context. The same period saw the occurrence of catastrophic disasters in the region, highlighting the need to for accelerated progress to improved partnerships to reduce the impacts of such incidences in the region.

The following sections provide a brief overview of the Special Segment held on 2 December 2008. The Segment comprised a Panel Discussion with Conference Partners and two Special Sessions. The Panel Discussion with Conference Partners was on "Disaster Trends in Asia and the Pacific". Special Session 1 was on "Accelerating Progress in Implementing the HFA in Asia and the Pacific" and Special Session 2 was on "Establishing and Improving Multi-Stakeholder Mechanisms for Disaster Risk Reduction: Progress of National Mechanisms for Multi-Stakeholder and Multi-Sectoral Engagement". Key issues highlighted at the three discourses are summarised and an overall concluding remark lays forth the common factors that help effect both the implementation of HFA and regional strategy for national platforms on DRR.

DISASTER TRENDS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The Panel Discussion with Conference Partners on "Disaster Trends in Asia and the Pacific" was chaired by the Director of UNISDR, Mr. Sálvamo Briceño. The Conference Partners at the session were Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and representatives from the Governments of the People's Republic of China and Republic of Palau.

Central to the discussion were the issues on how to move from short term operations to long term disaster risk response and management; engagement of all sectors, particularly the private sector; and the pooling of resources from government, public, private sectors. ASEAN through its Committee on Disaster Management established a regional programme for the ASEAN members, spanning the period 2004 to 2010, focusing on responses particularly, capacity building; sharing of information and resources; promotion of collaborative partnerships; and public education, awareness and advocacy. Lessons drawn from the Cyclone Nargis disaster further emphasized the need for strengthening community based disaster risk responses.

The SAARC, which consists of eight member countries that make up 23% of the world population, placed further emphasis on understanding the geology, geography and climate that makes the region more vulnerable and prone to disasters. Five road maps were put in place, that is, establishing community based DRR; intensification of the use of science and technology, particularly space technology for mapping and prediction; development of early warning systems that provide warning at least 48 hours before predicted impact; adoption of measures related to climate change mitigation and adaptation; and mainstreaming support such as poverty alleviation programmes as well as building earthquake and cyclone resistant homes. Even with all these steps

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

in place, challenges such as availability of resources, cost effective tools, strong empirical data the effectiveness of DRR as well as the economic analysis of DRR will still have to be addressed.

The People's Republic of China stressed on the need for early warning systems to avert the impacts of disasters that plague the country such as floods, mud slides, typhoons and sand storms. Early warning systems can help to reduce the impacts of such disasters in economic sectors such as transport, telecommunications and infrastructure. In addition, the use of information based policy and decision making is critical for reducing the risk of disasters. Participatory mechanisms have also been put into place to help implement the HFA at various levels. The challenge however lies in implementing measures at the local level.

The Republic of Palau faces threats from man-made disasters, though it is affected by cases of drought and more importantly sea level rise. The emphasis in shifting from short term DRR to long term DRR lies in education. In addition, communication systems that can help warn communities of impending disasters also need to be strengthened. Interestingly, it has been observed in Palau that though the disasters are 'natural', the impacts and risks are often 'man-made', i.e. poorly constructed buildings that collapse or poorly designed amenities that result in disruption of services, for example, water supply. There is need to highlight this factor so that more effective response and mitigation can be taken to reduce the impact of disasters.

APEC's interest in emergency preparedness and DRR lies in the fact that disasters have great economic impact. It disrupts trade and investments and this has serious implications on the survivability of a nation. Though APEC is not directly involved in immediate disaster response, it does play a role in helping put into place measures to mitigate and prepare for as well as respond to disasters. The APEC Task Force on Disaster Preparedness has focused on the social costs of disasters and strengthening domestic disaster reduction capabilities. The emphasis now is on building public-private partnerships.

ACCELERATING PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE HFA IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Special Session 1 on "Accelerating Progress in Implementing the HFA in Asia and the Pacific" deals with the means to accelerate progress in implementing the HFA in the region. The idea here is how best to share information on the key trends and areas of progress, in addition to learning from the challenges in the Asia and Pacific regions with regard to achieving the strategic goals of the HFA. Representatives involved were from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements (City NET).

Spurred by the biennial cycles of monitoring and reporting of progress (for the current period 2007-09) by the UNISDR Secretariat, an opportunity is hereby taken to revisit the HFA, and explore options to realign priorities in addressing the Hyogo Framework for Action at national, regional and global levels to ensure the growing population living in high risk conditions is adequately protected from disasters. Based on reports received, there are indications of progress being made in the implementation of HFA at national levels. Measures to affect the HFA include the establishment of institutions/platforms, legal frameworks, implementation of policies, programmes and plans. The exercise for national reporting has been encouraging, though not all countries have been forthcoming with their reports, nevertheless, with the information collected, countries can take stock and implement initiatives that allow them to be better prepared. Implementation of HFA has resulted in reduced losses, particularly to life and better response and preparedness in addressing impacts. Regional reporting too has been quite successful, with indications that coordination and cooperation at the regional level has intensified. Interestingly, in the implementation of the HFA, the use of local and indigenous knowledge has been important to frame community DRR and

response. Noted also were the multitude of initiatives, such as that by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent that have put into place measures that has helped effect the HFA, and in some instances, the initiatives transcends the HFA in that it has taken a multidimensional approach.

BOX 4-1

DRR in RC/RC Movement

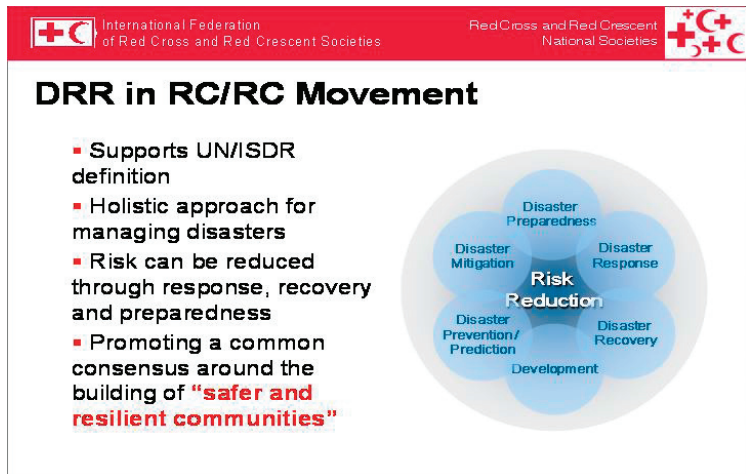
Source:

International Federation
of Red Cross and Red
Crescent Societies, 2008

Issues raised include aspects related to report collection, whereby the risks of multi-hazards or impact of multi-hazards have not been taken into account in the reporting format. In addition, the implementation of the HFA has been dictated by availability of funding and budgets being put aside. Based on collected reports, it was noted that cross agency and stakeholder buy in too has been quite challenging. Questions were also raised with regard to accuracy and availability of baselines and evidence. On the whole, awareness of the importance of HFA and the cross sectoral buy-in are still at a fledgling state.

What is clear is that there is a need for information to cascade down from lessons learnt at the regional level, national DRR plans to local levels and vice versa. Mechanisms and measures that have been put into place at national and regional levels to affect the HFA, should incorporate local and indigenous knowledge, so as to suit conditions at site. DRR plans particularly at national levels should incorporate a mechanism that will facilitate multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral and multi-level measures by the various agencies and stakeholders. At the ASEAN level, steps are being taken to adopt an ASEAN Agreement of DRR that will bring together cohesiveness in responsibility to act and ensure preparedness, risk reduction and responses are implemented.

In the South Asia region, cooperation has been more forthcoming, given that the region is beset with the layers of risks and liabilities due to the geo-climatic and social conditions, making it more vulnerable to disasters. Even then, recommendations to further strengthen institutional linkages within national boundaries and at the regional levels were called, in addition to intensification of generating science on and for DRR. Calls were also made to mainstream DRR in education systems and within the government structures, systems and processes. The need for documentation and networking were also put forward. Suggestions were also made on expanding the current context of regional cooperation to include investments and aid in pre-disaster planning programmes to help reduce impacts. Localised DRR plans matched with resources must be given a priority. Noted also was the parting note at the conclusion of the session, to structure reporting mechanisms to capture a wider range of information, and based on the upcoming interim report expected to be produced in 2009, trends therein can be used to improve the implementation of the HFA.



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

ESTABLISHING AND IMPROVING MULTI-STAKEHOLDER MECHANISMS FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Special Session 2 was on “Establishing and Improving Multi-Stakeholder Mechanisms for Disaster Risk Reduction: Progress of National Mechanisms for Multi-Stakeholder and Multi-Sectoral Engagement” sought opportunities for harnessing existing leaderships in disaster risk reduction at regional levels towards the enhancement of greater multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral mechanisms for DRR nationally. The objective of the Session was to facilitate sharing of lessons learnt in establishing National Platforms in the Asia region, taking into account other national coordinating mechanisms for disaster risk reduction. In addition, key issues and means to address them, as identified by Governments and UNISDR partners, to support and develop national multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms for disaster risk reduction can provide an opportunity to chart the way forward to building multi-stakeholder national coordination mechanisms for DRR in Asia.

With the adoption of the HFA, the impetus has been for countries to establish National Platforms for DRR. Central to this is the role of civil society, Regional Development Agencies and the various multi stakeholder coordination mechanisms for DRR. It is clear that the function of such platforms is to initiate and effect programmes that will help reduce vulnerability for people, losses and loss of lives, thus building a more resilient society.

Three countries, Indonesia, India and Iran, showcased their initiatives in establishing National Platforms. In Indonesia for example, a National Platform has been established, and a National Action Plan for DRR (2006-2009) formulated. Following on from this, there is now in force a Disaster Management Law 2007, and establishment of a DRR agency in 2008. DRR has been integrated into national plans and annual budget has been allocated for DRR programmes. In India, there already exists a multi-stakeholder mechanism to address disaster risk reduction and monitor progress made in integrating disaster risk reduction into development planning. The challenges however include the vast geographical spread and population pressure; multi-hazard profile of the country with diverse physical topography; and availability of resources for mitigation. In Iran, the situation is rather critical as it is ranked as one of the top ten disaster prone countries in the world. Iran has established a National Platform comprising more than 30 members of different sectors. It is the National Disaster Management organization of Ministry of Interior which is responsible for the running of the National Platform.

Challenges and issues collectively identified in the Asian region, include mainstreaming DRR within government systems and processes. The assumption that it should be helmed and led by one agency can only impede implementation of DRR. Instead it should be a multi-stakeholder mechanism that allows for engagement at all levels. In addition establishment of formal mechanisms, through legislative arrangements, though crucial, to affect mandate and responsibilities provide for defined roles, often enforcement of measures take longer than anticipated. Issues were also raised as to whether such arrangements should be decentralised or centralised. Identification of stakeholders and the role that can be played is also seen to be important. The role of national platforms at the regional level, as advocating DRR particularly from transboundary disaster events also requires attention. In addition the translation of commitments within the HFA to national and local conditions must also be looked into.

The UNISDR noted that National Platforms are unique to different countries. However, there are common characteristics of National Platforms such as the need for strong leadership in government and support from Platform Committee Groups. It is through these Committee Groups that multi-level stakeholders can be brought together and geared towards a common goal.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

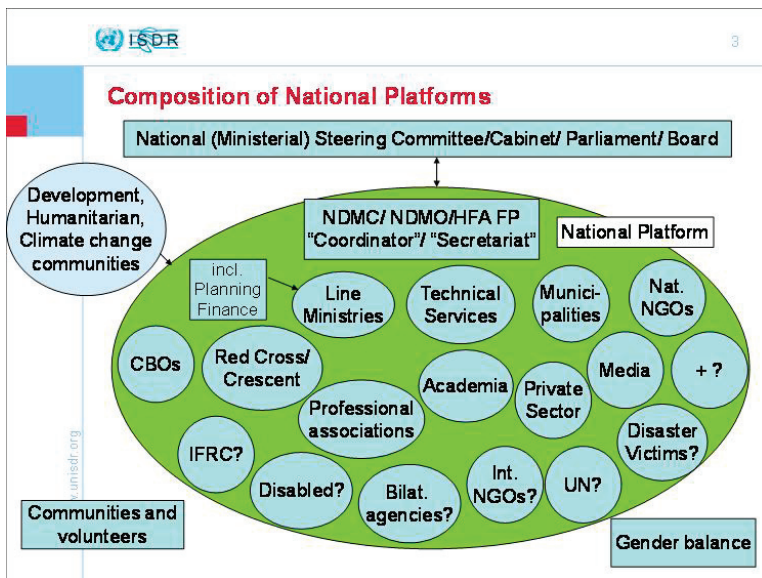
BOX 4-2

Composition of National Platforms

Source:
Bernd L., 2008.

The core functions of the National Platform are manifold and include advocating DRR at different levels; garnering commitments to bring aid to populations most vulnerable and at risk; increasing levels of knowledge and skills

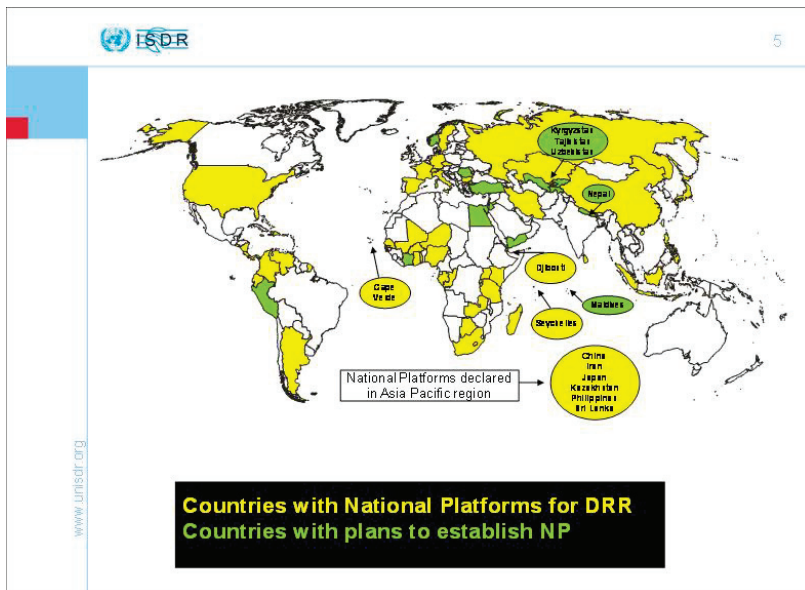
related to DRR; acting as a catalyst for national consultations and consensus building; coordinating, analysing and advising on areas that require concerted action across multi-stakeholding and levels; mainstreaming DRR into national policies, planning and development programmes; managing progress towards achievement of DRR objectives; and monitor and evaluate reports; serve as a national focal point within the UNISDR system.



BOX 4-3

Map of Countries with National Platforms for DRR

Source:
Bernd L., 2008.



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Recommendations include strengthening local capacity as they can help the National Platform and National Mechanism for Disaster Risk Reduction become more effective. Participatory processes that bring together all stakeholders, including community based organisations, non-governmental organisations and private sectors must be put into place. Partnerships must work both ways, cascading from the top and vice versa. Awareness must be heightened, and involvement of all communities, including those not in disaster prone areas should be encouraged. The role and use of legislative provisions should also be further explored. A strong mechanism for disaster information sharing that can help strengthen knowledge management systems must also be considered. Fundamentally, there has to be a roadmap that fits DRR within the context of sustainable development.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

On the whole, there is a need for DRR to be mainstreamed within government systems and the private sector. It is also important that trade corridors are protected against the impact of disasters to ensure economic vulnerabilities are reduced. Furthermore, trends and progress of the HFA implementation can only be sourced from reports shared. It is clear that the reporting mechanisms require strengthening and it should be institutionalised nationally. Capacity building efforts must be intensified, particularly at disaster prone areas. There is also a need to link reporting processes and outcomes of Ministerial Conferences pertaining to DRR so as to move towards a common reporting process accessible to all. Lessons and outcomes of initiative and programmes should be shared.

SECTION 5 - HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLES

INTRODUCTION

The High-Level Roundtables (HLRTs) were attended by Ministers and several Senior Officials in charge of disaster management from selected countries in the Asia Pacific. The Chairperson of the related Technical Sessions acted as the moderators of the HLRTs. Discussions focused on key concerns and recommendations raised at the Technical Sessions. Additional issues were also raised. The discussions served as a basis for policy recommendations that are reflected as part of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia. Highlights of the discussions are briefly described in the following sections.

RISK FINANCING, NATIONAL POLICIES AND TOOLS

Highlights

The Chairman convened the session by highlighting the issues discussed in Technical Session 1, namely (i) awareness of the public, (ii) encouraging insurance companies, e.g. incentive tax rates, (iii) making financial institutions more proactive in supporting catastrophic insurance and (iv) how these issues should be put into practice. Delegates from Bhutan, Brunei, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines and the World Bank served as Panellists in the Session.

It was highlighted that subsidised insurance and premium charges must be considered, however, efforts at a small scale level should be initiated by each nation. For example, Brunei is less prone to disaster risks (mostly floods and fires). As such, there is a lack of experience and awareness pertaining to catastrophic insurance, and there is a need for education to facilitate cross-learning between nations, raising awareness on the need to be insured against disasters. It is also important to share the cost among the public and government and financial institutions so as to reduce the burden on the people. In addition, the implementation of the insurance products needs to be reviewed from time to time. Pakistan, for instance, has made it compulsory for agricultural insurance. Likewise, Malaysia has formulated a scheme for agriculture risk but this is pending implementation.

In Bhutan, incidences of disasters are frequent, and insurances schemes have been incorporated into loans from financial institutions for construction-related disasters. There is no insurance for natural disasters as the population is scattered throughout a wide geographic area. On the other hand, the government subsidises insurance costs for farmers. As the country is faced with the impact of climate change/global warming, Bhutan is now resettling those affected to other locations. Mitigation measures such as the reduction of the permitted heights of buildings in Bhutan have been implemented to overcome earthquakes.

For the Philippines, which is inundated by incidences of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and typhoons, insurance and risk financing have already been implemented at the national and local government levels. The present challenge is to make the insurance affordable to the general public. There has been a shift from just responding to disasters, to now preparing against disasters, and the focus now is on strengthening private-public partnerships. At the present, catastrophic risk financing is undertaken by the government via subsidies and special funding.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

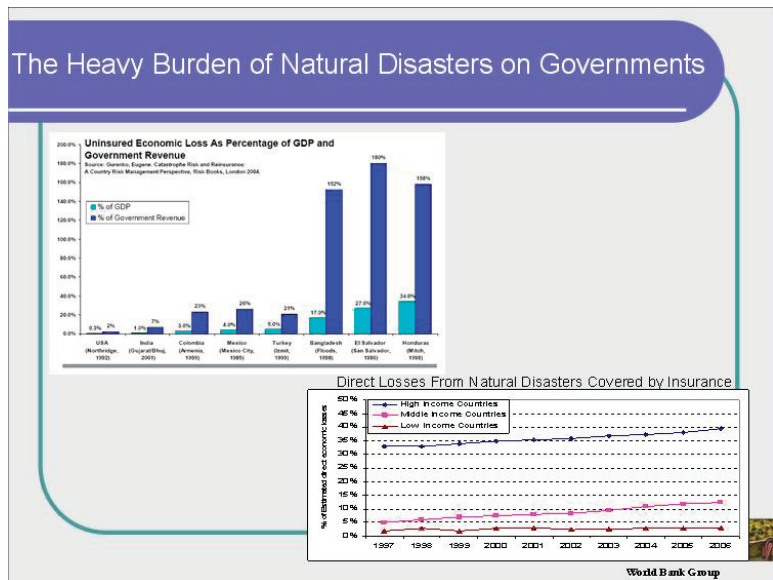
3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Recommendations

It has been suggested that there should be a regional task force on DRR. However, different regions face different types of disasters and different levels of risk financing. Thus it was suggested that the insurance scheme take a share from the commercial shares of each country, pool them, and then give a share back to the individual country. This warrants legislative commitments from private insurance financiers and viability of such insurance schemes should be based on risks that governments have to take. If the private sector has little confidence then the government has to move first. The need of partnership must be clearly identified for catastrophic risk financing, and it is necessary to support catastrophic risk financing as being part of a risk reduction strategy.

The World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) made four recommendations in their paper entitled "Public-Private Partnership in Disaster Risk Financing". Firstly, governments should promote catastrophic risk financing as an integral component of their Disaster Risk Management (DRM) framework. Secondly, governments should promote an appropriate catastrophic risk management regime for the finance industry (e.g. banks). Thirdly, governments should create an enabling environment to increase catastrophic insurance penetration. Catastrophic insurance programmes should be recommended for private assets, including national or regional catastrophic insurance pools (e.g. Turkey Catastrophe Insurance Pool in Turkey). National or regional sovereign catastrophic insurance programmes (e.g., Fondo de Desastres Naturales in Mexico and Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility in the Caribbean). Fourthly, governments should use market-based insurance prices as financial incentives for disaster risk reduction.

BOX 5-1
The Heavy Burden of Natural Disasters
Source:
World Bank, 2008.



INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Highlights

This Session was organized by the International Telecommunication Unit (ITU) with support from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), the Southeast Asia Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (SEADPRI-UKM), Telekom Malaysia (TM), and Malaysian Amateur Radio Emergency Service (MARES). It was attended by about 50 participants. The key goal was to assess the viability of recommendations

and policy options submitted in order to discuss a cooperation mechanism at the global, regional and national levels for promoting the use of telecommunications/ICT and other scientific applications for DRR and climate change adaptation. The Panellists in this session comprised ministerial representatives from India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos PDR, Malaysia and Samoa.

The need to develop projects that integrate climate change adaptation and DRR, with the involvement and participation of multiple stakeholders was highlighted. The key challenge, especially in the least developed countries, is to communicate information to the people at the ground. While high level satellite imaging is needed to support disaster management actions, early warning systems that are affordable and localised are also essential.

The panellist from India remarked that future disaster management should optimise science to build and enhance understanding and action to reducing the risk of disasters. India uses satellite imaging to help manage disasters more effectively as well as implementing an early warning system that predicts cyclones very accurately in order to communicate more efficiently to the people. On climate change, India uses satellite imaging that shows the retreat of glaciers. Following this, the country is implementing the "Green India" project to plant trees for carbon sequestration. Research in agricultural methods as adaptation tools against disasters is also underway. While noting that the localizing of methods at the community levels is a big challenge, there are existing systems that generate a huge volume of data that could be used for analysis and modelling in support of local-level actions. India had also established the Inventory of Disaster Risk Management, which takes into account equipment, technical resources and manpower at national and local levels as well as from the business sector. The inventory can be used by disaster managers in mobilising resources. In addition, there is a Disaster Knowledge Network, which combines a network of different groups, for example, government and academia, to foster collaboration and the sharing and exchange of knowledge.

Public Private Partnerships in Disaster Risk Financing

- **Comparative advantage of the public sector**
 - Promote public goods: database, cat risk models, awareness campaign, etc.
 - Build/improve an enabling environment for competitive risk transfer solutions (e.g., legal and regulatory framework)
 - Limit public subsidy programs to those that minimize distortions of market price signal
 - Actively act as a reinsurer of last resort when the private reinsurance capacity is unavailable/very expensive
 - Promote risk mitigation measures (e.g., building codes, etc.)
- **Comparative advantage of the private sector**
 - Develop risk transfer products that address the needs of the clients
 - Provide financial capacity
 - Promote global best practices
 - Provide financial incentives for disaster risk mitigation through risk adjusted premiums



BOX 5-2

*Comparative
Advantage of the Public
and Private Sectors*
Source:
World Bank, 2008.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Indonesia, a country with a long coastline, is exposed to high tsunami risks, while many cities are prone to earthquakes. Indonesia believes that cooperation and partnership are necessary in order to help cope and recover from these problems. However, ensuring effective partnership is a challenge. Technology is necessary for obtaining accurate and prompt information, and should have features that ensure compatibility of different equipments, and facilitate more effective joint operations.

| Issues on Natural Disaster in Indonesia | | |
|---|----------------------|-------------------------|
| ➤ 130 Active volcanoes → potency to volcanic hazards | | |
| ➤ Tsunami | | |
| Recent tsunamis in Indonesia | | |
| Year | Location | No of casualty (people) |
| 1992 | Flores Tsunami | 1,950 |
| 1994 | East Java Tsunami | 238 |
| 1996 | Irian Jaya Tsunami | 110 |
| 2004 | Indian Ocean Tsunami | 283,000 |
| 2006 | West Java Tsunami | 645 |
| ➤ Floods: | | |
| - Natural Factor (topography, high tide, rainfall) | | |
| - Man-made Factor (change in land use, squatter area in river banks, decrease in river capacities affected by the pile of garbage and lack of maintenance, increase of sedimentation rate, etc) | | |

BOX 5-3:

Natural Disasters in Indonesia

Source: Government of Indonesia.

| Disaster Management and DRR related Budget Allocation in Annual Work Plan 2009 | | | |
|--|--|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| No | Program | Budget (Rp Billion) | Line Ministry |
| 1 | Rehabilitation and Reconstruction post tsunami in NAD Province and Nias Island | 969,42 | MoPW, MOHA, MoT, Kemeng PDT |
| 2 | Development Program for HRD in Meteorology and Geophysical Sector | 100,19 | BMG |
| 3 | Research and Development Program | 5 | LAPAN |
| 4 | Conservation Program for Water Resources | 17 | Bakosurtanal |
| 5 | Diffusion and Utilization of Technology & Science | 50 | Ministry of Research and Technology |
| 6 | Health Development Program | 600 | Ministry of Health |
| 7 | Capacity Development Program for Research and Technology in Production System | 15 | BPPT |
| 8 | Assistance Program for Social Sector | 519,03 | Ministry of Social Affairs, BPLS |
| 9 | Recovery Program for disaster affected areas | 83,25 | Bakornas PB |
| Total | | 2.358,85 | |

Source:

Government of Indonesia.

Japan supports various kinds of international disaster management initiatives. Stressing the importance of technology development, the Japanese experience in mitigating typhoons and earthquakes was shared. The technologies developed have drastically reduced the impacts of typhoon and earthquake prediction and early warning systems have been enhanced through detection and imagery methods. Nevertheless, it

was mentioned that sometimes 'low technology'¹, may be more adaptive than high technology. Knowledge of these technologies should be communicated at local and rural levels. Furthermore, the suitability of materials (technology) differs from country to country, as well as community to community due to different conditions and cultures.

Laos raised the need for tools and technology to provide information to produce a disaster management plan. Based on the country's previous and current flood management experiences, technical advice on early warning and weather forecast for prediction and prevention of disaster management are necessary. Above all, the effectiveness of tools and technologies must be guaranteed.

¹ The New Oxford Dictionary of English categories low technology as being technology that is less advanced or relatively unsophisticated advancement or equipment

Malaysia agreed that collaboration and partnership within the government are critical to mobilise resources. Effective mechanisms must be established for all ministries to work together. In Malaysia, there is a Disaster Council that is chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister. Any partnerships should be non-traditional, innovative and dynamic, serving different purposes and objectives based on specific contexts and issues. Recognising that the government alone cannot manage all disaster risks, a public-private partnership could help combine skills and expertise, as well as capitalise on the synergy of existing resources and strengths. A few examples of such partnerships in Malaysia already exist, such as the association of the Malaysian Meteorological Department with Telekom Malaysia in telecommunication collaboration for early warning systems on tsunamis for coastal areas. Also, the Ministry of Higher Education and the Southeast Asia Disaster Prevention Research Institute (SEADPRI-UKM) collaborate on policy-relevant research, climate change impacts and a plan on how to mobilise local level resources. A third example would be the partnership between the National Security Council, MERCY Malaysia and MARES to strengthen disaster management plans.

Samoa underscored that any form of communication must be able to support disaster management. Samoa encourages partnerships not just between government and private sectors, but also among ministries. However, this requires a national coordinating committee, as well as regional and international collaborations. The speaker mentioned that the AMCDRR conference provided the opportunity for exposure to other best practices that can be considered by Samoa, especially on communication. It was highlighted that communication is very important in DRR and that development processes should integrate DRR as well.

Recommendations

The recommendations from this session can be listed as follows:

- DRR is spatial specific and local actions can benefit from lessons drawn from global experiences;
- Available technologies should be fully used, while keeping room for other new technology, including the use of satellites;
- The dissemination of information during disasters is critical;
- There are various telecommunication technologies for DRR, but essentially their reliability must be ensured and supported by back-up systems to ensure resilience;
- Coordination and cooperation within government, supported by stakeholder consultation, are needed.
- Public-private partnership can facilitate optimisation of resource use and ensure a sense of belonging of the private sector in supporting DRR initiatives;
- In cross-border cooperation and communication, the use of technology should suit local conditions and needs, for different target groups; and
- Capacity building is necessary for institutional building and strengthening.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

FACILITATING DECENTRALISATION PROCESSES AND RESOURCES

Highlights and Recommendations

The session entitled "How to Facilitate Decentralization Process and Resources?" was organised by ADPC, ADRRN and IFRC and chaired by Dr. Bhichit Rattakul of ADPC. The facilitator of the section was Dr. Visaka Hidallage Duryog Nivaran of Sri Lanka. About 25 participants attended the session. The overall message of the session was to build on the Asian culture of 'coping with crises', and thus, 'living with risk'. Volunteers should be encouraged to act as community catalysts and change agents, to promote peer learning through exchange of visits and attachments. Another important point raised was the need to feed field knowledge into universities.

There is a need to implement national programs on Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) in all high risk areas. A clear policy framework supported by national governments for CBDRR is needed. Establishments of systems that can facilitate and monitor the allocation of resources for CBDRR implementation by communities and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) must be given priority. Partnership between local government, CBO and communities has to be encouraged, and decision making processes should include inputs from all three groups. There has to be an effective decentralisation of decision-making at the local level and not just on the authority level, but also at the resources level. A serious need has arisen to build on local knowledge and traditional coping mechanisms. In this way, a more holistic approach can be adopted for disaster management and mitigation, including capacity building and training. Lastly, and most importantly, there is a need to mainstream DRR into local development planning and land use planning.

It was generally agreed that DRR should not only be community based but also community led. To facilitate this, locally-led DRR programs of partnerships between local governments and NGOs should be established. Even though the roles of local communities and groups at local levels for DRR are sometimes highlighted but oftentimes, it is not clear. The dissemination of good practices for DRR must stress on the role of leadership of the community, commitment of governments to CBDM and comprehensiveness in land use planning at the local levels of DRR. Most importantly, there is a need to emphasize capacity building for DRR at the local level and mandate given to allow for decision making by communities affected at local levels. .

PARLIAMENTARIAN FORUM — ALLOCATING BUDGETARY RESOURCES FOR DISASTER

Highlights

High-Level Roundtable 4 was facilitated by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to discuss Parliamentarian Forum on Allocating Budgetary Resources for Disaster Risk Reduction. About 50 participants attended the Roundtable, which was aimed at discussing national policy options and regional cooperation mechanisms that would contribute to increased investment in disaster risk reduction (DRR), through a multi-hazard approach.

Based on outcomes from the Technical Session 4, the ESCAP Secretariat summarised three recommendations for consideration at the High-Level Roundtable. The recommendations are (i) National governments to accelerate and scale-up financial resources for DRR, (ii) National governments to develop and strengthen institutional framework, incorporating DRR in socio-economic development at different levels, and (3) Development of regional cooperation and sharing of experiences and best practices.

The Indian panellist noted that DRR is not a standalone element and should be integrated into planning process. A certain percentage of national spending should be allocated by the government on DRR. He then shared his country experience in integrating DRR into the planning process, noting the necessity for proper guidelines, tools, and capacity for risk assessment; whilst the guidelines could be built into law to facilitate integration into planning.

In support of the recommendations, Laos PDR highlighted on the need to address financial constraints and limited resources, faced by national governments as well as the need to focus and prioritise actions for the poor. Among all disasters faced by Laos PDR, flooding is the major problem faced by the government. In addition to allocating national resources, there is also the need for other multilateral funding support to aid national disaster management programmes, such as the Voluntary Trust Fund on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia established by UNESCAP in 2005.

The Indonesian panellist was supportive of the recommendations and added on the need to involve sub-national in scaling-up financial resources and stressed the partnerships and cooperation between government and NGOs and donor agencies. The country is currently strengthening its framework and developing disaster management plan in line with Hyogo Framework for Action. He also raised several aspects for consideration by the Roundtable, including enacting legislation; enhancing institutional capacity at both national and local governments, and for coordination with stakeholders; strengthening education and awareness; encouraging participation by multi-stakeholders.

Samoa noted that, as an island state, DRR is the responsibility of multiple stakeholders. The panellist underscored several institutional, legislative and financial initiatives by his government, including the formation of a National Disaster Management Office and allocation of annual budget for DRR related activities. Lastly he underscored the importance of collaborating with local community in disaster management.

China faces many disasters due to its specific climatic and geographical conditions. There are many critical aspects to disaster management, including legal systems, institutional arrangement, allocation of specific disaster reduction funding, system and mechanism for capacity building, among others. In China, the national level disaster management initiatives (for example disaster emergency response plan, DRR, and others) are led by the National Commission for Disaster Reduction, which is chaired by its Premier.

The Philippine representative, who is also the co-chair, presented on the three financial resources that the country is mobilising for DRR. The financial resources originate from allocations from the annual national budget and local government as well as those provided by donor agencies. Internally, the allocation was enacted through regulations and mainly used for post-disaster relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction and the same situation applies for donors' funds, with 96% used for rehabilitation and only 4% for prevention. She then called for realignment of international funding by mainstreaming DRR into multi and bilateral disaster and development aid programmes. Besides that, it was also noted the DRR and climate change adaptation should be integrated to foster sharing of resources between both initiatives.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur



LGUs are required to allot 5% of their internal revenue for the LCF for relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction



Box 5-4:

Local Government Units (LGUs) and initiatives in the Philippines.

Source:

Legarda, 2008.

Quick Response Fund



Increase awareness among the poor, the women, and the youth



The co-chair from Bhutan revealed his country's recent institutional effort in upgrading the country's disaster management unit into a department. At national level, there is a high-level committee chaired by the Prime Minister. Recently, there was a pledge by private sector to set-up fund in support of the government's DRR actions, representing a good case of public-private partnership. Unlike some countries with regular annual budgeting on DRR, Bhutan only allocates ad hoc budget for disaster management.

During the open forum, the Iranian representative informed the country had adopted a law on budget allocation for disaster preparedness. Allocations will be set aside for activities on preparedness, response and recovery. The importance of local level participation was underscored.

Recommendations

At the end of the High-Level Roundtable, several salient points were summarised as follows:

- There are efforts, particularly financial and institutional, undertaken by countries at different levels and scales;
- Resources for DRR should be increased, for example through earmarking national and/or local governments allocations;
- Donor assistance on DRR should place greater focus on prevention aspects;
- Government efforts on DRR should target vulnerable groups, especially the poor ones;
- Both DRR and climate change adaptation should be implemented in an integrated manner.

FORGING PARTNERSHIPS AND POLICIES TO ENGAGE THE MEDIA

Highlights

The session was organized by the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU). There were four speakers. The main purpose was to encourage the 'culture' of Early Warning System (EWS) usage in society, at all levels.

The discussion stressed the importance of the Early Warning System (EWS). There is also a need to identify the appropriate and responsible authority, to inform the people, and detail the actions to be taken, as it is important for people affected to know what is expected of them in times of emergency. Though EWS is useful, emphasis must be given towards preparedness and readiness of those affected. Clear channels of communication between the central authority with relevant agencies at all levels must be established in carrying out relief activities.

The importance of the role played by the media particularly in broadcasting to affected communities of impending disasters and measures to mitigate was central to the discussion. There is a need for a Disaster Reduction Plan, with the media through the radio, internet and television establishing links to communicate accurate information on disasters and mitigation measures. Journalists have to be trained to transmit information about disasters more accurately. Interestingly it was noted that the situation is quite different in small island nations. Small islands are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters of various types, such as cyclone hazards and their economies are generally less-diversified due to their small size. They also host densely populated areas, urban centers and areas of critical agriculture importance. Given these scenarios, natural disasters, therefore, tend to have relatively more severe impacts on their economies than in larger countries, making them highly vulnerable, thus necessitating media coverage that is focused and suited to their conditions, as opposed to that broadcasted by the CNN or BBC.

The discussion drew on the need to ensure clarity of information, and clear identification of who transmits the accurate and timely news. It is important to avoid transmission or broadcasting

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

of wrong information. This can be done through a two-way exchange between authorities and the media. There is a need to build the capacities of both the authorities and the media, strengthening the means and modes of transmitting information, and the provision of accurate information, in order to gain the trust and confidence of the people. Emphasis must be given on how do media 'sell' the stories. There is a dire need to call for action and understanding among the people, and to develop a strong communication culture. It is also vital to engage media to promote education.

Recommendations

Governments are urged to strengthen the role of the media in DRR. Measures to facilitate smooth operation taking into account the line of command at the national level should be put into place so as to derive maximum benefits of Risk Reduction in the event of disasters. Governments are also advised to set up an emergency warning broadcast system (EWBS) at the national level, involving all national and local organisations. Governments in the region are urged to coordinate this activity closely and help set up appropriate regional coordination mechanisms that can function effectively in the event of a disaster that sometimes transcends national borders. . This will require systematic involvement of national meteorological services and strong institutional link between governments, forged through agreements. Radio receivers and radio transmitters are very important for transmission of information on disasters, and provisions to make them available for areas that are disaster prone is a priority. .

It was also stressed that governments need to install the early warning systems (EWS) in their broadcasting systems. Japan, has put the system in place, whilst India and Nepal plan to set up theirs soon, with assistance from NHK Japan. There is a strong recommendation on the need to develop an EWS that is can be effectively used in the middle of the night, when people are asleep. It was suggested that technology be developed whereby receivers are equipped with a chip, which switches on radio and T.V. receivers even if it is off-system and this system could be adapted for cell phones.

Another innovative platform for consideration is the use of religious services to incorporate EWS, such as khutbahs delivered in mosques and sermons in churches, to help get the basic message about disaster preparedness, evacuation procedures and mitigation across to the communities.

ADVOCACY TOOLS AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY FOR DECISION-MAKERS

Highlights

This session highlighted experiences on how countries have made Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) education as a national priority. Mechanisms to encourage strict enforcement of building laws and codes to ensure all new school buildings are safe against disasters and assessment of all existing school buildings on their vulnerabilities were also explored. Institutional mechanisms to ensure mainstreaming of DRR into school education were discussed. Participants discussed experiences of the continuous engagement by national governments of educational institutions and civil society organizations for mainstreaming DRR into education.

An important discussion point that formed the main background of this session was whether mainstreaming DRR education into policy development would be feasible? The context in which this was discussed was why DRR is beneficial and that it needs to be backed by evidence, and the benefits must be spelt out. Also, it was necessary to mainstream it into existing programmes.

The session emphasized the need to combine education with training, and that it was necessary to appoint key stakeholders to lead. Also, there is a need to explore co-curricular activities to mainstream DRR because mainstreaming would make communities self-reliant which could result in resounding resilience.

Recommendations

It was recommended that strong commitment is required with dedicated focal points to ensure effectiveness of communication between stakeholders. Additional requirements include measures for accountability, establishing a set of indicators to aid policy change, monitor impact measurements tools, incorporation of best practices and overall increase of cooperation.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The High-Level Roundtables segment made provisions for strong recommendations to be considered by the meeting. Six areas of concern were flagged, i.e. disaster risk financing; innovative partnerships; decentralization of DRR processes; budgetary allocations for DRR; media and DRR; and education and DRR.

Disaster risk financing warrants priority attention, and emphasis should be given to strengthening national policies and tools to facilitate the establishment of financial regimes looking at risk financing, risk management and insurance. Innovative partnerships between the scientific communities and academia must be forged in order to enhance scientifically-informed national policies for DRR and adequate resource mobilisation for science and technology applications for DRR and Climate Change adaptation. Knowledge transfer and sharing of practices too is key in enabling decentralisation of DRR, whereby resources are mobilised to help strengthen capacities for DRR at city, provincial and district levels.

Allocation of budgetary resources to all levels of operation mandated by regulations is critical to allow for better transmission of resources for DRR. It was recommended that a Parliamentarian or Ministers' forum be established to look into the allocation of budgets and resources for DRR. Partnerships, policies and incentives, as well as knowledge on how to identify the needs and gaps to engage media more systematically in DRR as partners in educating and protecting communities should also be enhanced. Central to creating informed communities is education, and commitments must be made to mainstream DRR in and at all levels education, focusing too on special needs groups, and making places such as schools safer. Drawing on good practices available within the region, and globally, advocacy tools and communication strategies will have to be strengthened to ensure DRR is mainstreamed in national development policies.

SECTION 6 - TECHNICAL SESSIONS

INTRODUCTION

The Technical Sessions (TS) were held with technical experts and disaster risk reduction practitioners to address the key technical challenges faced concerning the selected topics for discussion. The experts, lead by a Chairperson, were expected to identify key recommendations for action. These recommendations were then conveyed by the Chairperson to the High-Level Roundtables on a similar topic for the consideration of Ministers and Senior Officials. Highlights of the Technical Sessions are briefly described in the following section.

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

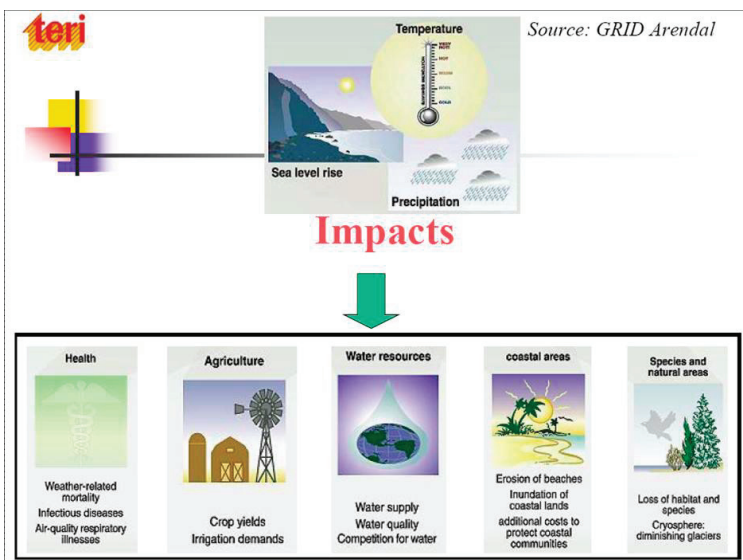
Highlights

The economic impact of major disasters in Asian countries has been rising rapidly due to a variety of factors ranging from the growing concentration of population and assets in risky areas to the increase in climate variability.

BOX 6-1:

*Climate Change and
Natural Disasters*

*Source: GRID Arendal
in Yap, 2008*

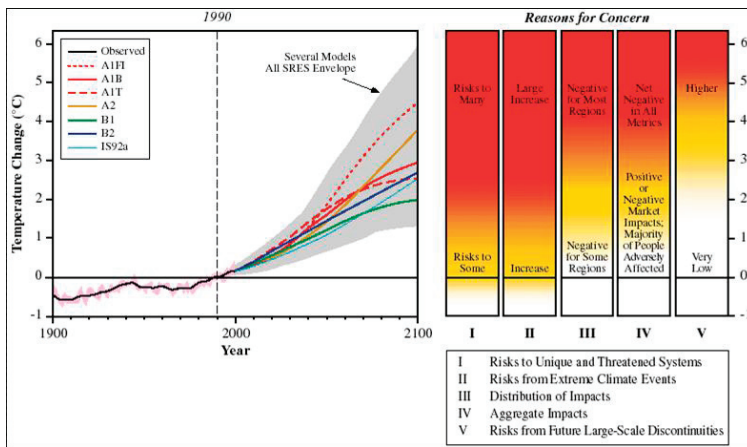


However, most of the costs generated by natural disasters are retained by the governments and the households because efficient catastrophic risk-transfer mechanisms, including catastrophic insurance, are not available. Recent innovations in catastrophic

risk modelling and in catastrophic insurance markets can help Asian middle- and low-income countries mitigate the financial impact of these adverse events, as part of their comprehensive disaster risk management strategy. Although some recent public-private initiatives on catastrophic risk financing have been successful, market imperfections may hamper their development or at least their expansion, both on the demand side (e.g., low awareness of catastrophic risk exposure, post-disaster assistance and poor institutional capacity) and on the supply side (e.g., reinsurance capacity, reinsurance cycles, start-up costs, information costs and excessive catastrophic reinsurance pricing).

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur



BOX 6-2:
Reasons for Concern

Source: Yap, 2008

This session was convened to discuss how the public sector and the private insurance industry could improve, via public-private partnerships, the efficiency of the catastrophic insurance markets and increasing the catastrophic insurance penetration in Asian countries, both at the macro (government) level and micro (households, SMEs) levels. This discussion was backed by recent projects of catastrophic risk modelling and catastrophic risk financing. The speakers were from the World Bank, Benfield, Swiss Re, FONDEN and the Government of Mexico.

The discussion focused on how catastrophic insurance can be one of the main solutions as to how private partnership can aid in disaster risk reduction. However, there are many challenges of catastrophic financing via insurance. Only 3% of the catastrophic losses are insured in Asia as compared to 60% in the US and the EU. The insurance market in Asia is small and generally not effective. The ineffective insurance market is due to several factors, such as the lack of awareness, lack of critical mass, a high concentration of risk in one restricted area, the lack of data in risk assessment and for risk insurance modelling to formulate insurance policy and develop a portfolio. Consequently, there is no incentive for the private companies to invest in the catastrophic insurance business. The issue of the lack of data as well as critical mass to enable insurance implementation can be solved by making insurance compulsory by the government, especially in Asia. Governments should then set up a scheme, distribute the benefits of the insurance and then distribute the policy and coverage. The key issue is that compulsion introduces mutuality in the sharing of risks. The insurance sector provides assistance to the community to understand the importance of insurance against disasters. The availability of data (e.g. geological) is a determinant in the pricing model. The cost charge is minor as compared to pure risk premium. It was suggested that a catastrophic model be used in the estimation.

Some salient features of the above discussion were (i) the sharing of disaster reduction under the Hyogo Framework, (ii) Climate change & natural disasters, (iii) Micro-financing for risk reduction, (iv) inability of the domestic insurance market to offer protection, (v) the need for a strong committee from government via guidelines for private sector finance, (vi) the development of a legal framework in the form of insurance products and (vii) premiums that can be set according to the level of risk.

Recommendations

It was recommended that a national insurance pool be established and this should be made mandatory. Pooling allows the distribution of risk across a wider area and there is generally great interest from the international insurers to be linked to a domestic/national catastrophic insurance

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

pool. In this respect, the government needs to take the initiative to create the pool for domestic insurance. Financing mechanisms for disasters should move towards financing risks to reduce vulnerabilities and rather than just compensating after disaster events. Governments can play an active role in creating awareness, establishing regulatory frameworks and in setting up a suitable environment for insurance markets. The provision of subsidies must be discouraged, though it is noted that the establishment of insurance pools may not be viable in poorer countries. Under such circumstances, forming pools among small countries will enable the consolidation of risks in the area and the burden can be shared among many. This will spur innovative financing i.e. through the generation of investments to help reduce vulnerabilities to various catastrophic events.

HIGH TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENTIFIC APPLICATIONS TO DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Highlights

The Technical Session was convened by the International Telecommunication Unit (ITU), with support from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC), Southeast Asia Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (SEADPRI-UKM), Telekom Malaysia (TM), and MARES. There were over 50 participants the consisting of national delegates, government agencies, the private sector, NGOs and academicians.

The session focused on appropriate and applicable ICT and scientific applications that could be used for DRR and climate change adaptation while identifying challenges and drivers, as well as ways to share and exchange views and experiences, case studies and lessons learned on DRR and integration of climate change adaptation into DRR activities. The session also aimed to promote cooperation and build innovative partnership that could scientifically enhance the utilisation of scientific and technological applications, as well as facilitate the development and improvement of national policies and plans for DRR and climate change adaptation.

The session commenced with an overview on climate change and its potential impacts and relationship with disasters. There has been an increasing trend in the occurrence of natural disasters since 1900 and it is expected that climate change will aggravate the devastating impacts of disasters. Several effective approaches to adaptation, particularly through the application of ICT elements in the Interoperable Command Control Communications covering the systems of observation, information and telecommunications, were highlighted. In essence, the adaptation strategies through ICT should strengthen resilience to both disaster and climate change.

A briefing was made on international arrangements for climate change (UNFCCC) and DRR (UNISDR) respectively, highlighting the mechanisms linking policy and science. The three working groups under the IPCC that adopted a holistic integrated approach with assessments has gained worldwide confidence in providing policy relevant but not policy prescriptive recommendations, with the collaboration of governments, academia and NGOs. The Hyogo Framework for Action fosters national and local DRR efforts and the exchange of experience and best practices between climate change and DRR. It was stressed that at the national level, a coordination mechanism among academia, government officials and NGOs is required and DRR should be integrated as part of the national development planning and implementation programmes.

Highlighted too were space-based solutions encompassing satellite communication, earth observing satellites and global navigation satellite systems. The application of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) looks at the whole cycle of DRR, and it can be used to relate information, raise awareness,

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur


build capacity, provide for space access, space-based data, service for space-based applications, national disaster management planning and policies and national and outreach activities.

BOX 6-3: *Space-based Solutions*


Source: UN-SPIDER, 2008

Space-based Solutions ...


Satellite communications help warn people who are at risk, especially in remote areas. They help connect a disaster zone to the outside world.



Images from earth observing satellites help assess the damage caused by disasters like earthquakes, volcano eruptions, oil spills and floods.




Global navigation satellite systems enable us to obtain positional information on events that have to be mapped.



UN-SPIDER

The United Nations General Assembly established the “United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER)” as a programme within the United Nations to provide universal access to all types of space-based information and services relevant to disaster management. (A/RES/61/110)



ESCAP shared that it had established several Committees and sub-programmes on DRR and ICT, which include the Regional Space Applications Programme (RESAP). The focus of work carried out include space applications which include analytical and normative work, capacity building at policy and institutional levels as well as fostering regional cooperation. There are several regional initiatives and international mechanisms to support the applications of the earth observation satellite information to help build the capacity of developing countries. In addition, ESCAP also cooperates with other international agencies, including JAXA, UNOOSA, AP-MASTA and APSCO in contributing to building national capacity, development of national policy frameworks and others.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur



BOX 6-4:

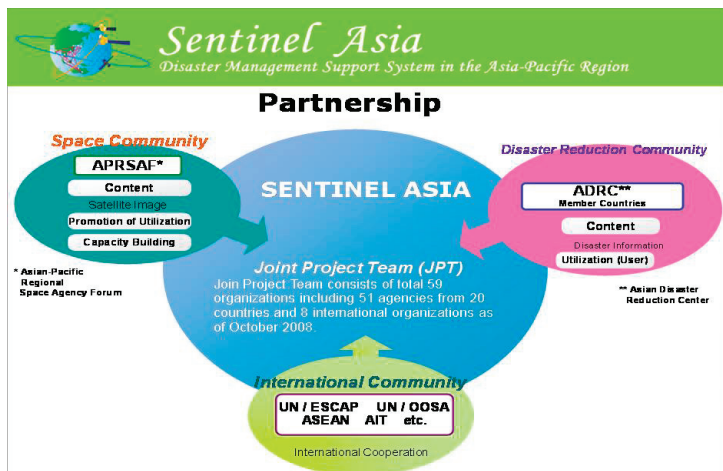
*Regional Cooperation
on the Use of Space-
Based Technical Tools for
Disaster Management*
Source:
Wu, Guoxiang, 2008

The session also focused on how DRR can be integrated in climate change adaptation, and vice-versa. In both situations, it is critical to have the involvement of multi-sectoral stakeholders. The management of climate and disaster risks requires the use of climate change information in early warning systems (EWS) to prompt early actions. Partnerships are crucial for sharing, interpretation and application of information in disaster management. Several examples of the approaches adopted by Red Cross/Red Crescent at regional, national and community levels were discussed, lessons learnt taking into account challenges encountered were also flagged.

Sentinel Asia, which was established in 2004, is an initiative that fosters the collaboration between space agencies and disaster management agencies. They work closely with space, disaster reduction and international communities. Its current focus among others is on activities related to emergency observation; wildfire monitoring; flood monitoring; and capacity building.

Box 6-5:
*Collaborative Projects
between Space Agencies
and Disaster Management
Agencies*

Source:
Chu, 2008



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

BOX 6-6: Sentinel Asia

Source:
Chu, 2008



The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) too has a role to play in influencing international collaborations. The 2006 World Telecommunication Conference in Doha called on ITU members to mobilise technology and financial resources, and to work together with stakeholders, including NGOs, in disaster management. A series of national workshops were also had, and assistance provided in the formulation of regulatory frameworks, in addition to direct cooperation with national governments in disaster management. Collaboration has also been forged with the UNISDR to help maximise and synergise resources and technologies for disaster management.

Myanmar shared the challenges faced when there is a lack of effective warning systems that can reach or communicate to local communities about disaster management. Steps have been taken to improve the situation, with the help of several UN agencies including ESCAP.

Recommendations

The session agreed on several aspects for consideration at the High-Level Roundtable which can be clustered into three key points, i.e. technology; communication and partnership. It was recommended that technology for DRR and climate change adaptation though available, requires coordination and cooperation in its application. It was also flagged that it is crucial to communicate sophisticated information to the all levels. This can be achieved through, inter-alia, the development of suitable communication tools and engagement of the private sector through their corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives to facilitate better use and access to such technology on the ground. Partnerships that can help address the multi-sectoral needs in the application of science and technology on DRR must be established. In addition, cooperation between international agencies and governments to help build capabilities and capacities as well as incorporation of the use of indigenous knowledge, is needed, and these partnership can bring together all levels of cooperation to facilitate better provisioning of services to vulnerable groups and.

COMMUNITY BASED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Highlights

The organizers of this session, ADPC, ADRRN & IFRC focused on Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) and Involvement and Empowerment of Local Governments and Non-government Organisations (NGOs) in DRR. The session stressed on the implementation of national programmes on a community based platform, especially in high risk communities. It also highlighted the key challenges in implementing national CDBRM programs, which involves a conceptual understanding

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

of what CBDRR is, and linking it with local development planning as the main aim of CBDRR is to improve local livelihoods and food security, as well as to reduce environmental degradation. The other challenge that was flagged was the means to integrate community risk reduction into local governance. Fundamental to local governance for CBDRR is awareness and understanding of local authorities and communities about DRR and bridging gaps in implementing decentralization, resolving political differences and building trust between the community and local authorities. In addition there is a need to build capacities and make available resources to carry out disaster sensitive development. Highlighted too was the need to strengthen small-scale, community-oriented actions to help reduce the risk of exposure to disasters, which can contribute to social and economic empowerment.

It was noted that countries that develop policy-oriented, legislative and institutional frameworks for disaster risk reduction and that are able to develop and track progress through specific and measurable indicators have greater capacity to manage risks and to achieve widespread consensus for engagement in, and compliance with, disaster risk reduction measures across all sectors of society. CBDRR can succeed if the following are made a priority, i.e. effective decentralization, capacity of local governments and communities at all levels to mainstream DRR, availability of financial allocation and budgeting integration of DRR into development and planning.

Recommendations

It was strongly recommended that DRR should be addressed in a broader context, where it can be linked to environmental degradation, poverty, population growth, urbanization and climate change. By approaching the issue in a broader context, DRR programmes would be strengthened, and its capacity to deliver services to the most vulnerable people through its links with communities and volunteer networks.

ADRRN advocates the promotion of coordination and collaboration among NGOs for effective and efficient disaster reduction and response in the Asia-Pacific region. It was suggested that DRR be integrated into environmental management programmes such as that adopted by Home Kitchen Gardens; hands on training for coastal protection & eco-agricultural practices; and the promotion of the Bio-Island concept for resilient communities.

Recommendation was also made on promoting the Natural Disaster Mitigation Partnership (NDMP), and having the same recognised by Governments and the international community. Increased government support together with stakeholders' cooperation can generate greater synergy, such as the partnership between the Natural Disaster Mitigation Partnership (NDMP) and Disaster Management Working Group (DMWG).

MOBILIZING RESOURCES FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Highlights

This session was organised by ESCAP, Petronas, Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry (MOA), Department of Fisheries, Fisheries Development Authority of Malaysia, Welfare Department and the Malaysia Red Crescent Society (MRCS). The Asia-Pacific region, home to 61 per cent of the world's population, experiences a disproportionate share of loss of life and negative socioeconomic impacts from disasters. Disasters drag the poor further into poverty, thus increasing their vulnerability to future disasters. To break this vicious cycle and to sustain socio-economic development, disaster risk reduction (DRR) must become an integral part of the development agenda.

Dedicated budget lines, earmarked resources, funding and risk transfer mechanisms are some of the means to ensure that appropriate resources are allocated for development policies, plans and programmes. However, a recent analysis of country progress reports in implementing the Hyogo Framework shows that several countries have reported inadequate budgetary allocations for DRR. Some countries have established national emergency or relief funds, but they are earmarked for funding relief and recovery activities only. International aid for disaster preparedness, which is reported to amount for a significant part of the resources made available for disaster risk management in the region remains a relatively low priority area within donor's strategy and tends to focus on relief and reconstruction plans. The session also focused on challenges and opportunities on resource mobilisation for DRR at the regional, national and local levels.

The session commenced with presentations from Bangladesh, China, Maldives, the Philippines, ESCAP and ASEAN. The meeting was convened to (i) identify challenges and opportunities for mobilizing resources for DRR at regional, national and local levels, (ii) share national and regional experiences in resource mobilisation from Asia and the Pacific and the benefits of investing into disaster risk reduction and (iii) to provide concrete recommendations for deliberation by the High Level Round Table on policies for scaling up investment in DRR at regional, national and local levels.

It was stressed that DRR is an essential part of a country investment. It should be embedded in the policies covering the daily business and actions of government. For example, from the Sichuan, China earthquake, it was observed that resource mobilisation, especially in giving guidance and providing effective operating systems to human resource, was a major shortcoming. In addition, obtaining assistance and resource from international co-operation is also important.



Source: Mc Naught, 2008

On the other hand, Bangladesh has obtained resource via the Disaster Management Committee and was able to mobilise many volunteers during the cyclone in 2007. Also, Bangladesh has excellent public-private partnership. Various NGOs, e.g. the Red Cross, provide training and it did not take much time to train the communities. With community setup, they play an important role in mobilising human resource.

India, for example, used space system technology as a tool for DRR resource mobilisation. The India Disaster Management System consists of space communication, tsunami information systems, telemedicine and the use of satellite images for the monitoring of the Poreechu Lake, tracking landslides, weather and climate watch.

The Maldives has established a multi-hazard integrated early warning system as a resource for DRR. The investment for the system is shared by various countries. Multi-hazard warning systems are more

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

cost effective in DRR. It is of great value to all member countries as it addresses critical areas and helps build human capacity in DRR. It also encourages regional cooperation in DRR.

The Philippines has many resources for DRR, mostly focusing on climate-proof and disaster-proof development (e.g. in the Albay Province). It has a disaster risk framework including proofing of development and recovery. Resources are institutionalised at DMO (permanent office). Other resources are geostrategic interventions to move people to low risk areas, information sources from various government departments on land use plan, soil analysis, preparedness and proaction based on data from GIS, warning agencies and community based warning system. Resources for response actions, e.g. preemptive evacuation in light of an impending typhoon, depend on risk mapping, evacuation centres, safe schools, health emergency management, universal health insurance (to be provided to all households), damage disaster reports and integrated recovery plans. Insurance schemes are also involved in recovery but dependent on government insurance systems due to the high cost, e.g. crop insurance.

The Solomon Islands has experience in Tsunami disasters. Resources are needed for tsunami recovery and response including shipping of relief supplies and UNDAC team assistance. The government has limited resources and a lack of capacity at the provincial level. More resources are needed for climate change and for the DRM committee. Investment in risk management faces other competing priorities, thus investment on resources take place only when there are disasters.

The ASEAN Secretariat quoted an example of Cyclone Nargis at Myanmar. Because of the lack of external access, ASEAN has built a bridge and filled the gap by cooperating with the international community. A coalition of MERCY Malaysia, humanitarian partnerships with the World Bank, the ADB, the UN and other private foundations was set up as a resource to help DRR in Myanmar. ASEAN did not do the ground work because it is only an implementing agency and thus has no resource persons in DRR, but it has formed a Tripartite Core Group with only one assessment body utilising joint efforts. Periodic reviews of the situation on the ground, e.g. post-NARGIS joint assessment (PONJA), post-Nargis recovery and preparedness plan (PONREPP), are still being carried out. In summary, ASEAN provides a stage for others to work in unison.

Overall, it was highlighted that there is an urgent need to share experiences among nations. A lot has been done on the Hyogo Framework but disasters have setbacks on the socio-economic aspects of the region. Thus, there is a need for a paradigm shift in DRR. Countries must also be sensitive to the increasing cost of disasters as climate change is causing more frequent natural disasters.

Recommendations

Some of the salient features of the Recommendations are: (i) to increase investments in order to be able to provide more information resources, (ii) to set up a legal framework to strengthen and share responsibilities, including the private sector, donor agencies and NGOs, (iii) to generate capacity building and co-operation, (iv) to develop regional partnership and information-sharing and to highlight and promote building capacity and (v) to promote and enhance scientific cooperation via the utilisation of widely accessible technology including space technology as resources in DRR.

MEDIA INVOLVEMENT IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Highlights

Organised by the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), there were members from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the Japan Broadcasting Association, the Tsunami Unit in France and the Media and Communication Department of the Disaster Management Programme of Bangladesh. The main thrust of the session was to focus on cooperating with the media in disseminating tsunami warnings. There are challenges concerning this, mainly, that there is hardly any time, usually a maximum of 30 minutes between the earthquake and the arrival of the waves off the coast, and it is unpredictable. It is also difficult to predict whether the earthquake will result in a tsunami or not.

It was strongly supported that it was necessary to keep the warning systems operating in the background. Early Warning Systems (EWS) have to be developed and maintained, necessitating investments to not only develop systems but to help operate and maintain them as these systems rely on satellite signals. In some cases, there are more than 500 people involved, from those at the beach and communities who require training to help monitor and effect the EWS. .

Overall highlights were that media organizations are capable, and should be capable of playing significant roles in DRR. Media organisations can contribute to DRR in 3 ways:

- By preparing the population for DRR through mass education and information campaigns
- By providing early warning of an impending disaster to the potentially affected population through the Early Warning Broadcast System (EWBS), that operate along with radio and TV broadcasts
- By communicating and linking affected communities radio broadcasts, to information on aid, relief and rehabilitation measures at post-disaster relief stage.

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) has formed a partnership with the UN in matters related to warning guidance; hazard assessments and mitigation; public awareness and preparedness (mainly with the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, UNISDR); and communication (mainly with the World Meteorological Organization, WMO). The IOC deals with end-to-end Tsunami EWS, by disseminating warning through mobile telephones, news and radio. The EWS are nationally mandated so as to ensure that people will not take it as a hoax. It is up to each city to issue the warning or not. Information such as that on the hazard, and evacuation procedures are nationally-mandated, and the mandates cascades down to city authorities. Just as important is the cancellation of the warning. The issue at hand is not whether we should use media, but who should be mandated to issue the warnings. In this respect Governments have to establish close links with the media. The language used to communicate warnings must be clear and universal, and it is important to note that the media cannot be forced to broadcast the EWS, and standardized mechanism must be put in place. The public must be made aware as to who is mandated to issue or withdraw warnings, so as to avoid doubt. .

Recommendations

It was suggested that media organisations can and should contribute to DRR significantly through:

- Mass education and information campaigns
- Early warning of an impending disaster through the EWBS on radio and TV broadcasts
- Establishing communication at large scales to affected populations in the post disaster relief phase

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Governments have been urged to streamline the effective payout of the media role in DRR and to facilitate smooth operation of the line of command at the national level, so as to derive maximum potential of Risk Reduction in the event of disasters. Governments were also urged to set up EWBS systems at national levels, involving all national and local organizations. Thirdly, Governments in the region are encouraged to coordinate this activity closely and help set up appropriate regional coordination mechanisms to facilitate cross border DRR and relief. This will require systematic involvement of national meteorological services and strong institutional link between governments.

It was strongly recommended that the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction reflect these vital Disaster Risk Reduction measures in the Ministerial Declaration. The concept of an end-to-end system such as detection to evacuation has to be backed up by a responsible agency, legally empowered to establish an early warning system (EWS), and disseminate authentic information. Awareness has to be raised as to what people should do in emergencies. As disasters transcend country borders sharing of information is pertinent and arrangements for operational costs for evacuation for example will have to drawn up between countries affected.

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Highlights

This session was convened by the Asian Disaster Reduction & Response Network (ADRRN), with support from the Ministry of Education Malaysia, MERCY Malaysia and University Putra Malaysia. There were over 50 participants the consisting of national delegates, government agencies, private sectors, NGOs and academia.

The session aimed at discussing how to address the knowledge needs of community at risk (eliciting traditional knowledge to enhance scientific knowledge); to respond to challenges of introducing DRR in formal curriculum at school and university levels; and to share innovative and popular tools for rising awareness and knowledge. The session commenced with four presentations and followed by a panel discussion. The topics of the presentations are as follows:

- Revisiting HFA – Education as the Basis for Building Resilience
- Popular Non-formal Practices on Public Awareness and DRR Education by ADRRN Members: A Case of School Earthquake Safety Initiative in Nepal
- Transferable Indigenous Knowledge (TIK): Education Process and Policy
- Disaster Preparedness Education for Children with Disabilities: Challenges for Sustainability

Of the many issues highlighted were the challenges to address resilience with respect to both present and future, in light of the unprecedented risks, and determining the suitable approaches for effective DRR practice using knowledge and education, which is one of the prioritized actions under the Hyogo Framework of Action. It was also underscored that the HFA and DRR cannot be achieved without safer schools and disaster education in schools. There are methods and templates of comprehensive disaster education and school safety that are being used have shown to be effective and feasible for adoption. It is also crucial for development and implementation (with budget allocation) of formal and non-formal education and awareness programs be made mandatory in governments' annual plans for the education sector. In addition, a fixed percentage of budget outlay should be allocated for retrofitting of schools vulnerable to disasters, execution of preparedness plans and drills.

It is also important that transferable indigenous knowledge (TIK) is incorporated in DRR plans and programmes, though in some cases the knowledge is specific to a region, it can be used to benefit similar regions. The use of TIK in education requires strategic collaboration of multiple stakeholders in a cross-discipline approach.

People with disabilities are one of the most vulnerable during disasters, it was stressed that children with disabilities (CWD) requires special attention, and a disability-inclusive disaster management is needed. Drawing upon the case study of earthquake preparedness education for CWD in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, it was emphasized that there is a need to enhance teachers' skills; to provide effective education materials; and raise awareness among community members, national and local governments, in order to ensure the sustainability of DRR education.

Recommendations

The establishment of special task forces on knowledge and public awareness within national platforms (NDMOs), and education sector needs to be given a priority, and such platforms must be more inclusive in addressing disaster prevention. The link between indigenous knowledge and DRR must be strengthened to enhance policy measures and tools to better effect DRR. Education for children should be made a priority, to allow them to be involved at different levels of DRR, so as to ensure that their vulnerabilities are reduced and they do not remain as victims. There is a need to boost compilation of success stories, to draw upon lessons and experiences that can enrich DRR education and justify investments. It was noted that education is process oriented and behavioral change will normally take time to be effective.

Another recommendation was that education on DRR should be integrated into existing education programmes on environmental conservation and sustainable development in order to help minimize the risks of disasters. To ensure practicality and effectiveness, task forces should first examine the critical areas and magnitude of the problem, and then identify key stakeholders for designing specific strategies that can be incorporated in the education programmes.

People with disability are most vulnerable, and a database has to be developed to record not only people with disabilities and the types of disabilities, but cases of disabilities arising out of catastrophic events. This can help the development of specialised programmes to help build the resilience of the disabled communities, allowing them to participate in the DRR process, and their roles in DRR can also be determined.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The Technical Sessions highlighted several aspects to be forwarded for consideration at the High-Level Roundtable. Salient points of the recommendations include that education should be made a key component in DRR and likewise DRR should be made an important component in education. Education programmes should be inclusive in formal and non-formal systems. The use of TIK in DRR is important as it will incorporate tried and tested methods to better adapt and build resiliency against disasters. There is a need to use different methods, approaches and tools such as training-of-trainers, traditional and/or indigenous knowledge, sharing of knowledge and lessons learnt to make DRR more effective. Attention must also be given to education and building the resilience of people with disabilities. The role and engagement of multi stakeholders is crucial in order to ensure better implementation of DRR. Noted too was the challenge faced by vulnerable communities in areas of conflict which require strategic actions to help build their resilience.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

SECTION 7 - SIDE EVENTS

INTRODUCTION

There were ten Side Events organised on special risk reduction aspects, centered on sharing experiences of implementing partners and discussions with experts and practitioners. The aim was to highlight options that will allow for partnerships to be forged between various stakeholders for effective disaster risk reduction. The highlights and recommendations of the Side Events are outlined in the following section.

REDUCING DISASTER RISK IN URBAN AREAS

This side event was organised Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), with panelists from the Asian Regional Task Force on Urban Risk Reduction (RTF-URR), the UNISDR Hyogo Office, Citynet, the Environment and Sustainable Development Program (UN University) and SEEDS, India.

Issues arising out of urban risk (UR) was explained and elaborated upon. It was highlighted that the concept of UR has changed in the last 20 years, as it is now a rapidly-growing subject and humans are facing a lot of UR due to climate change. The Program for Hydro-Meteorological Disaster Mitigation in Secondary Cities in Asia (project PROMISE) was highlighted to showcase the rehabilitation, rebuilding and community development in the city of Dagupan, the Philippines.

BOX 7-1:
Project PROMISE
Source: ADPC, 2008.

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Urban Disaster Risk Management (UDRM)

Program for Hydro-Meteorological Disaster Mitigation in Secondary Cities in Asia (PROMISE)

Funded by USAID/OFDA
Program Period - 4 years

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE adpc

Safe communities and sustainable development through disaster reduction

BOX 7-2:
PROMISE Countries
Source: ADPC, 2008

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PROMISE-Countries

Map showing countries participating in PROMISE: Afghanistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, Samoa, Tonga.

Safe communities and sustainable development through disaster reduction

An 8-minute movie was also shown on how the city of Dagupan recovered from a devastating earthquake, in 1990. The strength of the earthquake was 8.1 on the Richter Scale. Dagupan has been subjected to disasters since the 18th century. Apart from earthquakes, cyclones and floods are other causes of disasters. The film had the following segments:

- Untold Sorrows
- Resilience through commitment and political will
- Risk planning for the future
- Early warning systems & evacuation plans
- People as force multipliers
- Preparedness as a way of life
- July 16 designated 'Dagupan Disaster Day'

Highlighted at this side event was NGOs can be committed to solving problems relating to urbanisation in Asia, particularly in mega-cities. A mega-city is a city with more than 10 million inhabitants, often more than not, these Asian mega-cities have the lowest human development index (HDI). International initiatives such as that for flooding as well as clean-up operations and the rehabilitation of landslide victims were showcased also. It was also raised that more than 80% of city dwellers in Asian mega-cities are living in sub-standard conditions, and the underlying factor is an increase in urban population, although the stresses in cities actually originate outside of the cities.

The Chairperson highlighted that all the points made by the presenters are so important that the issue of urban risk reduction should NOT be a Side Event in conferences of this stature and subject-matter. It should be given more prominent status. The International Flood Initiative (IFI) as well as the International Program on Landslides should be promoted.

POLICY DIMENSION OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The session was organised by Kyoto University. This event began with an opening and introductory speech, and two presentations followed by discussions with five panellists. The UNISDR emphasised the importance of utilising indigenous knowledge in disaster risk reduction (DRR). However, the challenge is to establish the link between practice and policy on indigenous knowledge for disaster risk reduction. Kyoto University stressed that it is necessary to provide a concrete path for mainstreaming indigenous knowledge in disaster risk reduction in terms of both education and policy.

The presentation on SDMC Studies on IK and DRR by Mr. P. Dhar Chakrabarti, SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC) cited SDMC's study on Indigenous Knowledge (IK) and DRR in three countries such as Nepal, Sri Lanka and India.

International Workshop on Indigenous Knowledge and Disaster Risk Reduction: From Practice to Policy

Kyoto, Japan (July, 2008)

Meeting objectives:

1. To discuss the transferability issues of indigenous knowledge in Disaster Risk Reduction –what to transfer, who transfers, whom to transfer to and how to transfer
2. To discuss the policy implications of IK –to link practice and policy and enhance the use of IK in decision making
3. To identify future directions in research and implementation



BOX 7-3:

Indigenous Knowledge and Disaster Risk Reduction

Source:
Baumwoll, 2008.

These studies focused on conservation traditional buildings and structures, traditional techniques to preserve water and use for agricultural purposes, anthropogenic study on how local community coped during floods and other disasters.

BOX 7-4:

*Coordination is Key to
Efficient Humanitarian
Delivery*

Source: UNDAC, 2008.



Indigenous knowledge is critical in the assessment of risk at the local level and must be integrated with DRR model. He also mentioned the need for modern technology which

can be learnt from the practices of Indigenous Knowledge. The Panel Discussion raised the following key issues:

- Bringing IK into education curriculum and policy advocacy;
- Integrating IK into DRR;
- Ensuring there are strategic interventions for IK and DRR, taking practice to policy;
- Developing methodologies or tools for documenting IK and community practices;
- Integrating climate change adaptation into DRR;
- Highlighting and cataloguing best practices of IK;
- Make provisions for integrating IK into decision making processes at the local and national level; and
- Integrating scientific and local knowledge.

It is essential to provide a concrete path for mainstreaming Indigenous Knowledge in Disaster Risk Reduction, both education and policy. The target audience is (i) national authorities and ministries of disaster management, (ii) ministries of education, (iii) institutions of higher education in disaster management and (iv) international and national NGOs in Asian countries. The following key recommendations should be taken into account:

- Create a database of IK practices
- Distribute responsibilities according to institutions, identifying what role and task each contributor/participant can complete
- Establish general guiding principles to help guide policy
- Analyse and assess examples of IK, both positive and negative; both failures and good practices can provide lessons.
- Ownership of IK is with the community, so validation should be done by communities (incorporating the CBDM process)
- Engage with policy makers, from the beginning and at different levels in order to identify issues
- Specific focus areas can help guide discussion, advocacy and policy: gender, urban risk, climate change adaptation and food security

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS IN ASIA

The side event entitled “Strengthening National Response Preparedness in Asia—UNDAC Preparedness Missions Experience” was organised by the UN Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The activities of OCHA include providing reports, consulting services, information sharing, technical advice, and support for resources mobilization, capacity building and follow up visits to various governments of countries concerning disaster reduction responses.

In the Philippines, after a series of disaster events, the president of the Philippines requested the United Nations Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) for assistance, focusing on strengthening community disaster preparedness and response capacity. It is clear that all stakeholders, both government and non government must work together armed with clear goals and responsibilities, and partnership linkages with international communities should be pursued and maintained. There is need to get the NDDC’s four point plan of action for disaster preparedness reaffirmed which will serve as the impetus for the definition of the office of civil defence. The Philippines has a system to handle day to day emergencies, but the need to establish a NDDCs coordinating mechanism is essential. For the Philippines disaster response to be streamlined, the UNDAC has set the roadmap for NDDC.

Bhutan has potentially dangerous glacial lakes and other disaster risks, couched within basic legal framework. At present UNDAC is providing assistance in putting in place a legislative system to institutionalise disaster management 38 recommendations from all stakeholders were drawn up. The approach taken is to cluster DRR based on capacity and leadership to maximise rapid and efficient humanitarian delivery to affected areas. Coordination should be the major key.

UNDAC DRP Mission – Follow up Bhutan

- Tabletop Exercise with Government & UNCT
- Discussion with OCHA partners for strengthening Emergency Services



BOX 7-5:
UNDAC Preparedness Missions Experience—OCHA

Source: Anonymous. “UNDAC DRP Mission—Follow-up Bhutan”. UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

UNDAC DRP Missions

www.reliefweb.int





Source: UNDAC, 2008.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

The following points were made:

- The UNDAC mission has adopted associated members, and even though there is no direct link between OCHA and NGOs; NGOs can work closely with UN agencies, through which they can be attached to the OCHA; and
- The UNDAC conducts inductive courses and training for its members.

HIGH TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENTIFIC APPLICATIONS TO DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

The session was organised by the Disaster and Development Centre (DDC), School of Applied Sciences, Northumbria University, United Kingdom. The co-organisers were the Ministry of Local Development, Dhankuta Municipal Risk and Resilience Committee, Dhankuta Municipality, Nepal, the Disaster Management and Sustainable Development Centre (DMSDC), Kathmandu University, Nepal and BRAC University, Bangladesh.

The main purpose of the meeting was to share good practices and initiatives to reduce local disaster impact and identify challenges and strategies to overcome problems in the future. The topics that were discussed are as follows:

- Institutionalisation of good practices and lessons learnt from a People-Centered Project in Nepal
- Comparative Studies of Risk and Resilience Committees
- Experience in Doing Academic Research through Risk and Resilience Committees
- Governance of Risk, Resilience and Well-being – Comments and Perspectives

The presentations focused on the experience of implementing a pilot project in Nepal involving a Municipality Risk and Resilience Committee. The challenges involved include the expansion of fire and rescue services, the establishment of community health services; the management of solid waste using low carbon technology and increasing awareness of seismic hazards. A critique was made on community based disaster reduction (DRR) with respect to its capacity to reach the marginalised poor. Effective community based DRR requires strong state support. It was stressed that more needs to be done to evaluate its effectiveness particularly with respect to weather decentralization of DRR which poses an additional burden to the community. There was also mention of academic research in relation to risk and resilience committees and the challenges associated with this. Overall the presentations gave a perspective on risk governance, which encompasses risk assessment and risk management. Aspects such as the risk governance cycle and the values that underpin them were also briefly described. It was recommended that there be more participatory initiatives in communities with a wide-range of stakeholders which can produce a high-level of acceptance, involvement and local knowledge sharing. This may be a key factor for other initiatives aiming to implement similar practices in other risk prone parts of the world or in other disaster risk areas.

MAINSTREAMING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION INTO DEVELOPMENT: EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (RCC)

The session was organised by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The first presentation was about the integration of DRR into policies and planning processes in Nepal. It was pointed out that there was a need to implement partnerships at the district, municipal and village levels. The Priority Implementation Partnership (PIP) was vital in this respect. PIP should be mainstreaming DRR into sectoral development projects, mainly education, health, infrastructure, livelihoods (i.e. agriculture) and housing in the region. Emphasis was also placed on the Priority Implementation Partnership in the education and infrastructure sector and development plans (national, provincial and local level) in the Philippines. It was noted that there

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

is a need to improve/update the policies and strategies of government agencies to allow for the formal integration of DRR mainstreaming to their regular functions. In Indonesia, the crucial problem was mainstreaming DRR into planning and budgeting processes at the national and local levels.

One of the most important challenges is to formulate sustainable tools to link the rehabilitation and reconstruction stages to DRR and mitigation efforts.



BOX 7-6:

School Safety Programmes

Source: ADPC, 2008

There were four main areas that were focused on as recommendations for mainstreaming DRR. First, a proper programme for the construction of new homes has to be implemented after disasters. Second, there is a need for

the participation of multi-stakeholders' involvement, to promote community education and participation. Third, it is vital that there exists a regular budget allocation and cost planning for DRR. Fourth, it is necessary to be clearer about the role of government and donor agencies. For instance, governments must assume leadership and guide donor agencies as to the kind of buildings they need for DRR. Also, the government should advise them on how to deal with the negative impact of DRR on peoples' lives, including the psychological effects of disasters.

BUILDING SAFER AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES THROUGH DISASTER RISK REDUCTION ACTIONS OF THE RED CROSS AND CRESCENT NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The organisers of the session were Malaysian Red Cross and Crescent Society, Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, The Philippines Red Cross Society and the Asia Pacific IDRL Coordinator. There were five presentations, followed by a discussion session. It was indicated that for more than 20 years, the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement has been a consistent pioneer in disaster risk reduction (DRR), especially through its work on educating and preparing communities for the impact of disasters. Global policy, strategy and practice with the central objective of building of safer and resilient communities have been the guiding factors for this innovative approach.

The unique and privileged auxiliary relationship between the Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies (National Societies) and their respective governments, and through their branches are well-positioned to operate at the grass-roots level close to the community volunteers and local partners. This auxiliary relationship is the basis from which National Societies are situated as key players in leading community level disaster risk reduction action and supporting Governments in achieving national commitments to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). Three main strategies employed by the National Societies to reduce disaster risk are (i) to help communities improve their awareness of disaster risk they face in their environment, (ii) to strengthen the preparedness and capacities of communities so that they are in a better position to respond to disaster events and build back after disaster; and (iii) to promote activities and actions that mitigate the adverse effects of hazards. The following are lessons learnt from the National Society DRR actions are as follows:

- Recognition that the building of safer and resilient communities cannot be achieved solely by the Red Cross Red Crescent. National Societies do play their roles, but the systematic

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

reduction of risk can only be built upon strong working partnerships between all stakeholders – from the communities themselves, to local and national government, civil society and the private sector.

- Governments are encouraged to develop further their auxiliary relationships with Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, to define long-term partnerships for reducing risk and achieving commitments under the HFA.
- Identification of the need for greater flexibility in local government development planning, incorporating actions identified by vulnerable communities and civil society for the scaling up of grass-roots disaster risk actions.
- Sound positioning of the National Societies through their nationwide networks of Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers to support the interpretation and conveying of early warning and safety information to the 'last mile'.
- The strengthening of laws, policies and other regulatory mechanisms for enabling sustainable DRR actions should be promoted to enhance development and create an environment with support for communities in building their resilience to disaster risk.

This was followed by a brief history of the structure, core activities, and the auxiliary role played by the Malaysian Government, in risk reduction programmes, as well as the challenges and the future plans for the Malaysian Red Crescent. The Malaysia Red Crescent Society Strategic Plan 2005-2009 is a 5-year Strategy to strengthen MRCS capacity in caring for the most vulnerable in the community. The integrated disaster risk reduction programme encompassed the provision of health and medical service, reconstruction and rehabilitation, livelihood programmes, water and sanitation and organisational development and disaster preparedness programmes. MRCS's role as an auxiliary partner to the Government in DRR include (i) providing assistance to local authority to create awareness on DRR activities via structured program implementation, (ii) staying with the community to maintain coordination with local authority, (iii) filling the gap which in areas that the local government is unable to implement (Public Health, Infrastructure, First Aid, (iv) community based participatory and (v) promotion of culture in coping with crisis and (v) efficient delivery of training mechanisms. However, the major challenges faced by the MRCS are funding, private sector involvement, sustainability issues, and climate change and resource availability.

It was highlighted that Sri Lanka is often hit by natural disasters such as flooding, tsunami, intermittent cyclones and drought. Their Disaster Management initiatives include the establishment of a Disaster Management Act No.13 of 2005, the National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM), a Ten Years Road Map for a Safer Sri Lanka (2005-2015), the National Disaster Management Coordination Committee, and the National Disaster Management Plan. Other initiatives in terms of public awareness in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) such as the Short Drama Festival, School DRR, Awareness campaigns/Poster Exhibitions on DRR, and water and sanitation awareness, especially during the disasters. Their current project is the Safe Water-Filter Programme.

BOX 7-7:

*Disaster Resistant Houses and
Schools in Noakhali*

*Source:
Mallick, 2008.*



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

The Philippines National Red Cross (PNRC) was the only humanitarian society in The Philippines.

BOX 7-8:

Flood Disaster in Dagupan, The Philippines: Emergency Drills

Source: Anon, 2008



PNRC aspires to be the foremost humanitarian organisation in the Philippines, in services provided and number of people served. The development objectives include (i) a participatory process involving the community at all levels of the local government units for disaster planning and emergency response that could be integrated into the overall community development process, (ii) Education and training undertaken to enable the community to understand the risks they face and the tools and methods available to them to prepare for and mitigate the effects of disasters and (iii) the detrimental effects of disasters that have to be minimised by strengthening the coping capacity of the community and by reducing their vulnerabilities to disasters by promoting and developing disaster awareness as a sustainable part of community development. The Philippines is also known as a “supermarket of disaster” due to her vulnerability to natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions, flooding and earthquakes. Their “*Bayanihan Spirits*” (spirit of communal unity or volunteerism) enhances the awareness and skills for Disaster Management as well as Participatory planning. Bayanihan as a participatory approach in the community employ the following strategies (i) Continuous consultation and dialogue with the municipal officials for allocation resources for the project, (ii) Involvement of the community in the area of needs assessment and the identification of projects, (iii) Encouraging participation through modelling where the “barangays” (leaders) take lead, (iv) Developing work teams with the corresponding leaders who motivate and monitor the workers and (v) Provision of food for work. The successful implementation of Integrated Community Disaster Planning Programme (ICDPP) in the Pilot Areas was later replicated in the other Provinces.

The same model was also adopted in many other National Red Cross Societies including Vietnam, Indonesia, Cambodia and Thailand. The key lessons learnt by these countries from the Philippines’ experience are (i) the integration of their DRR activities to the LGU development plan as an exit strategy and plan, (ii) that the trained volunteers in the community should be acknowledged, (iii) to accept and integrate the programmes in the existing structure of the local governments, (iv) that systematic reduction of risk can only be achieved through building a string of working partnerships between all stakeholders-communities, local and national governments, NGOs and other local organizations and (v) that DRR initiatives must be reinforced with local legislation.

It was highlighted that preparedness via legal action is very important for disaster management. Thus it is essential to establish National Platforms for DRR which also incorporates the involvement of the communities. People-centered early warning systems must be set up, community participation must be encouraged in decision making plans, there must be the establishment of building codes, and also preparedness for response.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

It was recommended that the MRCS train members of the Regional Disaster Team, establish a rapid response team both at the international and local level, build up a strong National Disaster Response Team and position the Disaster Management Centre in all Branches with the DRR programme incorporated. . Organizational Development will be integrated with DRR through the formation of Community Based Action team targeting at 200 villages in each states. In addition, strong relationship with government should be maintained via technical assistance in the implementation of Disaster Risk Reduction program (i.e. First Aider in Every Home). Also, it is critical to increase the involvement of communities, especially from the grassroots in decision making bodies pertaining to legislative matters. Their opinions and recommendations as well as experiences are valuable to all nations especially when the disasters strike. It is also critical for the Asia Pacific Region to centralise and establish a Legal Framework for all Asia Pacific countries in Disaster Management and Disaster Risk Reduction. Also, PNRC aimed to establish a mechanism that will enable the people to cooperate with each other and share resources among themselves to enhance their capabilities in coping with disasters thereby lowering their vulnerabilities.

INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS FOR TRANSMITTING KNOWLEDGE TO NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

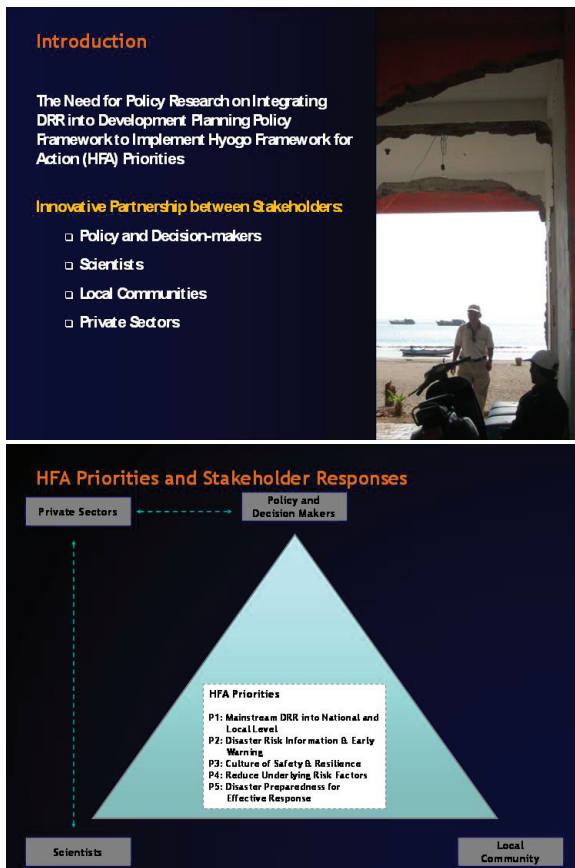
The session was coordinated by the Southeast Asia Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (SEADPRI-UKM) with support from the International Telecommunication Unit (ITU), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC), Telekom Malaysia (TM), and MARES.

The session highlighted the sharing of experiences and lessons learnt on the integration of DRR into development planning. Various types of partnerships were highlighted, which have significantly enhanced the use of scientific and technological knowledge to facilitate informed policy and decision-making for DRR and climate change adaptation.

BOX 7-9:

Innovative Partnerships for Transmitting Knowledge To National and Local Levels

Source: Komoo, 2008.



The following topics were discussed:

- Policy Research on Integrating Earthquake and Tsunami DRR into Development Planning
- Bridging Public and Agencies for Disaster & Emergency Situations
- Reliable Emergency Communications during Disasters – The Role of Amateur Radio
- Earthquake Disaster Reduction in China by Scientific Technology
- A400M: The Versatile Airlifter for Humanitarian Relief

DRR involves many stakeholders (policy and decision-makers, scientists, local communities and private sector); hence stakeholder participation and collaboration is critical. As DRR is case specific and unique, it requires proper planning and integrated responses. It was also stressed that the Malaysian Government is committed to serve its citizens in any events of disaster and emergency. An example of this is the Malaysia Emergency Response System (MERS) 999, which is a disaster alert system jointly developed by the government and Telekom Malaysia Berhad. Another important point that was underscored is the significant role of amateur radio in disasters as a tool, to be used by government and the private sector to optimise good communication. During a disaster, reliability and accessibility is important and advanced technology does not always mean reliable technology. A common Standard Operating Procedure that can be easily followed for joint operations must be developed and disseminated to everyone to strengthen disaster preparedness. The case study from China focused on earthquakes. The success of the earthquake observation network and various mitigation systems and facilities established by the Chinese Government that involved various stakeholders were highlighted as a good practice. Based on the lessons learnt from the recent earthquake, plans have been put in place for earthquake disaster reduction programmes. Efficient delivery of humanitarian relief is critical for disaster reduction. The currently used C-130 aircraft and the new A400M aircraft were compared in terms of its advantageous and versatile features in delivering humanitarian relief.

Current Airlift Options to enable Rapid Response



- The C-130 cannot carry the outsize loads required for most humanitarian missions because its cargo-hold is too small.
- The C-17 is an expensive solution and is limited in tactical capability (for example poor ability to operate from soft fields).
- Leased aircraft – like the An-124 – are expensive when needed, are of limited availability and have no short field capability.

AMC - Page 3 Proprietary Information A400M

BOX 7-10:

Rapid Response Capabilities

Source:
Dell, 2008.

The session highlighted case studies on integrating disaster risk reduction into development planning. The need to promote innovative partnerships with scientific communities and academic institutions to enhance scientifically

informed national policies for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation was also highlighted. Examples on how private and public partnerships (PPP) can mobilise resources for R&D on DRR and Climate Change Adaptation were also proposed.

LINKING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND THE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AGENDA: SCIENCE, INSTITUTIONS AND POLICY

The session was organised by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC). The main thrust of the session was to increase awareness of the rationale for linking climate change adaptation and

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

a DRR agenda. Also, the focus was on how best to establish the linkages through institutional and policy approaches.

First, and foremost, the session began with an overview of the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on the implication of climate change on disaster risk, as there is evidence showing that natural disasters are very much linked to climate change. It is highly important to link extreme or catastrophic weather to climate change, which in turn results in a big impact on disaster. Secondly, it is vital to design institutional and policy approaches with linkages to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction agendas. Global climate change as a result of man-induced activities such as carbon dioxide emissions by transportation and open burning has led to extreme disasters. Even small changes in temperature will increase disaster risks such as shortage of water. Coastal areas especially in Asia will be affected. Thirdly, in terms of funding issues, climate change must be treated as an essential area for allocation of government spending. Both the government and private sectors must assess and address the current and future climate risks at the national and community levels. Education cannot be sidelined and advocacy programmes for indigenous society have to be increased.

It was recommended that importance has to be placed on collaboration between the government and private sectors and it must start first at the community level. Also, a certain methodology should be used by governments nowadays in Asia Pacific regions to address climate change and risk reduction and adaptation. One such method could be the "baby-steps" method, whereby communities are engaged first, thereafter linked to national and finally, the regional level. An important suggestion was to integrate the forecasting of disasters at the community level with tools such as educating the community on case studies, such as flood disasters that took place in Bangladesh in 2002.

WORLD CAMPAIGN ON SAFE HOSPITALS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

The session was organized by the WHO and ISDR. The main discussion centred on regional strategies of Nepal and the Philippines. In the first presentation, it was indicated that the Hyogo Framework for Action – January 2005 had been adopted by 168 member states. The goal is to build communities' and nations' resilience against disasters by year 2005. The current campaign being implemented is "Hospitals Safe from Disasters". This biennial campaign is jointly led by UNISDR and WHO to raise awareness as well as to mobilise political commitment.

The objectives of the campaign are: (i) to protect the lives of patients and health workers by ensuring the structural resilience of health facilities, (ii) to make sure health facilities and health services are able to function in the aftermath of emergencies and disasters, when they are most needed and (iii) capacity building. The Asia Pacific Regional Strategy acts as a guide for the planning and implementation of the campaign in the Asia Pacific region. The formulation of the regional frameworks of action for South Asia and South East Asia and Asia Pacific is guided by this regional strategy.

The Hyogo Framework for Action as a benchmark framework developed by the Emergency and Humanitarian Action Programme, has several components, among which is the component of Regional Strategy. These are (i) the World Campaign for Disaster Reduction, (ii) the first meeting of the Regional Task Force on Safe Hospitals (RTF/SH), 25 January 2008 in Bangkok with the engagement of all the key stakeholders and it is open to as many key organisations as possible and (iii) a Regional Task Force on Safe Hospitals was also formed with the involvement of key regional partners. In addition, existing and planned activities and successful safe hospitals initiatives in the Asia and Pacific region were mapped out.

Furthermore, a selection of pilot countries for national consultations with key national and in-country actors from the health sector and disaster risk reduction community has been in operation. The integration of the health component in national development was also facilitated thus ensuring the presence of a health representative as part of National Platforms for disaster risk reduction. Other programmes include the development of a joint awareness-raising programme and promotional materials for the Asia and Pacific region. Celebrations of the International Day for Disaster Reduction and the World Health Day at regional and national levels were also held in 2008.

It was pointed out that reporting to the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (June 2009, Geneva) is carried out every 2 years. The Global Assessment Report is for sharing of information. In addition, the preparation of a regional report is on-going. WHO's global leadership in developing a thematic report on safe hospitals status encourages regional and national offices to incorporate health components in the national reports as well as the collection of good practices from the Asia Pacific. Specific events, discussions and exhibitions were also organised as part of the agenda of the following major regional policy events on health and disaster risk reduction: the WHO Ministerial Conference (August 2008, India), the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (Malaysia, 2008), the G8 Summit (7-9 July 2008, Hokkaido, Japan) and the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (June 2009, Geneva). The WHO contributions also include the WHO SEARO monthly publication Focus, other WHO publications and the UN/ISDR bi-annual newsletter. Also, an E-List Serv has been developed to promote e-dialogues as well as the exchange of experiences and good practices on safe hospitals in Asia and the Pacific. This establishes a link to disseminate reports on regional activities through the Prevention Web and Link websites between WHO Regional Offices, UN/ISDR Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Task Force partners to give visibility to joint regional activities. There are two regional office represented here – SEA and the Western Pacific Regional Office.

In Sri Lanka, 92 health facilities, including 35 hospitals were destroyed. Whilst in the Maldives, one regular hospital, 2 atoll hospitals and 20 health centres were destroyed. In India, seven district hospitals, 13 primary health centres and 80 sub-centres were damaged in the southern Indian States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, the Union Territory of Pondicherry and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Cyclone SIDR with surrounding trees and objects that fell in Bangladesh had caused damage to health facilities in Bangladesh. As a consequence, the function of services was curtailed due to blocked roads and power outages. Likewise, in Myanmar, the Cyclone Nargis damaged about 45% of health facilities, whereas an earthquake of 7.7 magnitude had destroyed 3,812 health facilities in Gujarat, India. The session went on to list the risk factors to hospitals and health facilities. These are:

- Buildings: The location, design specifications and resilience of the material used, all contribute to a hospital's ability to withstand natural hazards
- Patients: Damage to hospitals multiplies patient vulnerability, and increase in numbers
- Hospital beds: Increase in demand for emergency care.
- Health Workforce: The loss or unavailability at the time of disaster, hiring outside personnel to sustain response capacity – add to the overall economic burden
- Equipment: Damage to non-structural elements can cost 80% of the total cost
- Basic lifelines and services: Electrical power, water and sanitation, waste management and disposal – can affect the entire health facility.

Ensuring safe hospitals which have symbolic social value is critical because losing a health facility will lead to a sense of insecurity and social/political instability. Health facilities are occupied around-the-clock by the most vulnerable population. Thus, disaster-resilient hospitals must be able to protect the lives of patients and staff and continue to function. Examples of follow-up activities from the consultation on safe hospitals are : the WHO-ECHO Project (Dec 2008-Jan 09), continued

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

gathering of evidence based on assessments, use of appropriate tools and guidelines, capacity building (capacity for disaster preparedness and response enhanced) as well as regional advocacy and awareness activities.

In Nepal, it was highlighted that the findings of the assessment reports indicated that 80% of the hospitals have life safety threats to the occupants (patients and medical officers) and will be completely destroyed after a severe earthquake. Nepal and global campaign activities include retrofitting the hospital buildings, increasing non-structural safety, insuring safety of critical facilities and increasing capacity. In 2008, a public programme and 2 days of a symposium (regional in character) were held. In addition, to enhance all this work, Nepal acknowledged the necessity to focus on the smaller districts. Political feasibility and commitment, risk identification and monitoring, education, risk management, reducing risk factors and preparedness for effective response are important determinants of a safe community and nation.

The Department of Health (DOH), the Philippines, aims to protect the lives of patients and health workers by ensuring hospital structural resilience, to ensure that the health facilities and health services are able to function in the aftermath of emergencies and disasters, when they are most needed and to improve the management capacity of health workers and institutions. The 10P strategy employed by the Department are policies, plans, protocols, procedures and guidelines, physical facilities enhancement, promotion and advocacy, program development, partnership and practices. The strengths are: Leadership by the DOH, observing existing structures and mandates, multisectoral consultations (with the police, fire department, the military, local government units, NGOs and other private organisations).

Next, it was mentioned that there are certain factors that contribute to the differences between nations in terms of hospital safety. A dedicated and committed staff, trained personnel, department system, a well organised HEMS and an established HEPRRP – Hospital Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery System are some of the factors. Preparedness during the pre-impact phase refers to the declaration of Code White while the response during the impact phase involves the calling of an emergency meeting with the HEMS, doctors, nurses and staff on duty as well as HEICS whereby the patients are transported to safer areas and provided with food. Post-Impact Phase Activities were implemented via the HEMS situational update. In addition, networking and coordination among the office of civil defence, Red Cross and other international organisations are carried out. In addition, logistics management requires proper handling of supplies. Source of funding comes from GMA BCARE (Bicol Calamity Assistance Rehabilitation Effort). Emphasis is placed on the 4P's namely planning, preparedness through education, and well-trained personnel and in place hospital system and prayers.

GLOBAL FACILITY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION AND RECOVERY: CLIMATE RESILIENT CITIES

The session entitled "Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery: Briefing and Presentation On Climate Resilient Cities — A Primer on Reducing Vulnerabilities to Climate Change Impacts and Disaster Risk Management" was organised by the World Bank and UNISDR. The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) offers a new business model for advancing disaster risk reduction based on ex-ante support to high risk countries and ex-post assistance for accelerated recovery and risk reduction after a disaster. The Primer, as mentioned in the title of this session, outlines city typologies, integrates climate change with DRM and presents a "hot spot" tool for identifying city-specific priorities for action. It also identifies both adaptation and mitigation strategies at the local level, based on learning from regional and global sound practices. It is applicable to a range of cities. The following salient points were highlighted:

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

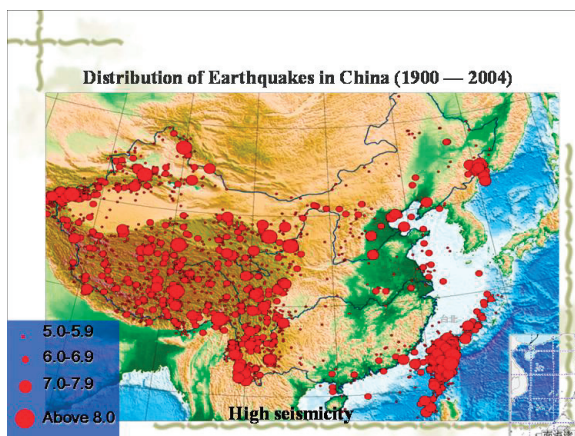
3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

- Being a Hot Spot means that the city has a high level of vulnerability to climate change impacts and is at high risk of being affected by natural disasters
- Cities should determine its vulnerabilities that lead to a Hot Spot characterisation: the higher a city's vulnerability, the hotter the city is as a Hot Spot
- The gaps identified can be used to prioritise the city's vulnerabilities and to motivate the integration of development plans with climate change impacts and disaster risk management

The Asia Pacific region is extremely vulnerable to climate change as such climate change and disaster resilience is an important area that needs attention. The salient features of this discussion were:

- Sound local and international practices need to be circulated and established. In addition, more diversified sustainable sources of finances have to be mobilised.
- There is a need to assist the developing countries in institutional capacity and competency building, provide much-needed funds and risk transfer mechanisms and the adoption of decentralization as a preventive tool
- Multi-stakeholder partnership for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction is essential to make cities safer.

It was also pointed out that climate change is real; it is evidenced by significant changes in precipitation, temperature, changes in frequency and intensity of some extreme events. Urban areas are becoming over populated resulting in more economic activities. Vulnerable areas in the cities are highly impacted, like riverbanks and coastal areas. Also, urban risk in Asia is increasing; coastal cities are becoming more vulnerable. The natural disaster incidences in the Asian region have demonstrated a distinctly increasing trend over recent decades. The region experiences some of the world's worst natural hazards - frequent earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, cyclones and annual monsoons. It also includes many of the world's megacities especially those with more than 10 million people. Thus the number of people who are exposed to hazard risks in the region is very high (Box 7-9).



BOX 7-11:

High Technology and Scientific Applications to DRR

Source: Wen, 2008.

Coastal cities have become increasingly vulnerable due to climate related disasters. The Low Elevation Coastal Zone is the continuous area along the coast that is less than 10 meters above sea level – represents 2 per cent of the

world's land area but contains 10 per cent of its total population (i.e. over 600 million people) and 13 per cent of its urban population (representing around 360 million people). Thus, there is a need to rethink urban resilience in coastal cities, plan for decisive actions to reduce urban risk with specific time frame, act on measurable implementation measures and be accountable to GFDRR. The following points summarise the sessions' main recommendations:

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

- There is a need to disseminate the Primer tools in mega cities
- There is a need to develop Implementation Tools for Action (ITA)
- There is a need to identify and strengthen partners for implementation to go to scale
- There is a need to develop local resilience action plans
- There is a need to populate a Hot Spot risk assessment matrix and compile a City Information Base (Primer tools)
- There is a need to identify priorities for action and design feasible programmes
- There is a need to strengthen national and local partners for implementation scale-up in initial countries
- There is a need to identify and engage national/ local partners

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Mainstreaming DRR programmes and plans into governance processes was a common theme in all the side events. Fundamental to all of this is the commitment to mainstream DRR and establishing enabling mechanisms that can bridge different mandates and roles, which can include framing regulatory mechanisms that can facilitate complementarities of action for DRR.

All ten side events also emphasized the importance of tailoring DRR programmes to suit localities of disasters and disaster prone areas, including urban areas. Decentralisation of DRR programmes and plans though recommended should take into account local conditions, capacities and capabilities; and often more than not a network of stakeholders will have to be established to facilitate aid and response. In addition, DRR programmes and plans should mainstream indigenous knowledge and practices that can also help frame better responses as it is suited to existing practices.

Another common theme was ensuring availability of resources to effect DRR programmes and plans. Making available safer areas including buildings, particularly hospitals and relief centres is a priority that cannot be ignored. Ensuring relief support, which includes basic supplies to areas and people impacted by disasters, can be further strengthened through multi-stakeholder partnerships that can channel their resources to facilitate the transport and transmission of such supplies.

The side events also emphasised the importance of making those who are vulnerable to disasters aware of the risks, threats and impacts they face, either directly that can affect their lives, livelihood or property. This is to ensure that DRR programmes and plans are not just tailored to a potential event, but addresses the potential advent of impacts to vulnerable communities, areas and resources.

Educating those potentially at risk and those with the power to make the difference is key to a successful DRR. Any form of awareness raising and response should include indigenous and local knowledge and technologies, focusing on practicalities as well as reliability rather than just advanced technologies. Engaging stakeholders and enablers, that include the media and entities that facilitate support and relief can only help to strengthen the implementation of any DRR programme and plan.

SECTION 8 - PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS

INTRODUCTION

The loss and risk faced by the Asia Pacific Region from the onslaught of disasters and its threats require concerted and coordinated measures to help reduce risks and build community resiliency. Numbers alone, in terms of losses, both life and property, speaks volumes about the vulnerability of the Region. Several countries within this belt are also vulnerable to reoccurring events, so much so, the long term viable solution lies now with the implementation of measures that addresses not only the risks and impacts that can and would ensue, but also in looking at ways of empowering communities, nations and the Region, building resilience through structured and comprehensive programmes that are supported by partnerships.

A pre-conference event on the 1st December 2008, to the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2-4 December 2008 that hosted eight meetings served as an introductory platform to bring together experts, practitioners and stakeholders together. This section looks at the series of discourses during the day, and summarises key points and challenges raised as well as plausible options for consideration. Taking from the meetings that ran parallel there is great value in forming partnerships in framing programmes to address risks and resiliency, and more needs to be done to help vulnerable communities for example, build their capacity as they have little or no options to remove themselves from areas that are disaster prone. This section provides a brief overview of points, issues and recommendations that were raised in the meetings listed below.

ADVANCING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ASEAN AGREEMENT ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND THE HFA

The meeting was convened by the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) with support from the ASEAN Secretariat. Progress and achievements in the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and the Hyogo Framework Action Plan (HFA) in the ASEAN region were the central themes. A review the broad number of initiatives that ASEAN has taken to operationalise the AADMER and implement the HFA, and how ASEAN member states could harmonise their approaches to further advance DRR initiatives at national and regional level and discuss future initiatives that could be taken to further advance the regional DRR strategy within the context of AADMER and HFA were tabled for discussion. Three presentations were made on the review of implementation of the AADMER; lessons learnt from ASEAN's response to the Cyclone Nargis and the consideration of an ACDM Joint Statement.

In the discussion related to the implementation of the AADMER that was adopted in 2003 as a legal framework for disaster risk reduction, emphasis was made on how this agreement would help consolidate initiatives and mechanisms for disaster risk reduction for ASEAN members. Initiatives and mechanisms are developed taking on the people centred approach. ASEAN has, to date, 16 initiatives and mechanisms to strengthen and address disaster management. In addition, focus was also given on the need to take stock of achievements and compare that to current requirements in line with the AADMER and the ASEAN Charter Principles, in addition to taking into account financial requirements and donor support.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

The experiences of the ASEAN Secretariat in responding to the catastrophic disaster of Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar were highlighted. Given the considerable number of casualties and magnitude of the disaster, through partnerships with member countries, mechanisms were put in place to leverage on operations and the mobilization required within 48 hours. This subsequently led to the establishment of the ASEAN Humanitarian Task Force for the Victims of Cyclone Nargis, chaired by the Secretary General and the Tripartite Core Group (TCG), chaired by Myanmar comprising representatives from the Government of Myanmar, ASEAN and the United Nations. The meeting further discussed the continuing role of ASEAN in Myanmar with respect to support and funds. It was stressed that non-traditional mechanisms such as the south-south programme or in-kind contribution should be examined to mobilize support for recovery. Options forward include the need for stock taking initiatives and mechanisms and strategising through partnerships in member countries hit by disasters to consolidate efforts, as shown through the TCG in Myanmar, and sourcing of funds and donor partnerships to help address impacts before, during and after the disaster.

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE ASEAN COMMITTEE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT FOR THE THIRD ASIAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

ACDM is conscious of its significant initiatives in 2004 to endorse its ASEAN Regional Programme on Disaster Management which it launched as a six years program until 2010. ASEAN is proud of its pioneering ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, which is a regional legal framework for multilateral cooperation and collaboration in DRR in ASEAN.

The ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) reaffirms our commitment to disaster risk reduction (DRR) implementation within the context of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, (AADMER), and the Priorities for Action under the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA).

There is an urgent need for a DRR strategy in ASEAN and such a strategy is planned to be developed and initially implemented over the next 5 years. This strategy shall be in line with the overall people centered approach of ASEAN as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint, and the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response.

In doing so, ACDM will seek to address any emerging gaps in its programmes, strategies and activities as well as those of the Member States to promote a holistic strategy for DRR in ASEAN. This is to ensure coherence of regional and national programmes and efforts for the accomplishment of the HFA Priorities for Action.

The strategy shall include support for the establishment of National Platforms and implementation of National Action Plans for DRR. Key strategies that ACDM could advocate could include capacity building, technical assistance, knowledge management and programme development.

There is the need for implementation of HFA in ASEAN through active participation of NGOs and the creation of platforms to leverage NGOs' unique capacities, as well as advancement of the ASEAN volunteers' programme and people-to-people partnerships, building on the successful experiences in the ASEAN's response to Nargis in Myanmar.

ACDM is committed to partnerships and cooperation with the other members of the ISDR Asia Partnership, and a range of stakeholders including UN agencies, NGOs and other regional bodies. In this regard, ACDM invites its current and potential partners to work together in the implementation of DRR components of AADMER along the lines of the HFA.

ACDM also seeks to promote south-south cooperation within ASEAN Member States and other southern states of Asia Pacific.

Conscious of the important role assigned in AADMER to the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) to serve as a focal point to facilitate cooperation and provide technical leadership in the implementation of DRR initiatives, the ACDM is committed to the accelerated operationalisation of the AHA Centre.

ACDM is also conscious of the new role assigned to them in the context of facilitating effective response to the victims of the Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar. The establishment of the Tripartite Core Group and the continued support to coordination and implementation of the Post-Nargis Recovery and Preparedness Plan (PONREPP) have created new roles for the ASEAN and are increasingly being seen as a potential model for humanitarian good neighbourly response.

It is therefore important to understand the lessons learned from this experience and build it into the capacities and partnerships that will be needed by ASEAN and its regional bodies, such as the ACDM as well as AHA Centre as the regional operational arm as they assume full responsibilities under AADMER.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN SOUTH ASIA

The meeting convened by SAARC/SDMC took the opportunity to discuss and deliberate on issues and options related to risk reduction in disaster prone areas in Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka. The panel convened discussed the various response measures in place for vulnerable areas and communities. The role of the SAARC Comprehensive Disaster Management Framework served as the main point of departure to the discussion.

Issues raised include the need to make implementation frameworks practical and implementable, given that in the recent ten catastrophic disasters, seven occurred in the South Asia. Poverty is a major issue in implementing programmes to reduce risks from disaster. The biggest concern for this region is the operationalisation of the SAARC Comprehensive Disaster Management Framework, which is aligned to the Hyogo Framework for Action but suited to South Asian conditions. Given the vulnerabilities faced, disaster risk reduction is taken as a holistic concept, i.e. prevention, mitigation, pre-disaster, during and post-disaster. A lot of efforts have also been hindered by the lack of capacity building programmes as well as poor linkages between stakeholders, at the national, civil society, and local level participation. In addition, there is also the issue of transboundary risks and impacts of disasters that require the application of Disaster Impact Assessment for Trans-border projects (DIA). Underlying the multiple approaches to addressing risks and impacts is the need to fuse indigenous knowledge with scientific knowledge.

Following from the issues raised, several options were also discussed, in that there is a need for and usage of information, communication and technology (ICT) in making early warning systems effective, and partnerships with providers are needed. The academia too, can help play a major role, in helping to better understand and frame actions for example with better understanding of weather patterns of neighbouring countries. Capitalising on stakeholders and partnerships that can be formed based on their stake and understanding of risks and impacts, particularly getting civil society and indigenous communities onboard when framing actions for disaster risk reduction. Commitments of donor agencies are also important, and must be determined at the onset to ensure programmes are made effective and scaled appropriately. A shift from the top-down approach for disaster risk reduction, particularly for the region can also serve to make programmes more effective, building partnerships that can strengthen resiliency. There is also a need to contextualise needs based on local conditions, for example, responses in countries such as the Maldives, will differ from larger South Asian countries, there is no one size fits all solution or prescription. Engagement of the private sector and community based organisation is paramount, indicating that partnerships across all levels of stakeholders are necessary in order to make South Asia more resilient to disasters.

MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS PARTNERSHIP FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION FROM NATIONAL TO LOCAL

The meeting was helmed by MERCY Malaysia, focusing on actions that can be taken to suit both national and local needs to ensure that disaster risk reduction programmes and responses are tailored accordingly. Key points highlighted included making disaster risk reduction as part of corporate social responsibility in the private sector, the example given was the role played by PETRONAS Malaysia in reaching out to the communities in Aceh, Indonesia. Forming partnerships, be it through the private sector and NGO approach should also be given emphasis, here the focus being working with partners that are familiar with local needs. Disaster risk reduction, apart from being a CSR programme within the private sector, should also include what businesses can do, by ensuring that there is a business continuity plan and risk management plan, as well as making available national tracking levels for awareness and training. Clear coordination between public and private sector is also needed to ensure that there is synergy in partnerships formed for disaster risk reduction, as noted in presentations by representatives of the Philippines and Bangladesh. There

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

is also a need to see what the private sector can do to aid vulnerable communities, for example by looking at what they can produce to actually provide means to reduce disaster risks, such as providing materials, in this case special tempered glass by Asahi Glass of Japan. Underlying all these issues is the need to make the private sector understand the relationship between disaster and risk reduction, and incorporating them into good business practices.

Questions were also raised during the meeting on the need for feasibility studies and legitimising corporate/private sector involvement, through partnerships, so as to ensure that aid and assistance is suited and complements existing or proposed programmes. Issues pertaining to poverty and emergency relief were also raised, with emphasis on engagement of local communities, tailoring what is needed to suit actual local conditions. The needs for standards when implementing disaster risk reduction programmes, particularly in awareness and capacity building was also discussed. Following on from this, several recommendations were made at the meeting, which include incorporating awareness raising mechanisms in the corporate sector; making sure that the private/corporate sector is should be considered as an integral stakeholder; ensure that there is business conformity through legislative means; encourage the corporate /private sector to take lead in innovations; encourage and promote a culture of involvement across the board, with initiatives being taken to shape people oriented programmes; and most critically, raise awareness that risk reduction is everybody's business.

CLIMATE CHANGE, DISASTER RISK GOVERNANCE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The meeting had three main objectives, i.e. to present evidence based initiatives on DRR and Climate Change Adaptation; identify challenges and opportunities for Asia researchers; and provide an interactive platform for discussion on disaster risk management. Key points highlighted include taking into account adaptation for climate change in disaster preparedness. There is also a need for cooperation between practitioners' and planners for example making sure there is inter- and intra agency cooperation to help realise the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). In the Republic of Korea, highlights were made on the need for risk prediction systems; linking disasters in land development planning; ensuring that disaster prevention plans are nature-friendly; using information technology; promoting programmes on natural disaster insurance; strengthening emergency rescue and relief; strengthening climate change adaptation programmes with emphasis on health; and promoting civil society participation in disaster risks reduction and relief programmes. There is also a need for sharing and cooperation in terms of information and technical knowhow at the regional level. High end technology can also be considered for mitigation and adaptation in climate change, with adaptation focusing building resilience of communities and adapted into local coping mechanisms. Linkages between health security and disasters should also be made. Emphasis should also be given on urban risk reduction, as in certain countries the urban population is increasing and a large amount of the population is poor. Research has shown that effective preparedness programmes can help save lives, lessen injuries and reduce impacts to the economy as well as minimise property damage in addition to minimising disruptions. Proper use and channelling of information can help amplify awareness, particularly where there is uncertainty of risks, as it can help civil society initiate social discourses and take part in the decision making processes. There is also a need for Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP) tapping into traditional organizational structures, mechanisms to structure resilience building activities and effect volunteerism. These CBDP Programmes should complement National Disaster Preparedness programmes.

The opportunities to ground action based on research findings are apparent. Researchers and practitioners can work together to shape disaster preparedness programmes that can be suited to local communities. Mobilisation of stakeholders, through multi level and scale cooperation is also crucial in order for effective preparedness and resilience building programmes. Disasters should be

better understood, e.g. there is a need to understand climate change, adaptations and livelihoods; and the need of the people in light of disasters.

ASIA REGIONAL TASK FORCE ON URBAN RISK REDUCTION

The meeting was organized by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), Hyogo Office, and focused on what is needed for the Asian Region to structure programmes and actions for urban disaster risk reduction. Points highlighted included the need for early warning, education and disaster recovery, with a focus on urban disaster risk reduction. There is also a need to recognise the vulnerabilities arising from urbanisation, particularly in Asia, whether the pace of urbanisation is high. The role of the private sector and community based organisations in urban areas cannot be underplayed. In high risks urban areas, there is a need to conduct risk profiling and develop data with the aim of reducing risks in cities such as Makati in the Philippines, Aceh, Indonesia, Chennai, India, and Dhaka, Bangladesh. Town watches could be organised to help monitor and raise early warning. Lessons should be drawn from projects for mega-cities such as the Prevention Consortium Project for Disaster Risk Reduction in Megacities. Initiatives such as the Climate Disaster Resilience Initiative (CDRI) that capitalises on communities' resilience and targeted to cities in Asia (the initiative spans 2008—2012) should also be considered.

Recommendations to ensure the effectiveness of urban disaster risk reduction initiatives and programmes in the Asian Region include, streamlining policy and decision making tools to incorporate disaster risk reduction within the process. There is also an opportunity to strengthen methodologies for CDRI, through the development of indices that can help measure and design CDRI to suit local needs. Training programmes for communities at local, national and regional levels too cannot be underscored. The academia has an important role to aid informed decision making, and partnerships should be formed with all stakeholders, Development and strengthening of predictions and forecasting approaches and methodologies, particularly operational forecasting methods for extreme disasters should be given priority. Disasters should be better understood in order to prepare effective disaster response. Responses particularly at local levels, should be tailored with emphasis on using 'local words and lingo' and should be designed taking into account indigenous knowledge. Opportunities to involve UN Habitat in formulating responses in urban areas should be capitalised.

THE ROLE OF ICT IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The role of ICT in disaster management, risk reduction and responses has gained credence. Taking climate change, and the threats and risks associated e.g. droughts, sea level rise and cyclones, in addition to its impact to human life in terms of economy and social wellbeing, the need for an integrated disaster risk management, grounded on information is necessary. This can come in the forms of risk assessments; geographical information systems; and early warning systems through common alerting protocols. The use of ICT can help strengthen disaster preparedness, emergency responses, recovery and rehabilitation. It can also serve as an aid for post disaster assessments and evaluation. There are several initiatives in operation that can be referred to, such as the ITU initiative on Framework for Cooperation in Emergencies (IFCE).

Issues were also raised on suitability and viability of communication methods, such as transmitting early warning through fixed phone lines, options to using satellites, or even traditional communication means, such as drums to alert villagers should also be considered, i.e. balancing new technology with indigenous knowledge. Such early warning systems should be grounded with local structures and mechanisms, and coordinated between communities and providers. Disaster management approaches and programmes should be linked with climate change. Standard operating procedures in disaster management should be adopted. Options to develop or integrate

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

disaster management into national communication plans should be explored. Network resiliency should also be made a priority. Another option is to introduce legislative measures to enforce the use of communication for disaster management on service providers.

ENHANCING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS CAPACITIES OF CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES

The focus of the meeting was pegged on the need for information sharing, cooperation and coordination within and among countries in the Central Asia region to ensure that their capacity and resilience is built, to address vulnerabilities brought about by a multitude of disaster events, such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, steppe and forest fires, snowstorms, avalanches and drought. At times these catastrophic events transcend national boundaries. The establishment of the Regional Disaster Response Advisor (RDRA) Office for Central Asia in 2007 has helped raise awareness and understanding, increased humanitarian aid, and to an extent facilitated the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) at the local, national, and regional levels. At present there is a draft National Disaster Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan being drawn up to facilitate greater partnerships and cooperation within the region. During the course of the meeting, lessons were drawn and options discussed. Among the key points raised include the importance of community awareness on disasters and responses; the need for comprehensive information to facilitate better understanding of the nature of the disaster; the importance of regional partnerships between all stakeholders, from government to communities; the need for a platform to coordinate, collect information (database) as well as facilitate information sharing and exchange; the need for technologies to help reduce risks; the need to strengthen humanitarian response amongst partners so as to ensure that aid is delivered effectively; the need for structured aid and humanitarian programmes, with the help of international partners; and the need for a comprehensive capacity building programme, both to threatened communities, stakeholders and government, and regional partners. Aspects related to terminologies were also raised, as it affects the type and form of assistance and aid, in addition to programmes to be established to reduce risks and respond to disasters.

Recommendations include structuring comprehensive programmes at local, national and regional scales; formation of partnerships at local, national, regional and global levels to ensure that preparedness, risk reduction and responses are effective, current and practical; and the roles of partners, including the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN/OCHA), Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC) and United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) be further strengthened to aid the Region in addressing threats, risks and impacts from disasters.

THE ROLE OF ISDR ASIA PARTNERSHIP WITHIN THE ASIAN REGIONAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The focus of the meeting was on the need for a strengthened Asian Regional Platform (RP) for Disaster Risk reduction, particularly the role of the ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP). Subsequent to the Delhi Declaration of 2007, support was given to review the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) to guide regional and national level roll-out in Asia and the Pacific, and sharing of information at regional scale on DRR. At present the IAP is working on mapping DRR initiatives within the region. It is proposed that the IAP in the RP/DRR programme, focus its role on supporting political leadership of the Asia RP/DRR through the identification of policy priorities for the region and ensuring the visibility of regional issues at the global level; supporting the biennial HFA progress reporting; improving information sharing through mapping of regional initiatives; and enhancing regional cooperation for DRR by aligning regional initiatives to meet gaps at country level.

Issues raised include, determining the actual role of the IAP at the regional level. Suggestions were made that the IAP could be used to build regional capacity and assist at the national level. There is a need to also detail out the key activities of the IAP, and explore means which information can be shared. Recommendations were made to increase or strengthen funding mechanisms and increased participation and involvement from stakeholders, at national and regional levels.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

It was clear that the eight events highlighted above all have common grievances, challenges and issues that has either impeded or hampered efforts with regard to preparedness, response and risk reduction. What is clear also is the need to build capacity of those vulnerable to disasters, to prepare these communities, including businesses against the disaster. Information about the nature of the disaster is a common prerequisite, as it will help structure the appropriate programmes for preparedness, risk reduction and responses, including humanitarian aid, technical/technological aid and financial aid. Central to all parties concern were the impacts to humans, and priority to an extent is focused on the security and safety of humans. Calls for programmes to be structured to suit local needs, national needs and regional needs were also apparent, and the emphasis is geared toward incorporating indigenous knowledge. Perhaps it was also apt that the discussions made clear that disasters are everybody's business.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

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Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

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2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

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2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

| | |
|----------|---|
| AADMER | ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response |
| ABU | Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union |
| ACDM | ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management |
| ACDR | Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction |
| ADB | Asian Development Bank |
| ADPC | Asian Disaster Preparedness Center |
| ADRRN | Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network |
| AMC | Asian Ministerial Conference |
| AMCDRR | Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction |
| APEC | Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation |
| AP-MASTA | Asia Pacific Master Program on Space Technology Applications |
| APSCO | Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization |
| ASEAN | Association of Southeast Asian Nations |
| ASRC | Asian Seismic Risk Reduction Center |
| AusAID | Australian Agency for International Development |
| BBC | British Broadcasting Corporation |
| BCARE | Bicol Calamity Assistance Rehabilitation Effort |
| CBDRR | Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction |
| CBDM | Community Based Disaster Management |
| CBDP | Community Based Disaster Preparedness |
| CBDRM | Community Based Disaster Risk Management |
| CBO | Community Based Organisations |
| CCA | Climate Change Adaptation |
| CCRIF | Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility |
| CDRI | Climate Disaster Resilience Initiative |
| City NET | Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements |
| CNN | Cable News Network |
| CSR | Corporate Social Responsibility |
| CWD | Children with Disabilities |
| DDC | Disaster and Development Centre |
| DIA | Disaster Impact Assessment for Trans-Border Projects |
| DMO | Disaster Management Organisation |
| DMSDC | Disaster Management and Sustainable Development Center |
| DOH | Department of Health |
| DRM | Disaster Risk Management |
| DRR | Disaster Risk Reduction |
| DWMMG | Disaster Management Working Group |

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

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| EADS | European Aeronautics Defence and Space |
| ECO | Third Economic Cooperation Organisation |
| ESCAP | Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific |
| ESEAOR | East Southeast Asia and Oceania Region |
| EU | European Union |
| EWBS | Early Warning Broadcasting System |
| EWS | Early Warning System |
| FONDEN | Mexico's Fund for Natural Disasters |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product |
| GIS | Geographical Information System |
| GFDRR | Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery |
| HDI | Human Development Index |
| HEICS | Hospital Emergency Incident Command System |
| HEMS | Hospital Emergency Management System |
| HEPRRP | Hospital Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery System |
| HFA | Hyogo Framework for Action |
| HLRTs | High-Level Roundtables |
| IAP | ISDR Asia Partnership |
| ICT | Information and Communication Technologies |
| IDRL | International Disaster Response Law |
| IFCE | Initiative on Framework for Cooperation in Emergencies |
| IFI | International Flood Initiatives |
| IFRC | International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies |
| IOC | Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission |
| IPCC | Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change |
| IPPF | International Planned Parenthood Federation |
| ITA | Implementation Tools for Action |
| ITU | International Telecommunication Union |
| IRP | International Recovery Platform |
| ISDR | International Strategy for Disaster Reduction |
| JAXA | Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency |
| LESTARI | Institute for Environment and Development, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia |
| LGUs | Local Government Units |
| MARES | Malaysian Amateur Radio Emergency Service |
| MAYBANK | Malayan Banking |
| MCA | Malaysian Chinese Association |
| MDGs | Millennium Development Goals |
| MERCY | Malaysian Medical Relief Society |
| MERS | Malaysia Emergency Response System |
| MOA | Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry |
| MRCs | Malaysia Red Crescent Society |
| NCDM | National Council for Disaster Management |
| NDDC | National Disaster and Development Centre |
| NDMOs | National Disaster Management Organisations |
| NDMP | Natural Disaster Mitigation Partnership |



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

| | |
|-------------|---|
| NEMA | National Emergency Management Agency |
| NGOs | Non-Government Organisations |
| NHK | Japan Broadcasting Corporation |
| OCHA | Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs |
| PETRONAS | Petroleum Nasional Berhad |
| PIP | Priority Implementation Partnership |
| PNRC | Philippines National Red Cross |
| PPP | Public-Private Partnership |
| PROMISE | Programme for Hydro-Meteorological Disaster Mitigation in Secondary Cities in Asia |
| RCC | Regional Consultative Committee |
| RDRA | Regional Disaster Response Advisor |
| RESAP | Regional Space Applications Programme |
| RTF-SH | Regional Task Force on Safe Hospitals |
| RTF-URR | Regional Task Force on Urban Risk Reduction |
| SAARC | South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation |
| SDMC | Southeast Disaster Management Centre |
| SEA | Southeast Asia |
| SEADPRI-UKM | South-East Asia Disaster Prevention Institute, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia |
| SEARO | Southeast Asia Regional Office |
| SMEs | Small and Medium Enterprises |
| SPIDER | Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response |
| SPNB | Syarikat Perumahan Negara Berhad |
| TCG | Tripartite Core Group |
| TCIP | Transportation Communications for Intelligent Transportation System Protocol |
| TIK | Transferable Indigenous Knowledge |
| TM | Telekom Malaysia |
| TS | Technical Sessions |
| UKM | Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia / National University of Malaysia |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNDAC | United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination |
| UNDMT | United Nations Disaster Management Team |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| UNISDR | United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction |
| UNOOSA | United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs |
| UR | Urban Risk |
| US | United State |
| WHO | World Health Organisation |
| WMO | World Meteorological Organisation |

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur



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2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

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2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur



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3rd Asian Ministerial Conference On Disaster Risk Reduction,
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

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3rd Asian Ministerial Conference On Disaster Risk Reduction,
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Appendix 1 : Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)

Source : UNISDR, 2005

I. Preamble

1. The World Conference on Disaster Reduction was held from 18 to 22 January 2005 in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, and adopted the present Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (here after referred to as the "Framework for Action"). The Conference provided a unique opportunity to promote a strategic and systematic approach to reducing vulnerabilities¹ and risks to hazards². It underscored the need for, and identified ways of, building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters³.

A. Challenges posed by disasters

2. Disaster loss is on the rise with grave consequences for the survival, dignity and livelihood of individuals, particularly the poor, and hard-won development gains. Disaster risk is increasingly of global concern and its impact and actions in one region can have an impact on risks in another, and vice versa. This, compounded by increasing vulnerabilities related to changing demographics, technological and socio-economic conditions, unplanned urbanization, development within high-risk zones, under-development, environmental degradation, climate variability, climate change, geological hazards, competition for scarce resources, and the impact of epidemics such as HIV/AIDS, points to a future where disasters could increasingly threaten the world's economy, and its population and the sustainable development of developing countries. In the past two decades, on average more than 200 million people have been affected every year by disasters.
3. Disaster risk arises when hazards interact with physical, social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities. Events of hydrometeorological origin constitute the large majority of disasters. Despite the growing understanding and acceptance of the importance of disaster risk reduction and increased disaster response capacities, disasters and in particular the management and reduction of risk continue to pose a global challenge.
4. There is now international acknowledgement that efforts to reduce disaster risks must be systematically integrated into policies, plans and programmes for sustainable development and poverty reduction, and supported through bilateral, regional and international cooperation, including partnerships. Sustainable development, poverty reduction, good governance and disaster risk reduction are mutually supportive objectives, and in order to meet the challenges ahead, accelerated efforts must be made to build the necessary capacities at the community and national levels to manage and reduce risk. Such an approach is to be recognized as an important element for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.
5. The importance of promoting disaster risk reduction efforts on the international and regional levels as well as the national and local levels has been recognized in the past few years in a number of key multilateral frameworks and declarations⁴.

1 Vulnerability is defined as: "The conditions determined by physical, social, economic, and environmental factors or processes, which increase the susceptibility of a community to the impact of hazards". UN/ISDR. Geneva 2004

2 Hazard is defined as: "A potentially damaging physical event, phenomenon or human activity that may cause the loss of life or injury, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation. Hazards can include latent conditions that may represent future threats and can have different origins: natural (geological, hydrometeorological and biological) or induced by human processes (environmental degradation and technological hazards)" UN/ISDR. Geneva 2004.

3 The scope of this Framework for Action encompasses disasters caused by hazards of natural origin and related environmental and technological hazards and risks. It thus reflects a holistic and multihazard approach to disaster risk management and the relationship, between them which can have a significant impact on social, economic, cultural and environmental systems, as stressed in the Yokohama Strategy (section I, part B, letter I, p. 8).

4 Some of these frameworks and declarations are listed in the annex to this document.

B. The Yokohama Strategy: lessons learned and gaps identified

6. The Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action ("Yokohama Strategy"), adopted in 1994, provides landmark guidance on reducing disaster risk and the impacts of disasters.
7. The review of progress made in implementing the Yokohama Strategy⁵ identifies major challenges for the coming years in ensuring more systematic action to address disaster risks in the context of sustainable development and in building resilience through enhanced national and local capabilities to manage and reduce risk.
8. The review stresses the importance of disaster risk reduction being underpinned by a more pro-active approach to informing, motivating and involving people in all aspects of disaster risk reduction in their own local communities. It also highlights the scarcity of resources allocated specifically from development budgets for the realization of risk reduction objectives, either at the national or the regional level or through international cooperation and financial mechanisms, while noting the significant potential to better exploit existing resources and established practices for more effective disaster risk reduction.
9. Specific gaps and challenges are identified in the following five main areas:
 - (a) Governance: organizational, legal and policy frameworks
 - (b) Risk identification, assessment, monitoring and early warning;
 - (c) Knowledge management and education;
 - (d) Reducing underlying risk factors;
 - (e) Preparedness for effective response and recovery.These are the key areas for developing a relevant framework for action for the decade 2005–2015.

II. World Conference on Disaster Reduction: Objectives, expected outcome and strategic goals

A. Objectives

10. The World Conference on Disaster Reduction was convened by decision of the General Assembly, with five specific objectives:⁶
 - (a) To conclude and report on the review of the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action, with a view to updating the guiding framework on disaster reduction for the twenty-first century;
 - (b) To identify specific activities aimed at ensuring the implementation of relevant provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development on vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management;
 - (c) To share good practices and lessons learned to further disaster reduction within the context of attaining sustainable development, and to identify gaps and challenges;
 - (d) To increase awareness of the importance of disaster reduction policies, thereby facilitating and promoting the implementation of those policies;
 - (e) To increase the reliability and availability of appropriate disaster-related information to the public and disaster management agencies in all regions, as set out in relevant provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

B. Expected outcome

11. Taking these objectives into account, and drawing on the conclusions of the review of the Yokohama Strategy, States and other actors participating at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (hereinafter referred to as "the Conference") resolve to pursue the following expected outcome for the next 10 years:

The substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries.

The realization of this outcome will require the full commitment and involvement of all actors concerned, including governments, regional and international organizations, civil society including volunteers, the private sector and the scientific community.

5 Review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World (A/CONF.206/L.1).

6 As per General Assembly resolution 58/214 of 23 December 2003.

C. Strategic goals

12. To attain this expected outcome, the Conference resolves to adopt the following strategic goals:
- The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction;
 - The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience⁷ to hazards;
 - The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

III. Priorities for action 2005–2015

A. General considerations

13. In determining appropriate action to achieve the expected outcome and strategic goals, the Conference reaffirms that the following general considerations will be taken into account:
- The Principles contained in the Yokohama Strategy retain their full relevance in the current context, which is characterized by increasing commitment to disaster reduction;
 - Taking into account the importance of international cooperation and partnerships, each State has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and for taking effective measures to reduce disaster risk, including for the protection of people on its territory, infrastructure and other national assets from the impact of disasters. At the same time, in the context of increasing global interdependence, concerted international cooperation and an enabling international environment are required to stimulate and contribute to developing the knowledge, capacities and motivation needed for disaster risk reduction at all levels;
 - An integrated, multi-hazard approach to disaster risk reduction should be factored into policies, planning and programming related to sustainable development, relief, rehabilitation, and recovery activities in post-disaster and post-conflict situations in disaster-prone countries;⁸
 - A gender perspective should be integrated into all disaster risk management policies, plans and decision-making processes, including those related to risk assessment, early warning, information management, and education and training;⁹
 - Cultural diversity, age, and vulnerable groups should be taken into account when planning for disaster risk reduction, as appropriate;
 - Both communities and local authorities should be empowered to manage and reduce disaster risk by having access to the necessary information, resources and authority to implement actions for disaster risk reduction;
 - Disaster-prone developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States, warrant particular attention in view of their higher vulnerability and risk levels, which often greatly exceed their capacity to respond to and recover from disasters;
 - There is a need to enhance international and regional cooperation and assistance in the field of disaster risk reduction through, inter alia:
 - The transfer of knowledge, technology and expertise to enhance capacity building for disaster risk reduction
 - The sharing of research findings, lessons learned and best practices
 - The compilation of information on disaster risk and impact for all scales of disasters in a way that can inform sustainable development and disaster risk reduction
 - Appropriate support in order to enhance governance for disaster risk reduction, for awareness-raising initiatives and for capacity-development measures at all levels, in order to improve the disaster resilience of developing countries
 - The full, speedy and effective implementation of the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, taking into account the impact of disasters on the debt sustainability of countries eligible for this programme

⁷ Resilience: "The capacity of a system, community or society potentially exposed to hazards to adapt, by resisting or changing in order to reach and maintain an acceptable level of functioning and structure. This is determined by the degree to which the social system is capable of organising itself to increase this capacity for learning from past disasters for better future protection and to improve risk reduction measures." UN/ISDR. Geneva 2004.

⁸ The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002, paragraphs 37 and 65.

⁹ As reaffirmed at the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly on the topic "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century".



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

- Financial assistance to reduce existing risks and to avoid the generation of new risks
- (i) The promotion of a culture of prevention, including through the mobilization of adequate resources for disaster risk reduction, is an investment for the future with substantial returns. Risk assessment and early warning systems are essential investments that protect and save lives, property and livelihoods, contribute to the sustainability of development, and are far more cost-effective in strengthening coping mechanisms than is primary reliance on post-disaster response and recovery;
- (j) There is also a need for proactive measures, bearing in mind that the phases of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction following a disaster are windows of opportunity for the rebuilding of livelihoods and for the planning and reconstruction of physical and socio-economic structures, in a way that will build community resilience and reduce vulnerability to future disaster risks;
- (k) Disaster risk reduction is a cross-cutting issue in the context of sustainable development and therefore an important element for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. In addition, every effort should be made to use humanitarian assistance in such a way that risks and future vulnerabilities will be lessened as much as possible.

B. Priorities for action

14. Drawing on the conclusions of the review of the Yokohama Strategy, and on the basis of deliberations at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction and especially the agreed expected outcome and strategic goals, the Conference has adopted the following five priorities for action:
 1. Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.
 2. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.
 3. Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.
 4. Reduce the underlying risk factors.
 5. Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.
15. In their approach to disaster risk reduction, States, regional and international organizations and other actors concerned should take into consideration the key activities listed under each of these five priorities and should implement them, as appropriate, to their own circumstances and capacities.
- 1. Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation**
16. Countries that develop policy, legislative and institutional frameworks for disaster risk reduction and that are able to develop and track progress through specific and measurable indicators have greater capacity to manage risks and to achieve widespread consensus for, engagement in and compliance with disaster risk reduction measures across all sectors of society.

Key activities:

- (i) *National institutional and legislative frameworks*
 - (a) Support the creation and strengthening of national integrated disaster risk reduction mechanisms, such as multi sectoral national platforms¹⁰, with designated responsibilities at the national through to the local levels to facilitate coordination across sectors. National platforms should also facilitate coordination across sectors, including by maintaining a broad based dialogue at national and regional levels for promoting awareness among the relevant sectors.
 - (b) Integrate risk reduction, as appropriate, into development policies and planning at all levels of government, including in poverty reduction strategies and sectors and multi sector policies and plans.
 - (c) Adopt, or modify where necessary, legislation to support disaster risk reduction, including regulations and mechanisms that encourage compliance and that promote incentives for undertaking risk reduction and mitigation activities.
 - (d) Recognize the importance and specificity of local risk patterns and trends, decentralize responsibilities and resources for disaster risk reduction to relevant sub-national or local authorities, as appropriate.

¹⁰ The establishment of national platforms for disaster reduction was requested in Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/63 and in General Assembly resolutions 56/195, 58/214, and 58/215. The expression "national platform" is a generic term used for national mechanisms for coordination and policy guidance on disaster risk reduction that need to be multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary in nature, with public, private and civil society participation involving all concerned entities within a country (including United Nations agencies present at the national level, as appropriate). National platforms represent the national mechanism for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

(ii) Resources

- (e) Assess existing human resource capacities for disaster risk reduction at all levels and develop capacity-building plans and programmes for meeting ongoing and future requirements.
- (f) Allocate resources for the development and the implementation of disaster risk management policies, programmes, laws and regulations on disaster risk reduction in all relevant sectors and authorities at all levels of administrative and budgets on the basis of clearly prioritized actions.
- (g) Governments should demonstrate the strong political determination required to promote and integrate disaster risk reduction into development programming.

(iii) Community participation

- (h) Promote community participation in disaster risk reduction through the adoption of specific policies, the promotion of networking, the strategic management of volunteer resources, the attribution of roles and responsibilities, and the delegation and provision of the necessary authority and resources.

2. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning

17. The starting point for reducing disaster risk and for promoting a culture of disaster resilience lies in the knowledge of the hazards and the physical, social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities to disasters that most societies face, and of the ways in which hazards and vulnerabilities are changing in the short and long term, followed by action taken on the basis of that knowledge.

Key activities:

(i) National and local risk assessments

- (a) Develop, update periodically and widely disseminate risk maps and related information to decision-makers, the general public and communities at risk¹¹ in an appropriate format.
- (b) Develop systems of indicators of disaster risk and vulnerability at national and sub-national scales that will enable decision-makers to assess the impact of disasters¹² on social, economic and environmental conditions and disseminate the results to decision-makers, the public and populations at risk.
- (c) Record, analyse, summarize and disseminate statistical information on disaster occurrence, impacts and losses, on a regular bases through international, regional, national and local mechanisms.

(ii) Early warning

- (d) Develop early warning systems that are people centered, in particular systems whose warnings are timely and understandable to those at risk, which take into account the demographic, gender, cultural and livelihood characteristics of the target audiences, including guidance on how to act upon warnings, and that support effective operations by disaster managers and other decision makers.
- (e) Establish, periodically review, and maintain information systems as part of early warning systems with a view to ensuring that rapid and coordinated action is taken in cases of alert/emergency.
- (f) Establish institutional capacities to ensure that early warning systems are well integrated into governmental policy and decision-making processes and emergency management systems at both the national and the local levels, and are subject to regular system testing and performance assessments.
- (g) Implement the outcome of the Second International Conference on Early Warning held in Bonn, Germany, in 2003¹³, including through the strengthening of coordination and cooperation among all relevant sectors and actors in the early warning chain in order to achieve fully effective early warning systems.
- (h) Implement the outcome of the Mauritius Strategy for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the sustainable development of small island developing States, including by establishing and strengthening effective early warning systems as well as other mitigation and response measures.

(iii) Capacity

- (i) Support the development and sustainability of the infrastructure and scientific, technological, technical and institutional capacities needed to research, observe, analyse, map and where possible forecast natural and related hazards, vulnerabilities and disaster impacts.

¹¹ See footnotes 1, 2 and 3 for the scope of this Framework for Action.

¹² See footnotes 1, 2 and 3.

¹³ As recommended in General Assembly resolution 58/214.

- (j) Support the development and improvement of relevant databases and the promotion of full and open exchange and dissemination of data for assessment, monitoring and early warning purposes, as appropriate, at international, regional, national and local levels.
- (k) Support the improvement of scientific and technical methods and capacities for risk assessment, monitoring and early warning, through research, partnerships, training and technical capacity-building. Promote the application of *in situ* and space-based earth observations, space technologies, remote sensing, geographic information systems, hazard modelling and prediction, weather and climate modelling and forecasting, communication tools and studies of the costs and benefits of risk assessment and early warning.
- (l) Establish and strengthen the capacity to record, analyze, summarize, disseminate, and exchange statistical information and data on hazards mapping, disaster risks, impacts, and losses; support the development of common methodologies for risk assessment and monitoring.

(iv) *Regional and emerging risks*

- (m) Compile and standardize, as appropriate, statistical information and data on regional disaster risks, impacts and losses.
- (n) Cooperate regionally and internationally, as appropriate, to assess and monitor regional and trans-boundary hazards, and exchange information and provide early warnings through appropriate arrangements, such as, *inter alia*, those relating to the management of river basins.
- (o) Research, analyse and report on long-term changes and emerging issues that might increase vulnerabilities and risks or the capacity of authorities and communities to respond to disasters.

3. Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels

18. Disasters can be substantially reduced if people are well informed and motivated towards a culture of disaster prevention and resilience, which in turn requires the collection, compilation and dissemination of relevant knowledge and information on hazards, vulnerabilities and capacities.

Key activities:

(i) *Information management and exchange*

- (a) Provide easily understandable information on disaster risks and protection options, especially to citizens in high-risk areas, to encourage and enable people to take action to reduce risks and build resilience. The information should incorporate relevant traditional and indigenous knowledge and culture heritage and be tailored to different target audiences, taking into account cultural and social factors.
- (b) Strengthen networks among disaster experts, managers and planners across sectors and between regions, and create or strengthen procedures for using available expertise when agencies and other important actors develop local risk reduction plans.
- (c) Promote and improve dialogue and cooperation among scientific communities and practitioners working on disaster risk reduction, and encourage partnerships among stakeholders, including those working on the socioeconomic dimensions of disaster risk reduction.
- (d) Promote the use, application and affordability of recent information, communication and space-based technologies and related services, as well as earth observations, to support disaster risk reduction, particularly for training and for the sharing and dissemination of information among different categories of users.
- (e) In the medium term, develop local, national, regional and international user-friendly directories, inventories and national information-sharing systems and services for the exchange of information on good practices, cost-effective and easy-to-use disaster risk reduction technologies, and lessons learned on policies, plans and measures for disaster risk reduction.
- (f) Institutions dealing with urban development should provide information to the public on disaster reduction options prior to constructions, land purchase or land sale.
- (g) Update and widely disseminate international standard terminology related to disaster risk reduction, at least in all official United Nations languages, for use in programme and institutional development, operations, research, training curricula and public information programmes.

(ii) *Education and training*

- (h) Promote the inclusion of disaster risk reduction knowledge in relevant sections of school curricula at all levels and the use of other formal and informal channels to reach youth and children with information; promote the integration of disaster risk reduction as an intrinsic element of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2015).
- (i) Promote the implementation of local risk assessment and disaster preparedness programmes in schools and institutions of higher education.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

- (j) Promote the implementation of programmes and activities in schools for learning how to minimize the effects of hazards.
 - (k) Develop training and learning programmes in disaster risk reduction targeted at specific sectors (development planners, emergency managers, local government officials, etc.).
 - (l) Promote community-based training initiatives, considering the role of volunteers, as appropriate, to enhance local capacities to mitigate and cope with disasters.
 - (m) Ensure equal access to appropriate training and educational opportunities for women and vulnerable constituencies; promote gender and cultural sensitivity training as integral components of education and training for disaster risk reduction.
- (iii) Research
- (n) Develop improved methods for predictive multi-risk assessments and socioeconomic cost-benefit analysis of risk reduction actions at all levels; incorporate these methods into decision-making processes at regional, national and local levels.
 - (o) Strengthen the technical and scientific capacity to develop and apply methodologies, studies and models to assess vulnerabilities to and the impact of geological, weather, water and climate-related hazards, including the improvement of regional monitoring capacities and assessments.
- (iv) Public awareness
- (p) Promote the engagement of the media in order to stimulate a culture of disaster resilience and strong community involvement in sustained public education campaigns and public consultations at all levels of society.

4. Reduce the underlying risk factors

19. Disaster risks related to changing social, economic, environmental conditions and land use, and the impact of hazards associated with geological events, weather, water, climate variability and climate change, are addressed in sector development planning and programmes as well as in post-disaster situations.

Key activities:

- (i) *Environmental and natural resource management*
- (a) Encourage the sustainable use and management of ecosystems, including through better land-use planning and development activities to reduce risk and vulnerabilities.
 - (b) Implement integrated environmental and natural resource management approaches that incorporate disaster risk reduction, including structural and non-structural measures,¹⁴ such as integrated flood management and appropriate management of fragile ecosystems.
 - (c) Promote the integration of risk reduction associated with existing climate variability and future climate change into strategies for the reduction of disaster risk and adaptation to climate change, which would include the clear identification of climate related disaster risks, the design of specific risk reduction measures and an improved and routine use of climate risk information by planners, engineers and other decision-makers.
- (ii) *Social and economic development practices*
- (d) Promote food security as an important factor in ensuring the resilience of communities to hazards, particularly in areas prone to drought, flood, cyclones and other hazards that can weaken agriculture-based livelihoods.
 - (e) Integrate disaster risk reduction planning into the health sector; promote the goal of "hospitals safe from disaster" by ensuring that all new hospitals are built with a level of resilience that strengthens their capacity to remain functional in disaster situations and implement mitigation measures to reinforce existing health facilities, particularly those providing primary health care.
 - (f) Protect and strengthen critical public facilities and physical infrastructure, particularly schools, clinics, hospitals, water and power plants, communications and transport lifelines, disaster warning and management centres, and culturally important lands and structures through proper design, retrofitting and re-building, in order to render them adequately resilient to hazards.

¹⁴ "Structural measures refer to any physical construction to reduce or avoid possible impacts of hazards, which include engineering measures and construction of hazard-resistant and protective structures and infrastructure. Non-structural measures refer to policies, awareness, knowledge development, public commitment, and methods and operating practices, including participatory mechanisms and the provision of information, which can reduce risk and related impacts". UN/ISDR. Geneva, 2004.

¹⁵ According to the principles contained in General Assembly resolution 46/182.

- (g) Strengthen the implementation of social safety-net mechanisms to assist the poor, the elderly and the disabled, and other populations affected by disasters. Enhance recovery schemes including psycho-social training programmes in order to mitigate the psychological damage of vulnerable populations, particularly children, in the aftermath of disasters.
 - (h) Incorporate disaster risk reduction measures into post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes¹⁵ and use opportunities during the recovery phase to develop capacities that reduce disaster risk in the long term, including through the sharing of expertise, knowledge and lessons learned.
 - (i) Endeavor to ensure, as appropriate, that programmes for displaced persons do not increase risk and vulnerability to hazards.
 - (j) Promote diversified income options for populations in high-risk areas to reduce their vulnerability to hazards, and ensure that their income and assets are not undermined by development policy and processes that increase their vulnerability to disasters.
 - (k) Promote the development of financial risk-sharing mechanisms, particularly insurance and reinsurance against disasters.
 - (l) Promote the establishment of public-private partnerships to better engage the private sector in disaster risk reduction activities; encourage the private sector to foster a culture of disaster prevention, putting greater emphasis on, and allocating resources to, pre-disaster activities such as risk assessments and early warning systems.
 - (m) Develop and promote alternative and innovative financial instruments for addressing disaster risk.
- (iii) *Land-use planning and other technical measures*
- (n) Incorporate disaster risk assessments into the urban planning and management of disaster-prone human settlements, in particular highly populated areas and quickly urbanizing settlements. The issues of informal or non-permanent housing and the location of housing in high-risk areas should be addressed as priorities, including in the framework of urban poverty reduction and slum-upgrading programmes.
 - (o) Mainstream disaster risk considerations into planning procedures for major infrastructure projects, including the criteria for design, approval and implementation of such projects and considerations based on social, economic and environmental impact assessments.
 - (p) Develop, upgrade and encourage the use of guidelines and monitoring tools for the reduction of disaster risk in the context of land-use policy and planning.
 - (q) Incorporate disaster risk assessment into rural development planning and management, in particular with regard to mountain and coastal flood plain areas, including through the identification of land zones that are available and safe for human settlement.
 - (r) Encourage the revision of existing or the development of new building codes, standards, rehabilitation and reconstruction practices at the national or local levels, as appropriate, with the aim of making them more applicable in the local context, particularly in informal and marginal human settlements, and reinforce the capacity to implement, monitor and enforce such codes, through a consensus-based approach, with a view to fostering disaster-resistant structures.

5. Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

20. At times of disaster, impacts and losses can be substantially reduced if authorities, individuals and communities in hazard-prone areas are well prepared and ready to act and are equipped with the knowledge and capacities for effective disaster management.

Key activities:

- (a) Strengthen policy, technical and institutional capacities in regional, national and local disaster management, including those related to technology, training, and human and material resources.
- (b) Promote and support dialogue, exchange of information and coordination among early warning, disaster risk reduction, disaster response, development and other relevant agencies and institutions at all levels, with the aim of fostering a holistic approach towards disaster risk reduction.
- (c) Strengthen and when necessary develop coordinated regional approaches, and create or upgrade regional policies, operational mechanisms, plans and communication systems to prepare for and ensure rapid and effective disaster response in situations that exceed national coping capacities.
- (d) Prepare or review and periodically update disaster preparedness and contingency plans and policies at all levels, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable areas and groups. Promote regular disaster preparedness exercises, including evacuation drills, with a view to ensuring rapid and effective disaster response and access to essential food and non-food relief supplies, as appropriate, to local needs.
- (e) Promote the establishment of emergency funds, where and as appropriate, to support response, recovery and preparedness measures.
- (f) Develop specific mechanisms to engage the active participation and ownership of relevant stakeholders, including communities, in disaster risk reduction, in particular building on the spirit of volunteerism.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

IV. Implementation and follow-up

A. General considerations

21. The implementation of and follow-up to the strategic goals and priorities for action set out in this Framework for Action should be addressed by different stakeholders in a multi-sectoral approach, including the development sector. States and regional and international organizations, including the United Nations and international financial institutions, are called upon to integrate disaster risk reduction considerations into their sustainable development policy, planning and programming at all levels. Civil society, including volunteers and community-based organizations, the scientific community and the private sector are vital stakeholders in supporting the implementation of disaster risk reduction at all levels.
22. While each State has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development, an enabling international environment is vital to stimulate and contribute to developing the knowledge, capacities and motivation needed to build disaster resilient nations and communities. States and regional and international organizations should foster greater strategic coordination among the United Nations, other international organizations, including international financial institutions, regional bodies, donor agencies and nongovernmental organizations engaged in disaster risk reduction, based on a strengthened International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. In the coming years, consideration should be given to ensuring the implementation and strengthening of relevant international legal instruments related to disaster risk reduction.
23. States and regional and international organizations should also support the capacities of regional mechanisms and organizations to develop regional plans, policies and common practices, as appropriate, in support of networking, advocacy, coordination, exchange of information and experience, scientific monitoring of hazards and vulnerability, and institutional capacity development and to deal with disaster risks.
24. All actors are encouraged to build multi-stakeholder partnerships, at all levels, as appropriate, and on a voluntary basis, to contribute to the implementation of this Framework for Action. States and other actors are also encouraged to promote the strengthening or establishment of national, regional and international volunteer corps, which can be made available to countries and to the international community to contribute to addressing vulnerability and reducing disaster risk.¹⁶
25. The Mauritius Strategy for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States underscores that small island developing States are located among the most vulnerable regions in the world in relation to the intensity and frequency of natural and environmental disasters and their increasing impact, and face disproportionately high economic, social and environmental consequences. Small island developing States have undertaken to strengthen their respective national frameworks for more effective disaster management and are committed, with the necessary support of the international community, to improve national disaster mitigation, preparedness and early-warning capacity, increase public awareness about disaster reduction, stimulate interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral partnerships, mainstream risk management into their national planning process, address issues relating to insurance and reinsurance arrangements, and augment their capacity to predict and respond to emergency situations, including those affecting human settlements stemming from natural and environmental disasters.
26. In view of the particular vulnerabilities and insufficient capacities of least developed countries to respond to and recover from disasters, support is needed by the least developed countries as a matter of priority, in executing substantive programmes and relevant institutional mechanisms for the implementation of the Framework for Action, including through financial and technical assistance and for capacity building in disaster risk reduction as an effective and sustainable means to prevent and respond to disasters.
27. Disasters in Africa pose a major obstacle to the African continent's efforts to achieve sustainable development, especially in view of the region's insufficient capacities to predict, monitor, deal with and mitigate disasters. Reducing the vulnerability of the African people to hazards is a necessary element of poverty reduction strategies, including efforts to protect past development gains. Financial and technical assistance is needed to strengthen the capacities of African countries, including observation and early warning systems, assessments, prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

¹⁶ In compliance with General Assembly resolution 58/118 and OAS General Assembly resolution 2018 (xxxiv-0/04).

¹⁷ As identified in General Assembly resolution 57/270 B.



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

28. The follow-up on the World Conference on Disaster Reduction will, as appropriate, be an integrated and coordinated part of the follow-up to other major conference in fields relevant to disaster risk reduction.¹⁷ This should include specific reference to progress on disaster risk reduction taking, into account agreed development goals, including those found in the Millennium Declaration.
29. The implementation of this Framework for Action for the period 2005-2015 will be appropriately reviewed.

B. States

30. All States should endeavour to undertake the following tasks at the national and local levels, with a strong sense of ownership and in collaboration with civil society and other stakeholders, within the bounds of their financial, human and material capacities, and taking into account their domestic legal requirements and existing international instruments related to disaster risk reduction. States should also contribute actively in the context of regional and international cooperation, in line with paragraphs 33 and 34.
 - (a) Prepare and publish national baseline assessments of the status of disaster risk reduction, according to the capabilities, needs and policies of each State, and, as appropriate, share this information with concerned regional and international bodies;
 - (b) Designate an appropriate national coordination mechanism for the implementation and follow up of this Framework for Action, and communicate the information to the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;
 - (c) Publish and periodically update a summary of national programmes for disaster risk reduction related to this Framework for Action, including on international cooperation;
 - (d) Develop procedures for reviewing national progress against this Framework for Action, which should include systems for cost benefit analysis and ongoing monitoring and assessment of vulnerability and risk, in particular with regards to regions exposed to hydrometeorological and seismic hazards, as appropriate;
 - (e) Include information on progress of disaster risk reduction in the reporting mechanisms of existing international and other frameworks concerning sustainable development, as appropriate;
 - (f) Consider, as appropriate, acceding to, approving or ratifying relevant international legal instruments relating to disaster reduction, and, for State parties to those instruments, take measures for their effective implementation;¹⁸
 - (g) Promote the integration of risk reduction associated with existing climate variability and future climate change into strategies for the reduction of disaster risk and adaptation to climate change; ensure that the management of risks associated with geological hazards, such as earthquakes and landslides, are fully taken into account in disaster risk reduction programmes.

C. Regional organizations and institutions

31. Regional organizations with a role related to disaster risk reduction are called upon to undertake the following tasks within their mandates, priorities and resources:
 - (a) Promote regional programmes, including programmes for technical cooperation, capacity development, the development of methodologies and standards for hazard and vulnerability monitoring and assessment, the sharing of information and effective mobilization of resources, in view of supporting national and regional efforts to achieve the objectives of this Framework for Action;
 - (b) Undertake and publish regional and sub-regional baseline assessments of the disaster risk reduction status, according to the needs identified and in line with their mandates;
 - (c) Coordinate and publish periodic reviews on progress in the region and on impediments and support needs, and assist countries, as requested, in the preparation of periodic national summaries of their programmes and progress;
 - (d) Establish or strengthen existing specialized regional collaborative centers, as appropriate, to undertake research, training, education and capacity building in the field of disaster risk reduction;
 - (e) Support the development of regional mechanisms and capacities for early warning to disasters, including for tsunami.¹⁹

¹⁸ Such as the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations (1998), which entered into force 8 January 2005.

¹⁹ The United Nations Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation established by the Secretary-General made an urgent appeal to halve loss of human life caused by major water related disasters, including tsunami, by 2015.

D. International organizations

32. International organizations, including organizations of the United Nations system and international financial institutions, are called upon to undertake the following tasks within their mandates, priorities and resources:
- (a) Engage fully in supporting and implementing the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and cooperate to advance integrated approaches to building disaster-resilient nations and communities, by encouraging stronger linkages, coherence and integration of disaster risk reduction elements into the humanitarian and sustainable development fields as set out in this Framework for Action;
 - (b) Strengthen the overall capacity of the United Nations system to assist disaster-prone developing countries in disaster risk reduction through appropriate means and coordination and define and implement appropriate measures for regular assessment of their progress towards the achievement of the goals and priorities set out in this Framework for Action, building on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;
 - (c) Identify relevant actions to assist disaster-prone developing countries in the implementation of this Framework for Action; ensure that relevant actions are integrated, as appropriate, into each organization's own scientific, humanitarian and development sectors, policies, programmes and practices and that adequate funding is allocated for their implementation;
 - (d) Assist disaster-prone developing countries to set up national strategies and plans of action and programmes for disaster risk reduction and to develop their institutional and technical capacities in the field of disaster risk reduction, as identified through the priorities in this Framework for Action;
 - (e) Integrate actions in support of the implementation of this Framework into relevant coordination mechanisms such as the United Nations Development Group and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (on humanitarian action), including at the national level and through the Resident Coordinator system and the United Nations Country teams. In addition, integrate disaster risk reduction considerations into development assistance frameworks, such as the Common Country Assessments, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and poverty reduction strategies;
 - (f) In close collaboration with existing networks and platforms, cooperate to support globally consistent data collection and forecasting on natural hazards, vulnerabilities and risks and disaster impacts at all scales. These initiatives should include the development of standards, the maintenance of databases, the development of indicators and indices, support to early warning systems, the full and open exchange of data and the use of in situ and remotely sensed observations;
 - (g) Support States with the provision of appropriate, timely and well coordinated international relief assistance, upon request of affected countries, and in accordance with agreed guiding principles for emergency relief assistance and coordination arrangements.²⁰ Provide this assistance with a view to reducing risk and vulnerability, improving capacities and ensuring effective arrangements for international cooperation for urban search and rescue assistance.²¹ Ensure that arrangements for prompt international response to reach affected areas are being developed at national and local levels and that appropriate linkages to recovery efforts and risk reduction are strengthened;
 - (h) Strengthen the international mechanisms with a view to supporting disaster stricken States in the transition phase towards sustainable physical, social and economic recovery and to reducing future risks. This should include support for risk reduction activities in post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes and sharing of good practices, knowledge and technical support with relevant countries, experts and United Nations organizations;
 - (i) Strengthen and adapt the existing inter-agency disaster management training programme based on a shared, inter-agency strategic vision and framework for disaster risk management that encompasses risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery.

E. The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

33. The partners in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, in particular, the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction and its members, in collaboration with relevant national, regional, international and United Nations bodies and supported by the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, are requested to assist in implementing this Framework for Action as follows, subject to the decisions taken upon completion of the review process²² of the current mechanism and institutional arrangements:

²⁰ Defined by General Assembly resolution 46/182.

²¹ Work towards the consistent implementation of General Assembly resolution 57/150.

²² A review process regarding the institutional arrangements within the United Nations pertaining to disaster reduction is currently being carried out and will be completed, following the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, with an evaluation of the role and performance of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

- (a) Develop a matrix of roles and initiatives in support of follow-up to this Framework for Action, involving individual members of the Task Force and other international partners;
- (b) Facilitate the coordination of effective and integrated action within the organizations of the United Nations system and among other relevant international and regional entities, in accordance with their respective mandates, to support the implementation of this Framework for Action, identify gaps in implementation and facilitate consultative processes to develop guidelines and policy tools for each priority area, with relevant national, regional and international expertise;
- (c) Consult with relevant United Nations agencies and organizations, regional and multilateral organizations and technical and scientific institutions, as well as interested States and civil society, with the view to developing generic, realistic and measurable indicators, keeping in mind available resources of individual States. These indicators could assist States to assess their progress in the implementation of the Framework of Action. The indicators should be in conformity with the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

Once that first stage has been completed, States are encouraged to develop or refine indicators at the national level reflecting their individual disaster risk reduction priorities, drawing upon the generic indicators.

- (d) Ensure support to national platforms for disaster reduction, including through the clear articulation of their role and value added, as well as regional coordination, to support the different advocacy and policy needs and priorities set out in this Framework for Action, through coordinated regional facilities for disaster reduction, building on regional programmes and outreach advisors from relevant partners;
- (e) Coordinate with the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development to ensure that relevant partnerships contributing to implementation of the Framework for Action are registered in its sustainable development partnership database;
- (f) Stimulate the exchange, compilation, analysis, summary and dissemination of best practices, lessons learned, available technologies and programmes, to support disaster risk reduction in its capacity as an international information clearinghouse; maintain a global information platform on disaster risk reduction and a web-based register "portfolio" of disaster risk reduction programmes and initiatives implemented by States and through regional and international partnerships;²³
- (g) Prepare periodic reviews on progress towards achieving the objectives and priorities of this Framework for Action, within the context of the process of integrated and coordinated follow-up and implementation of United Nations conferences and summits as mandated by the General Assembly,²⁴ and provide reports and summaries to the Assembly and other United Nations bodies, as requested or as appropriate, based on information from national platforms, regional and international organizations and other stakeholders, including on the follow-up to the implementation of the recommendations from the Second International Conference on Early Warning (2003).²⁵

F. Resource mobilization

34. States, within the bounds of their financial capabilities, regional and international organizations, through appropriate multilateral, regional and bilateral coordination mechanisms, should undertake the following tasks to mobilize the necessary resources to support implementation of this Framework for Action:
 - (a) Mobilize the appropriate resources and capabilities of relevant national, regional and international bodies, including the United Nations system;
 - (b) Provide for and support, through bilateral and multilateral channels, the implementation of this Framework for Action in disaster-prone developing countries, including through financial and technical assistance, addressing debt sustainability, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, and public-private partnerships, and encourage North-South and South-South cooperation;
 - (c) Mainstream disaster risk reduction measures appropriately into multilateral and bilateral development assistance programmes including those related to poverty reduction, natural resource management, urban development and adaptation to climate change;
 - (d) Provide adequate voluntary financial contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction, in the effort to ensure the adequate support for the follow-up activities to this Framework for Action. Review the current usage and feasibility for the expansion of this fund, inter alia, to assist disaster-prone developing countries to set up national strategies for disaster risk reduction.

²³ To serve as a tool for sharing experience and methodologies on disaster reduction efforts. States and relevant organizations are invited to actively contribute to the knowledge-building process by registering their own effort on a voluntary basis in consideration of the global progress of the Conference outcomes.

²⁴ General Assembly resolution 57/270B, follow-up to United Nations conferences, and the General Assembly resolutions on Implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, which request the Secretary-General to report to the second committee of the General Assembly under "Sustainable development" (54/219, 56/195, 57/256 58/214, 58/215, 59/231).

²⁵ General Assembly resolution 58/214.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

- (e) Develop partnerships to implement schemes that spread out risks, reduce insurance premiums, expand insurance coverage and thereby increase financing for post-disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation, including through public and private partnerships, as appropriate. Promote an environment that encourages a culture of insurance in developing countries, as appropriate.

Annex

Some multilateral developments related to disaster risk reduction

Among the multi-lateral frameworks and declarations that are of relevance to this document there are the following:¹

- The International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,² held in Mauritius in January 2005, calls for increased commitments to reducing the vulnerability of small island developing States, due to their limited capacity to respond to and recover from disasters.
- The Agenda for Humanitarian Action adopted by the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in December 2003 includes a goal and actions to “reduce the risk and impact of disasters and improve preparedness and response mechanisms”.
- The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,³ held in 2002, paragraph 37 requests actions under the chapeau: “An integrated, multi-hazard, inclusive approach to address vulnerability, risk, assessment and disaster management, including prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, is an essential element of a safer world in the 21st century”, supporting the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction as the first action. The theme of “vulnerability, risk reduction and disaster management” is included in the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2014-2015, and as a cross-cutting theme throughout the programme.
- The third Action Programme for Least Developed Countries,⁴ adopted in 2001, requests action by development partners in view of giving priority attention to these countries in the substantive programme and institutional arrangements for the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.
- The Millennium Declaration⁵ of September 2000, identified key objectives of “Protecting the vulnerable” and “Protecting our common environment”, which resolve to “intensify cooperation to reduce the number and effects of natural and man-made disasters”. A comprehensive review of the progress made in the fulfillment of all the commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration will be held in July 2005.⁶
- The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction was launched in 2000⁷

1 For a more comprehensive listing of relevant frameworks and declarations, see information document: Extracts Relevant to Disaster Risk Reduction From International Policy Initiatives 1994- 2003, Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction, ninth meeting 4-5 May 2004.

2 General Assembly resolution 58/213. Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

3 A/CONF.199/20

4 A/CONF.191/11

5 General Assembly resolution 55/2

6 General Assembly resolution 58/291

7 General Assembly resolutions 59/231, 58/214, 57/256, 56/195, 54/219

by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly as an inter-agency framework and mechanism (inter-agency task force on disaster reduction and an inter-agency secretariat) to serve as a focal point within the United Nations system with the mandate to promote public awareness and commitment, expand networks and partnerships, and improve knowledge about disaster causes and options for risk reduction, building on the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action and as follow-up to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

- The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development⁸, held in 2002, requested the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to “improve techniques and methodologies for assessing the effects of climate change, and encourage the continuing assessment of those adverse effects...”. In addition, the General Assembly⁹ has encouraged the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,¹⁰ and the parties to its Kyoto Protocol¹¹ (entering into force in February 2005) to continue to address the adverse effects of climate change, especially in those developing countries that are particularly vulnerable. The United Nations General Assembly¹² also encouraged the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to continue to assess the adverse effects of climate change on the socio-economic and natural disaster reduction systems of developing countries.
- The Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations of 1998 entered into force on 8 January 2005.
- The Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action¹³ (1994), was adopted at the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, building on the mid-term review of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.
- The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,¹⁴ was adopted in 1994 and entered into force in 1996. The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity¹⁵ was adopted in 1992 and entered into force in 1993.
- The General Assembly¹⁶ (1991) requested strengthening of the coordination of emergency and humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, in both complex emergencies natural disasters. It recalled the International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (resolution 44/236, 1989), and set out guiding principles for humanitarian relief, preparedness, prevention and on the continuum from relief to rehabilitation and development.

8 A/CONF.199/20, paragraph 37 e).

9 General Assembly resolutions on natural disasters and vulnerability (59/233, and 58/215)

10 United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

11 FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.

12 General Assembly resolutions on natural disasters and vulnerability (59/233, and 58/215)

13 A/CONF.172/9

14 United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1954, No. 33480

15 United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1760, No. 30619

16 General Assembly resolution 46/182

Appendix 2 : Beijing Action for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia, 2005

Source: Government of People's Republic of China

Beijing Declaration On The 2005 World Conference On Disaster Reduction 27 May 2004, In

ternational Conference on Disaster Reduction, Beijing, People's Republic of China

An International Conference on Disaster Reduction was held in Beijing, People's Republic of China, from 25 to 27 May 2004. The Conference was co-organized by the Ministry of Civil Affairs of the People's Republic of China and the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) Secretariat. The Conference was part of the preparatory process for the Second World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR II) to be held in Kobe-Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005.

More than 100 delegates from 18 countries and six (6) international organizations attended the Conference to further promote regional cooperation and collaboration in disaster reduction, and the integration of disaster reduction into development planning, policies and implementation.

The Conference benefited from recommendations made by two regional conferences held in February and March 2004 : (1) the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2004 held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, from 4 to 6 February 2004; and (2) the Regional Consultation on Disaster Management held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 29 to 31 March 2004. The Conference also took into consideration the outcomes of two consultations held in early May 2004 : (1) the 9th Session of the UN Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction (IATF/DR) held in Geneva on 4 and 5 May 2004 ; and (2) the 1st Inter-Governmental Preparatory Committee Meeting for the WCDR II also held in Geneva on 6 and 7 May 2004.

At the end of the Conference, the delegates issued the following declaration called "Beijing Declaration on the 2005 World Conference on Disaster Reduction":

On Disaster Reduction & Sustainable Development in Asia

In today's dynamic Asia, identification of hazards and vulnerability and commitment to disaster and risk management are essential for sustainable development. As this is also highlighted in the Principles of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World (1994), we should relate our current knowledge and previous experience to the needs of the future.

Therefore, we recognize the importance of contributing to the ongoing Yokohama (Strategy & Plan of Action) Review coordinated by the UN/ISDR Secretariat, a review of the achievements, remaining challenges and required additions since the Yokohama Strategy was adopted in 1994.

The growing understanding and acceptance of the relationship between disaster and risk management and sustainable development was further emphasized in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in September 2002. It is also accepted as essential for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.

In the same vein, we are of the view that it is even more important that our developed abilities and resources help to define and implement a Specific Programme of Action composed of concrete objectives that contribute to the building of disaster-resilient communities.

Our General Conclusions

We fully recognize that hazards are on the rise, so is the impact of disasters throughout Asia. It is clear that sustainable development can only be achieved by integrating disaster risk reduction into overall socio-economic planning and practice.

Presentations and panel discussions during the 25-27 May 2004 Beijing International Conference on Disaster Reduction reviewed the progress made and the remaining challenges since the adoption of the Yokohama Strategy in 1994.

General awareness on disaster issues and capacities for early warning have increased, and more countries have accepted that linking disaster risk reduction with development planning and practice is essential to sustainable development. Therefore, mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in development planning and practice has been repeatedly emphasized throughout the Conference.

Even though growing progress has been made in each country in the field of disaster and risk management, more needs to be done to advance sustainable development in Asia. We believe that it is essential that political, professional and public interests converge so that all efforts are activated and responsibilities fully assumed in disaster reduction.

Most importantly, we appeal for further political commitment to disaster reduction and an increased financial investment in disaster risk reduction through local and national budget allocation and international support.

Our Primary Recommendations

1. *Governance: Institutional Policy & Framework*
 - Increase national political commitment to the integration of disaster risk reduction in sustainable development planning and practice by formulating a holistic policy and comprehensive legislation on disaster and risk management, integrating risk reduction in various sectoral policies, and allocating funds for disaster risk reduction at regional, national and local levels.
 - Enhance the role of Local Government authorities and community leaders in the implementation of national policies and legislation on disaster risk reduction at community level by increasing the comprehension, knowledge and capability of Local Government officials in disaster risk reduction.
 - Enhance the capacity of Local Government authorities, with support from national dedicated agencies, to plan and finance a safer built environment by making land, materials, training and labour available for shelter and urban development.
2. *Risk Identification, Assessment & Early Warning*
 - Encourage the development of an information baseline including hazard mapping and risk assessment in urban and rural settings, to strengthen risk monitoring through joint efforts by experts from the scientific community and people from communities living with disaster risks by exchanging information, good practices, knowledge and relevant experience at regional, national and local levels, and establishing mechanisms for disaster risk monitoring and risk assessment in the framework of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR)
 - Improve early warning systems and ensure their effectiveness for disaster reduction by providing support to capacity building and the enhancement of links between policy makers, experts and the public.
 - Encourage line Ministries and agencies, Government at different levels and civil societies to mainstream disaster risk management by supporting cross-sectoral programme design and implementation of practical activities in development strategies.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

3. *Knowledge & Education*

- Increase the awareness of public authorities and the general public on disaster reduction from national to local levels by carrying out specific activities in schools and other formal and informal education and training facilities, with particular attention to a gender-balanced approach and other pertinent cultural impacts.
- Encourage the active involvement of electronic and other media, educational institutions and communities in the campaign for raising awareness of disaster risk reduction by supporting capacity building and training institutions, providing platform and mechanisms for sharing information, knowledge and experience, and emphasizing local experience and traditional knowledge.
- Improve the relationship between and application of experiences by increasing the understanding of data collection and information and knowledge management.

4. *Reduction of Underlying Risk Factors*

- Improve appropriate scientific ability on disaster risk reduction at regional and national levels by encouraging the establishment of a regional platform for knowledge sharing, and the translation of scientific data into practical guidance for Local Government authorities and community groups.
- Encourage the application of high technology, e.g. remote sensing and GIS (Geographical Information System), in disaster risk assessment and monitoring by providing support to pilot projects and initiatives on disaster risk mitigation.
- Encourage the adoption of disaster impact assessment systems and financial instruments and mechanisms such as insurance to share risks, particularly at local level by sharing existing practices and experience.

5. *Disaster Preparedness & Contingency Planning*

- Increase the effectiveness of disaster response, relief and recovery by using disaster risk assessment results, based on hazard mapping and vulnerability assessment in disaster preparedness and emergency contingency planning, and by preventing disaster recovery programmes from creating new disaster risks.
- Give special attention to the social, cultural and economic needs of women, children and most disadvantaged groups in disaster and risk management by using participatory tools such as vulnerability and capability assessments.
- Increase the efficiency of disaster response, relief and recovery through improved early warning systems by increasing the appreciation of early warning among policy and decision makers, the accuracy of early warning by scientists, and the comprehension of people living with disaster risks at community level.
- Enhance the efficiency of emergency/disaster management within countries by having a united management system to reduce duplication and wastage of efforts and resources.

6. *Regional, International Support for Disaster Reduction at National and Local Levels*

- Strengthen cooperation and collaboration in disaster reduction at regional level by using existing platforms for continuing dialogue and consultations among countries concerned, and encouraging exchange of knowledge and experts leading to closer partnerships in disaster risk reduction
- Enhance international and regional support to National Governments in disaster reduction by facilitating the exchange of knowledge and information on disaster issues, and developing concrete initiatives and projects yielding ready-to-use outputs for advancing disaster risk reduction at national and community levels.
- Strengthen the financial base for disaster risk reduction activities and investment by encouraging international agencies and organizations as well as domestic capital markets and community-based finance systems to provide resources to initiatives that integrate disaster risk reduction in sustainable development at regional, national and local levels.

Our Final Observations

Governments have unavoidable responsibility for motivating and providing protection against disasters. However, success will depend ultimately on effective measures undertaken by Governments and the coping capabilities of local people themselves. Indeed, it is people's increased understanding, active participation and sustained actions that will enable them to live with risk in more resilient communities.

*** Add a list of countries and international organizations**

Appendix 3 : Delhi Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia, 2007

Source: Government of India, 2007.

Second Asian Ministerial Conference On Disaster Reduction New Delhi, 7 - 8 November 2007 Delhi Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia 2007

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the countries of Asia and the Pacific, attending the Second Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in New Delhi on 7 – 8 November 2007,

Recalling the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 – 2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters;

Recalling the Beijing Action for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia 2005 to enhance regional cooperation in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action;

Concerned at the recent spurt of disasters in the region, including the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan and India and typhoon in Vietnam, the 2006 earthquake and floods in Indonesia, as well as the series of typhoons in the Philippines, and the 2007 tsunami in the Solomon Islands and floods in South Asia, which caused widespread loss of life and property;

Aware of the threats of disasters due to unsustainable development including unplanned urban settlements and the impact of climate change;

Recognizing the urgency of substantially reducing the loss of lives and social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries at risks of disasters in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development;

Appreciating the new global and regional initiatives like the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, International Recovery Platform, the Pacific Framework of Action for Disaster Risk Management, the Comprehensive Regional Framework for Action 2006 – 2015 in South Asia, the South Asian Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, the ADPC Regional Consultative Committee and the ADRC Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction, the APEC Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Agreement on Disaster Reduction and the setting up of SAARC Disaster Management Centre;

Welcoming the initiatives taken by many national governments in Asia and the Pacific for setting up legal and institutional mechanisms for disaster risk reduction and mainstreaming risk reduction in development planning;

Further welcoming the initiatives taken by the local authorities, the communities and other stakeholders such as the civil society, the private sector, the media and the scientific, academic and technical organizations for disaster risk reduction;

Hereby adopt the *Delhi Declaration on Disaster Reduction* and call for the following:

On the Hyogo Framework for Action:

- a) Urge all stakeholders at the regional, sub-regional, national and local levels to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action, in line with the five priorities for action and identified critical tasks for implementation and follow-up;

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction

From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

- b) Encourage the national governments to formulate Action Plans according to their national priorities for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and to put in place national mechanisms for periodic review of the implementation of these Action Plans;
- c) Encourage the national governments to enhance regional and sub-regional cooperation for disaster risk reduction, including early warning, capacity building, networking and sharing of information and good practices among stakeholders;
- d) Encourage the national governments and regional and sub-regional organizations to develop reporting mechanisms to monitor the progress made to achieve the goals of the Hyogo Framework for Action and to link such reports to other development processes, including the national strategies for poverty reduction and the Millennium Development Goals;
- e) Urge the national governments and regional and sub-regional organizations to apply and adapt, as appropriate, the set of basic indicators and benchmarks developed by UN/ISDR for monitoring the progress in disaster risk reduction.

On mainstreaming disaster risk reduction:


- f) Encourage the national governments to mainstream disaster risk reduction into national sustainable development strategies, plans and programmes in key areas such as poverty eradication, housing, water, sanitation, energy, health, agriculture, education, infrastructure and environment and to ensure that development does not create further disasters;
- g) Urge the national governments to further strengthen the legislative frameworks and institutional mechanisms for disaster risk reduction, promote multi-stakeholder coordination through the mechanism of National Platform, develop capacities at the national and local levels through awareness, education and training and strengthen the governance systems for disaster risk reduction, particularly at the local level;
- h) Encourage the national governments to place communities at the centre of all aspects of disaster risk management through community based disaster preparedness, mitigation and response;
- i) Urge the national governments and scientific, academic and technological institutions to carry out risk assessment as an ongoing process and strengthen the technology-driven initiatives in research and development, early warning and their dissemination, while simultaneously linking scientific knowledge with indigenous coping mechanisms in these areas;
- j) Urge the national governments to strengthen financial mechanism for disaster reduction, including risk transfer and risk finance including innovative approaches in microfinance, micro insurance, etc;
- k) Encourage the national governments to make special efforts to mainstream gender issues in disaster risk reduction so as to reduce the vulnerability of women and to recognize the important role women can play in disaster risk reduction;
- l) Urge the national governments to integrate disaster risk reduction in school education and make the school safer for the children as the Bangkok Action Agenda 2007;
- m) Further urge the national governments, the civil society and other stakeholders to develop mechanisms to protect the interests of physically and mentally disabled persons, the senior citizens, children, orphans and other vulnerable sections of society and promote social inclusiveness in disaster reduction including preparedness activities.

On early warning and preparedness:

- n) Encourage development of trans-boundary multi-hazard end-to-end early warning systems as a priority under the existing sub-regional cooperation frameworks and integrate the Tsunami Early Warning Systems for the Indian and Pacific Ocean into multi-hazard frameworks to ensure the long-term financial and operational sustainability of the existing regional TEWS initiatives;
- o) Urge the national governments to further strengthen the disaster preparedness planning as an effective tool to reduce the loss of life and property;

On climate change:

- p) Encourage all the stakeholders to address the long-term disastrous impact of climate change and take effective steps under the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities to integrate disaster risk



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

reduction with climate change adaptation initiatives at all levels in accordance with the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol.

On integration of DRR into recovery and reconstruction:

- q) Urge the national governments and international organizations to commit resources for early recovery programmes including quick assessment of damage, needs and capacities, restoration of critical infrastructure and livelihood following major disaster events to support the resilience of affected communities, until long term reconstruction of assets take place;
- r) Encourage the national governments and international organizations to integrate disaster risk reduction into rehabilitation and reconstruction strategies and programmes by building back better.

On partnerships:

- s) Encourage innovative public-private partnership in disaster risk reduction through corporate social responsibilities, sustained business continuity practices and opportunities for investment in disaster risk reduction;
- t) Strengthen the participation of civil society in local, national and regional level planning and implementation for disaster risk reduction;
- u) Involve the print and electronic media in creating greater awareness about disaster risk reduction and in the dissemination of early warning of disasters;

On regional mechanisms:

- v) Request the regional stakeholders to work together more closely towards greater coherence and harmonization of their efforts as a generic point of entry for enhanced regional cooperation;
- w) Urge the national governments, the donors, the International Financial Institutions and other partners to further strengthen and work closely with existing regional mechanisms and organizations such as the ISDR Asia Partnership, the International Recovery Platform, the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management, the SAARC Disaster Management Centre, the SOPAC, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, the Asian Seismic Risk reduction Centre, the Typhoon Committee and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones, the International Centre on Drought Risk Reduction, the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network, the Duryog Nivaran and others;
- x) Welcome the forthcoming new regional initiatives, such as the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management, the Asia Emergency Preparedness and Response facility, the Disaster Management Centre in ECO Region and the Regional Research Centre on Catastrophic Disasters in Asia;
- y) Call upon the expanded ISDR Asia Partnership to improve information exchange and the mapping of regional disaster reduction initiatives of various stakeholders, to improve coherence, synergy and effectiveness and address critical gaps in the delivery of activities in the region; and
- z) Call on the regional intergovernmental organizations and UNESCAP to work closely with UN/ISDR in supporting the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in Asia and the Pacific:

We, the Ministers and other high level representatives of the countries of Asia and the Pacific attending the Second Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction affirm that

- a) The biennial Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction which had started in Beijing in 2005 will be expanded as the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, with participation of the national governments, regional and sub-regional organizations, the UN agencies, International Financial Institutions and other stakeholders including civil society, scientific and technical organization, the private sector and the media;
- b) The Ministers in charge of disaster reduction will provide the political leadership and commitment to the Regional Platform;
- c) The Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction will be held once in two years by rotation in different Asian countries to:

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

- i. To review the action taken by the national governments and other stakeholders for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action;
 - ii. To take stock of initiatives taken in various sub-regions of Asia for promoting and enhancing cooperation among the nations within and outside the governments for disaster risk reduction;
 - iii. To share and exchange best practices and lessons learned from disaster risk reduction in various fields including application of science and technology, community based disaster preparedness, public-private partnership etc; and
 - iv. To further enhance regional cooperation for disaster risk reduction.
- d) The Asia and the Pacific regional office of the UN/ISDR within the framework of expanded ISDR Asia Partnership shall provide the technical, operational and secretarial support to the Regional Platform;
 - e) The various geographical sub-regions of Asia and the Pacific may hold periodic conference of the national governments and other stakeholders and ensure these are well coordinated and complement each other in taking stock of the progress made in the implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action in the respective sub-regions.

We, the Ministers and other high level representatives of the countries of Asia and the Pacific attending the Second Asian Ministerial on Disaster Risk reduction and all other participants place on record our sincere gratitude and high appreciation to the Government and people of India for their gracious hospitality in hosting and organizing the Conference and welcome the offer of the Government of Malaysia to host the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2008.

Appendix 4 : Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia, 2008

Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction Kuala Lumpur, 2 – 4 December 2008 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia 2008

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the countries of Asia and the Pacific, attending the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Kuala Lumpur on 2 – 4 December 2008,

Alarmed by the increasing impact of recent disasters in Asia, including Cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh; the Wenchuan Earthquake in China; the recent floods in Bihar and Orissa in India and Nepal; and Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar;

Concerned that the Asia and Pacific region, home to 61 percent of the world's population, thus remains by far the region most affected by disasters in terms of human and economic impacts, but also in occurrence, threatening to roll back hard-earned development gains and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the region;

Appreciating that the losses, damages and costs of disasters have been reduced where Governments and the international community made effective investment in the field of disaster risk reduction;

Aware of the changing nature of disaster risk in the region brought about by the likely increase in weather and climate hazards and the increased vulnerability of communities to disasters;

Recognising the need to scale up commitment and promote innovative approaches to reduce disaster risk to achieve the goals of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 – 2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (HFA);

Noting recent global and regional developments, which are expected to further the course of disaster risk reduction (DRR) in Asia and the Pacific, such as the recognition for the first time of disaster risk reduction by the Bali Action Plan 2007; the South-South Cooperation Program under the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR); the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) resolutions 64/1 establishing a new intergovernmental Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction and 64/2 on the implementation of the HFA; the Tripartite Core Group comprising the Government of Myanmar, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the United Nations following Cyclone Nargis under the ASEAN led mechanism; the cooperation in the area of disaster risk management decided at the Trilateral Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea held in Japan, 2008; the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum's Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, Emergency Preparedness and Response; and the Australia – Indonesia Disaster Reduction Facility;

Noting also other important initiatives such as the calls made at the Seventh Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC 07) in Colombo, Sri Lanka to undertake national community-based disaster risk reduction programmes in all communities at risk; the recommendations adopted by the Third Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO)-International Conference on Disaster Risk Management held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran in 2008, the proposed courses of action in advancing DRR at the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2008 in Bali,

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Indonesia; the call to advocate and implement programmes for the protection of the health of the population before, during and after disasters as in the Global Disaster Risk Reduction Campaign, "Hospital Safe from Disasters", 2008 – 2009; and the International Recovery Forum as one of the International Recovery Platform (IRP) activities;

Acknowledging the leadership of the Governments of the People's Republic of China and India in hosting the First and Second Asian Ministerial Conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction and noting the achievements of the Asian Ministerial Conference process, including the raising of awareness at the high level on the importance of disaster risk reduction issues in the region, the facilitation of national activities led by Governments and civil society organisations, the implementation of activities called for by the Delhi Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia 2007 by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Asia Partnership (IAP), including improved regional coordination, regional mapping of activities on disaster risk reduction, and the improved monitoring and reporting of progress against HFA in the region;

Recognising that governments have responsibility to reduce risks of disasters, there is a need for support and assistance from other stakeholders including international, regional and national organisations, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, civil society organisations and their networks to ensure appropriate implementation of the recommendations of the Asian Ministerial Conferences (AMC);


Appreciating the theme and objectives of the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction "Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction: From National to Local";

DO HEREBY call on regional and national disaster reduction stakeholders:

On public-private partnership for disaster risk reduction: to promote corporate social responsibility and business continuity plans; to promote fiscal policies that enhance disaster risk management including micro-credit and micro-finance schemes; to encourage the establishment of multi-stakeholder mechanisms for the promotion of private and public partnerships; and to create an enabling environment for the development of catastrophe risk insurance markets that provide financial incentives for disaster risk reduction.

On high technology and scientific application to disaster risk reduction, including climate change adaptation (CCA): to encourage dialogue and collaboration between ministries and agencies at the national level; to promote innovative partnership with scientific communities and academic institutions to enhance scientifically informed national policies for DRR and CCA; to develop partnerships between existing regional knowledge sharing mechanisms and networks on DRR and CCA with other information sharing and analysis mechanisms; and to further encourage cost-effective and widely accessible technologies in support of early warning at national to local and community levels, multi-hazards risk assessment and disaster risk reduction efforts.

On involvement and empowerment of local governments and civil society in disaster risk reduction: to encourage ongoing efforts towards decentralising disaster risk reduction by building local capacity to integrate disaster risk reduction into local development planning; to encourage effective national legal and policy frameworks, financial and technical support to local authorities and community-based organisations to undertake DRR programmes; to enhance multi-stakeholder collaboration with local governments and communities to reduce climate and disaster risk in urban and rural areas; to empower an increasing number of vulnerable communities, including elderly people, children and in particular people with disabilities as a means to promote their right for protection and socially inclusive disaster reduction through community-based disaster reduction activities; to acknowledge that women are impacted differently from disasters and to make special efforts to mainstream gender in disaster risk reduction to reduce their vulnerability; and also the strengthening of legal preparedness for international disaster cooperation, in particular through the promotion and use of relevant guidelines.



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

On *mobilising resources* for disaster risk reduction: to encourage development of legal and institutional arrangements, including innovative financial mechanisms; to integrate disaster risk reduction into national, sub-national and sectoral development planning; to encourage the setting of voluntary targets in allocating resources including by the private sector; to build capacities to evaluate financial and economic costs and benefits of disaster risk reduction to promote greater investments in reducing disasters in the region; to promote comprehensive preparedness planning to mitigate the impacts of disasters; to promote resource sharing arrangements in the region; to call on the international donor community to increase its funding support for regional and national activities for disaster risk reduction and HFA implementation; and to apportion 10 percent of humanitarian assistance funding for disaster risk reduction by 2010.

On *engaging the media* in increasing coverage on disaster risk reduction: to promote training opportunities to regional, national and local media representatives and journalists to generate public risk reduction and disaster preparedness measures; and to develop broadcasting systems for the dissemination of early warnings for the Asia and Pacific region, in close collaboration with the concerned national, regional and international organisations, local authorities and civil society for conveying warning to the 'last mile'.

On *public awareness and education* for disaster risk reduction: to acknowledge the fundamental role of public awareness and education as the necessary starting point for all other disaster risk reduction initiatives; to promote inclusive education through systematic integration of disaster risk reduction into school curricula, regular teachers' training, informal and non-formal education; to strengthen cooperation and multi-stakeholder partnerships with international and regional organisations, and civil society; to recognise the value of indigenous knowledge and practices, as well as technological development such as e-learning; and where governments have made it a priority, to call on donors to provide support in building and/or retrofitting schools and education facilities to meet disaster resilient standards.

WE, DO HEREBY:

Invite the Asia and Pacific regional office of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and members of the IAP to carry the messages in this Declaration to the Second Session of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, in June 2009 and beyond.

Endeavour to report on progress made in implementing the HFA at the Second Session of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, in June 2009, and to establish regular and multi-stakeholder mechanisms for monitoring, advising and reporting for disaster risk reduction of the HFA.

Encourage the promotion, wherever appropriate, of disaster risk reduction as an integral component of adaptation efforts in regional and international fora leading to the 15th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Copenhagen, December 2009, as suggested in the Bali Action Plan.

Take into consideration recommendations from this Declaration, where appropriate, within existing policies, strategies and action plans for effective mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, including the consideration of setting targets for public spending on multi-year disaster risk reduction programmes at the national and local levels and report on their implementation at the Fourth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2010.

Call on international organisations and regional institutions to provide technical, operational and programmatic support to accelerate implementation of HFA in Asia and Pacific countries, especially the national action plans on DRR.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Encourage all stakeholders to keep health facilities safe from disasters by intensifying efforts in advocacy, support in mobilising resources for structural and non-structural components of safe health facilities, and providing technical support in essential areas of disaster resilient hospitals such as organisation, contingency planning, and preparedness activities.

Call on regional inter-governmental bodies and regional institutions to consider contributing through their existing forums to the follow-up of the AMC ministerial declarations and preparation of future AMCs.

Invite the Asia and Pacific regional office of the UNISDR in collaboration with members of the IAP to prepare a *Regional Action Plan* on the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction as well as earlier declarations in Delhi and Beijing, and to report on its progress at the Fourth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, and to also call on donors to support the preparation process and implementation of the Action Plan.

Support the Kuala Lumpur initiative on the promotion of public-private partnerships for disaster risk reduction by the Government of Malaysia, the Government of India and the Government of the Republic of Korea, the present, past and in-coming hosts of the Asian Ministerial Conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction.

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the countries of Asia and the Pacific, attending the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, and on behalf of all participants, place on record our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of Malaysia for their gracious hospitality in hosting and organising the Conference and welcome the offer of the Government of the Republic of Korea to host the Fourth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Incheon, in 2010.

ADOPTED in Kuala Lumpur on 4 December in the year 2008.

Appendix 5 : Ministerial Statements at the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

**HON. DATO' SERI MOHAMED NAZRI ABDUL AZIZ
MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT
HEAD OF DELEGATION, MALAYSIA**

At the outset, may I once again welcome Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates and Conference participants to Malaysia for The Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. Malaysia is indeed honoured to continue the regional disaster risk reduction efforts as expounded in the two previous Conferences in Beijing and Delhi. We are here today to further deliberate and to form concrete action plan in reducing disasters through the integrated efforts of various multi-stakeholder.

Recommendations were made in Delhi to review innovations on public-private-partnership through corporate social responsibilities and sustained business continuity practices and opportunities for investment. The participation of civil societies was also sought in the planning and implementation of developments projects, whilst the involvement of media of creating awareness and in dissemination of early warning was supported by the government. *The Delhi Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction* also promotes review by national government and international organisations on the commitment of their resources for early recovery programs and the integration of disaster risk reduction into rehabilitation and reconstruction strategies and programs.

The above recommendations are in line with the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in reducing the impact of disaster on lives, livelihood and the development of the nation. Not all disaster can be easily prevented but their impact and all the underlying risk can certainly be reduced through concerted efforts and cooperation between stakeholders. Therefore the Conference's theme "Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction from National to Local" highlight the importance of multi-stakeholder response to disaster – be it the Government, the private sectors, the mass media or civil societies as a cohesive unit to build resilience in communities against the treat of disasters.

As we are all fully aware the world is facing harsher and more frequent disasters stemming from global climate change, environmental degradation as well as other man-made disasters. Human lives losses and damages are growing exponentially around the Asia-Pacific region. Malaysia is blessed in that the country is not assailed with disasters that are catastrophic in nature. Nevertheless, we do experience our fair share of disaster especially the monsoonal floods, landslides and strong storm surges during the monsoons seasons. Worse still, some disasters transcend national boundaries.

Under the circumstances, the existing disaster management policy and mechanism introduced by the Government ensures cohesive participation and involvement of various government agencies and non-government sectors in addressing disaster management in accordance to the role and function of the agencies concerned. Among others, the Irrigation and Drainage Department is responsible to maintain and upgrade the flood mitigation and the early warning system. To reduce the risk of landslides, the Public Works Department has developed a National Plan on Slope Management. The Malaysian Meteorological Department is entrusted to disseminate information on weather forecast as well as to enhance Malaysia's National Tsunami Early Warning System. To enhance Malaysia's capacity to manage disasters ongoing efforts are in place to review the effectiveness of existing Standard Operating Procedures.

Human lives can be saved if information are disseminated and communities are informed of actions to be taken during a disaster. In this respect governments will not be able to do this on their own and the non-government sectors will have to be incorporated as partners in undertaking. In Malaysia the Government has collaborated with Telecom Malaysia to introduce a 'Disaster Alert System'. Simultaneous land line messages are sent to targeted communities in identified areas at the on set of disaster. Another public cooperation is the introduction of the national integrated hotline "999" which has been found to provide prompt and coordinated responses to disaster.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

To ensure sustainable development, Government linked companies such as Petronas and Sime Darby which have been tasked to attract foreign direct investment and infrastructural development in the country have also taken the initiatives to apply flood mitigation strategies and the risk assessment in potential development areas. Public-private-partnership innovation is also evident in the construction of the state-of-the-art Stormwater and Road Tunnel (Smart Tunnel) system built by Malaysian Mining Corporation and Gamuda Berhad to prevent the occurrence of flood in the capital city.

Learning from the experiences, Malaysia is now propagating the implementation of sustained business continuity practices. For example Amanah Iktiar Malaysia has incorporated a cooperative concept to raise fund for individuals affected by the eventualities and natural disaster. In addressing disasters, the Government to has acted promptly by distributing RM 500 million in the form of micro credits distributed through local commercial bank aimed at recovery aimed at recovering businesses and rebuilding damaged infrastructures during the widespread monsoonal flood of 2006.

In Malaysia, a special National Disaster Fund is founded by the Government to provide monetary assistance to affected communities to rebuild their lives, livelihood and homes. Fund is sourced through the public, private sector, non-government organization as well as civil societies. The corporate entities have responded positively by contributing on average RM 20 million annually to the fund.

Mr. Chairman,

In order to establish a sustainable and resilient environment for the local community, the Government has encouraged the participation and involvement of civil societies. Non-government organisations such as MERCY Malaysia, AMAN Malaysia, Force of Nature and The Malaysian Red Crescent Society play an important role in disaster risk reduction by enhancing public awareness in disaster risk prevention, mitigation and preparedness. In recent years, these non-state actors with their well organized set up and overreaching influence have achieved much in propagating the spirit of voluntarism among Malaysians.

In this age of information, the media plays a crucial role in disaster risk reduction. Members of the press should be well trained so they could become an effective medium to raise awareness and to involve public in risk reduction and disaster preparedness measures and to involve public risk reduction and disaster preparedness measures, working hand in hand with the Government, non-government organisation and most importantly the vulnerable communities prone to disaster. The media also disseminate best practices and achievements by other countries in the region in their successful implementation of disaster risk reduction measures. In the past, local mainstream media like The New Straits Times and TV3 had acted promptly by establishing welfare funds for the victims of local and international disasters.

At the aftermath of the Tsunami in December 2004, Malaysia has integrated disaster risk reduction into rehabilitation and reconstruction strategies in various affected part of the country in line with the nation's National Urbanisation Policy. Each project includes the reconstruction of essential utilities, provision of medical healthcare, reconstruction and resettlement of houses and strategies for the economic well-being of the affected communities.

Malaysia is hopeful that this conference would prove to be a conclusive platform to discuss the formulation of new ideas to ensure the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and in identifying common grounds among local, national, regional and international stakeholders in addressing the new challenges brought about by disasters.

Thank you.



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

**DR. BHICHIT RATTAKUL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ASIAN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS CENTER (ADPC)**

Excellencies, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen;

1. It is a pleasure and honour to share my thoughts with you today, on the challenges we must address in achieving concrete progress in reducing disaster risks in Asia through "Multi-stakeholder Partnership from National to Local".
2. It is significant that we meet here today at the 03rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction that in many ways signaled the political commitment and will to reduce of impacts of Natural Disasters.
3. I am also extremely happy to see that the theme of this conference is "Multi-stakeholder Partnership from National to Local", which is of great concern specially standing at the midpoint between the implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action of 2015.
4. It is a pleasure and honour for ADPC to deliver a plenary statement today not only because of our role in the region as a long serving member of the ISDR system, but because this conference advances to the paradigm shift that is rightly moving towards decentralization through Multi-stakeholder partnership from National to Local.
5. This third ministerial conference on Disaster Risk Reduction must plan and show how to accelerate the pace of implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action through "Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction; From National to Local". We must recognize that, it's a quarter of decade since the Kobe conference and even longer if you consider the beginnings of the modern DRR movement as early 1990 with the start of the International Decade of Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR).
6. ADPC, established in 1986, four years before the start of the IDNDR has developed and implemented projects and programmes on a broad range of disciplines and sections.

Excellencies, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen;

7. Regional Consultative Committee (RCC), represented by the heads of NDMOs of 26 Asian countries to which ADPC acts as the secretariat, would serve as the senior government official follow up meeting to the Ministerial Conference. The RCC mechanism would facilitate to monitor and follow-up the ministerial commitments and declarations with National Disaster Management Offices and concerned ministries of the respective countries.
8. In 2005, RCC member countries adopted the Hanoi RCC 5 Statement on Mainstreaming DRR into Development thus highlighting the commitment of the countries to integrate DRR into development.
9. This program launched in 2004 at the 4th RCC meeting in Dhaka have been developing Guidelines and implementing Priority Implementation Partnerships in various RCC member countries in partnership with the National Disaster Management Offices and the concerned Sectoral Ministries, to take forward the agenda of mainstreaming DRR into development. The program has been playing an important role of advocating for DRR into development at a regional level and taking forward the ongoing ISDR Global campaign on 'Disaster Risk Reduction begins at school' and the planned campaign on 'Hospitals safe from disasters'.
10. Reducing disaster risk is integrally linked Development to achieve sustainable development and lifting masses out of grinding poverty, a key aim we set ourselves at the turn of the 20th century with the globally agreed Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We must recognize that establishing multi-stakeholder partnership is itself one sure way to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience of communities to natural hazards, as committed in HFA and our earlier Yokohama plan for a safer world. We must now consciously integrate our actions for HFA implementation to the regional and national strategies and action plans through multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder approach in each of our countries from national to local.

Excellencies, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen;

11. This is the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference for Natural Disaster Risk Reduction which gave us an agenda; "Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction; From National to Local" that linked to decentralization of resources and authority of decision making for implementing DRR activities at national, sub-national and local levels. For all of us who call for implementing DRR activities through, we have much to learn from the successes and failures, and the strategies and tactics that those pioneers employed in making Disaster Risk Reduction as an integral part of political and technical decision making today.
12. I am pleased to inform you that Asia is very rich in experiences of innovative approaches to Disaster Risk Reduction. As active partners in this region, you have vast experience and many indigenous good

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

practices to share with during this conference. I must mention here that one of the key achievements over last few years is the enhanced Coordination and Collaboration Mechanism and Partnerships Structure that now exists among global, regional and local disaster management organizations and the renewed confidence that they have gained and enjoyed at present.

13. In 2008, RCC 07 meeting held in Colombo, member countries reaffirmed the commitment to taking up national programs on CBDRM reflecting the evolving perspective of CBDRM with move towards community leadership for DRR, called for greater engagement, partnership and integration with local government mechanisms for disaster management and development.
14. They reaffirmed to identify solutions for upscaling CBDRM and affirmed the need for enhanced resources from national and local government and prioritized implementation plan for CBDRM focusing on high risk sub regions in each member country.
15. As ADPC, we recognize the phrase- "*Think Global, Act Local*". Local communities and local governments at the commune, city and district level face the major impact of disasters and are the first responders. Such local efforts, often self reliant and volunteer based for preparedness to face disasters, save the environment, develop sustainable livelihoods and combat risk have come of age and have their own unique, innovative, local solutions. These need to inspire us and shape our approach and vision.
16. For the last 20 years, ADPC has also been playing a vital role in the region to advocate for and build capacity on Community based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR). Our long experience of working with national and local partners on CBDRR has led to the development of the Critical Guidelines on CBDRR. This Guidelines is believed would provide the development practitioners with common principles, processes and approaches in the identification, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation on community based projects on Disaster risk reduction, thus contributing to the improvement in practice.
17. I sincerely believe that this conference would reinforce our commitments to take forward DRR and provide us with a broader strategic direction for the coming years.

Excellencies, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen;

18. As ADPC, we promise to work harder to deepen these partnerships and to work together to accomplish our shared goals of safer communities and sustainable development through disaster reduction. Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Malaysia for its generous support to host the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction here in Kuala Lumpur and our partners from the Asia region for their kind attention to participate at this event. We are very much grateful to you.

Thank you.



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

**DR. ABDUL MATIN ADRAK
GENERAL DIRECTOR
AFGHANISTAN NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (ANDMA)
AFGHANISTAN**

Excellencies

Dato Seri Mohamed Nazri Abd.Aziz, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department,
Mr.Salvano Briceno, Director of UN-ISDR,
Dato' Muhammad Hatta Ab. Aziz, Secretary to the National Security Council of Malaysia
And Chairman of the conference.

Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen

First of all let me on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan thank the Government of Malaysia for hosting the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and the people of Malaysia for their warm and generous hospitality to us. It is great pleasure to all of us that we come to gather for disaster risk reduction at the regional level today here, as we all know that Asia is the most vulnerable region all over the world and highest level of poverty also caused increasing of vulnerability in this region. Hyogo Framework For Action 2005-2010 was the most important international goal for disaster risk reduction and implementing of that is our international, regional and national responsibility. Two years past from 1st Ministerial Conference in Beijing and one year from 2nd Ministerial in Delhi but still there are lot of problems and weakness in most of the regional countries.

So let's give hand and help each other's toward implementing the HFA specially helping of weak and poor countries are more necessary. Toward achieving the goals, it is very important that first of all a very strong communication, coordination and cooperation network should be established among the region countries. Then we will be managed to know about our capacities and challenges as well as at regional level.

Last year in my country, Afghanistan, more than 1,500 people and 300,000 livestock lost their lives because of harsh winter and avalanches, in that hard situation the regional countries assistance were expected. Climate change in this region is another risk that frequently happening in region countries, now in Afghanistan more than 6 million people are living under the poverty line because of serious drought and these people need for urgent food and none food relieves. So your excellencies Donors, UNDP, UNISDR, OCHA brother and friend countries like Japan, Saudi Arab, Iran ,Australia , Malaysia, China and India are kindly requested to help Afghanistan.

And last but not the least before another disaster hit us we have the opportunity to act quickly for prevention, mitigation and preparedness now. Finally we look forward to successful conclusion of this conference and pledge our strong support and full confidence in your leader ship and hope to have effective system of Prevention, Mitigation and Response in place at this region.

Thank you

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

MR. TONY PEARCE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AUSTRALIA

Good afternoon, my name is Tony Pearce and I am the Director General of Emergency Management Australia. I would like to open by offering the apologies of our Federal Attorney General, the Honourable Robert McClellan who was unable to attend today as a result of his Parliamentary obligations. I am pleased to participate on behalf of the Australian Government in this Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, here in Kuala Lumpur.

Australia strongly believes that a focus on disaster risk reduction saves lives. Countries that adopt a disaster risk reduction approach protect their industries and economies from the devastating negative impacts of disasters and will be better equipped to lead and manage disaster response. Accordingly, it is important that we match our efforts on disaster response with considered and focused work on disaster risk reduction. For Australia, disaster risk reduction is both a key domestic issue as well as an important theme of our international engagement. Over the past few years, Australia has borne the impact of a number of damaging natural disasters including tropical cyclones, widespread bushfires, floods, severe storms and severe drought. These have caused loss of life and significantly affected communities, livelihoods and local economies. As such, all levels of government in Australia, in partnership with communities and business, are committed to reducing the risk from natural hazards and disasters.

The Australian Government is a strong supporter of the Hyogo Framework for Action. Since 2005, the Australian Government has made significant progress in implementing the five action areas identified in the Framework. These activities and programs focus on a multi-hazard approach to reducing disaster risk, and build on a strong existing culture of emergency response and recovery in the broader Australian community. I would like to outline some key approaches that the Australian Government has taken to support disaster risk reduction.

1. To build greater community preparedness and develop a culture of disaster resilience, all levels of government in Australia undertake risk assessments and support early warning systems. Our national meteorological and geoscience agencies maintain world class systems that facilitate early warnings for tropical cyclones, tsunamis, severe storms and bushfires.
2. The Australian Government is working closely with State and Local Governments on a nationally consistent emergency warning system to provide timely and accurate warnings and provide useful information and advice for individual and community responses to disasters.
3. Recognising the importance of disaster reduction for ensuring sustainable development, particularly in the face of climate change, the Australian Government supports effort to mitigate extreme weather events.

Australia's Regional Efforts

In 2008-09, Australia is supporting disaster risk reduction efforts in 28 countries, most in the Asia Pacific region. Our support extends to efforts to build community resilience; to strengthen National Disaster Management Offices; to greater regional coordination and to global efforts that will achieve greater disaster reduction impacts. Last week the Prime Minister, the Hon. Kevin Rudd opened the new Asia Pacific Civil Military Centre of Excellence that will coordinate Australian Government agencies in civil military cooperation. The centre aims to contribute to peace and security in the region by assisting government and non-government organisations to improve civil-military cooperation when responding to disasters and conflicts. Australia and Indonesia recently announced the establishment of an Australia-Indonesia Disaster Reduction Facility based in Jakarta. The facility will provide a platform for bilateral and regional efforts to reduce the incidence of disasters and strengthen the capacity of national governments.

Mitigation - Grant Programs

Domestically the Australian Government has allocated \$27.4 million annually in grants for the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program, Bushfire Mitigation Program and the National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund. These programs are a significant commitment by the Government to building the capacity of communities to prevent, prepare for, and recover from emergencies arising from natural hazards.



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

NDMP

The Natural Disaster Mitigation Program was introduced in response to recommendations of the Council of Australian Governments August 2002 report titled *Natural Disasters in Australia: Reforming Mitigation, Relief and Recovery Arrangements*. The program was implemented initially for five years, commencing in 2003-04 and expiring in 2007-08. The Natural Disaster Mitigation Program provides funding for mitigation activities such as natural disaster risk management studies, warning systems, community education initiatives and structural works to protect against damage (e.g. flood levees, cyclone shelters, bushfire asset protection zones).

BMP

The Bushfire Mitigation Program was introduced in 2004-05, with \$15 million committed over three years. This is a national program and is aimed at identifying and addressing bushfire mitigation risk priorities across Australia. It funds construction and maintenance of fire trails and associated accessibility measures that contribute to the development of safer communities better able to prepare for, respond to, and withstand the effects of bushfires. All three levels of government, that is, Local, State and Federal provide funding under the mitigation programs. Generally, the Australian (Federal) Government contributes up to one third of approved project costs. Funding applications are submitted to lead agencies in each state and territory and are assessed and prioritized by assessment committees in each state and territory. State/territory ministers notify the Australian Government of recommended projects on the advice of the assessment committees. The Federal Attorney-General approves funding under the program based on these recommendations.

NEVSF

The National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund was introduced in 2004/05 to provide funding aimed at boosting the attraction, recruitment, retention and training of volunteers in organisations that are at the frontline of emergency management. Projects funded under the National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund include volunteer recruitment campaigns; establishment and upgrade of facilities to support the work of volunteers in the emergency services sector; training; and public education programs. This programs funding has now been incorporated into Emergency Management Australia's core budget. Approximately \$3.2 million is available for distribution each year.

Dingo Creek

Last month, the Australian Attorney-General the Hon. Robert McClelland, launched the interactive on-line school education learning object resource called Dingo Creek which is available via the internet on the EMA school education webpage. The Dingo Creek on-line game engages students:

- To identify risks from natural disasters to their immediate community; and
- To use the emergency risk management process to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters on the Australian environment.

Concisely mapped to local education curriculum, Dingo Creek is supported by both an extensive Teaching Manual and eight off-line lesson plans. The off-line activities provide opportunity for students to raise awareness of local risks of natural disaster, emergency risk management process and aims to enhance community resilience to the effects of natural disaster. The Dingo Creek on-line game is the perfect tool aimed at school aged children (between 10 - 14 years old) understand how they can help their families and communities to better protect themselves and their homes against such disasters.

Conclusion

In summary, Australia is committed to supporting the ongoing implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action both nationally and internationally, as a key mechanism for reducing the risk posed by disasters. We welcome the ISDR's ongoing efforts to promote and accelerate implementation of the Framework, especially in the Asia Pacific region. We acknowledge the role of ISDR as a key body responsible for raising public awareness and expanding political support for disaster risk reduction. As such, we encourage the ISDR to continue fostering this role and furthering its capacity to support disaster risk reduction in Asia and also the Pacific Region.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

K. H. MAASUD SIDDIQUI
JOINT SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT AND DIRECTOR GENERAL
DISASTER MANAGEMENT BUREAU
MINISTRY OF FOOD AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT
GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

Excellencies, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen

First of all on behalf of the Government Bangladesh, I take this opportunity to put on record our sincere gratitude and high appreciation to the Government of Malaysia for their gracious hospitality in organising this "3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction".

As you know that the people of Bangladesh are living with natural hazards. Reoccurrence of floods in greater intensity, droughts, saline intrusion, cyclones and extreme weather events are affecting all sectors of the economy and the livelihoods of millions of Bangladeshis. It is the poorest who are the most vulnerable and the worst affected. The Government of Bangladesh fully appreciates that unless we act now, the situation could get much worse putting development and the sustainability of the achievements in reaching the MDGs at great risk. In the absence of action to prevent disaster and climatic shifts, flood prone areas in Bangladesh will increase substantially by 2050, with millions of people affected annually. Salinity intrusion along with the coastal belt, drought and changes in the rainfall pattern across the country will affect agriculture and jeopardize food security, particularly for the poorest. The melting of the Himalayan glaciers will affect water security in the wider region. We are encouraged to know that to ensure food security in emergencies the Malaysian Government is providing one million US dollars per year as their annual contribution to a centre which will operate from Subang. The above mentioned impacts could potentially deprive millions of the gains from development and have severe geo-political and security implications. For a country such as Bangladesh, it will be vital to address effectively the impacts of the disaster and climate change if the MDGS and other internationally agreed goals are to be sustained. In line with the HFA five priority actions the Government of Bangladesh is undertaking comprehensive action plan for disaster risk reduction in the country. Some of the achievements are mentioned below:

- Paradigm shift from relief culture to more comprehensive risk reduction culture
- DRR has been mainstreamed in the national poverty reduction strategy paper
- Bangladesh disaster management regulative framework has been developed and implementation is in progress.
- Proactively engaged in the SAARC regional co-operation on DRR
- Applying participatory approach for community vulnerability and risk assessment in disaster management.
- Strengthening flood forecasting technology
- Strengthening the cyclone preparedness programme
- Strengthening the Bangladesh meteorological department
- Establishing the disaster management information network
- Building public-private partnership for reducing the underlying risk factors
- Campaign for DRR in education
- Formulation of national building code
- Earthquake and tsunami preparedness
- Urban disaster risk reduction and management
- Disaster preparedness for emergency response and recovery

The government of Bangladesh is working with all stakeholders to build an effective partnership to lead local regional and global action on DRR. Our DRR framework is aligned with MDGS, HFA, and PRSP. There is no room for complacency in DRR management and we still have a long way to go to achieve all the targets in DRR. We need to act decisively and urgently to address the challenges and threats that disaster and climate change pose and exploit the opportunities it offers for regional and international co-operation.

The Government of Bangladesh is fully committed to implement the initiatives taken by UNISDR, HFA and the declaration of Beijing, Delhi and proposed Kuala Lumpur declaration and call on all other parties to strengthen their own strategic plans and steer their economies toward a disaster resilient development.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform the conference that the Government of Bangladesh has earmarked USD\$45 million for the Climatic Change Fund from its own revenue budget and the British Government has committed to £75 million to assist Bangladesh in dealing with the impact of climate change.



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Finally, the Government of Bangladesh wishes to express its gratitude to the Government of Malaysia for hosting this Conference as well as to ISDR, ESCAP, OCHA, ADPC, IFRC and others who have contributed to the holding of this Conference.

Thank you.

THE HONORABLE MINISTER, LYONPO MINJUR DORJI, MINISTRY OF HOME AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN

His Excellency, Seri Mohammed Nazri Bin Abdul Aziz, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department,
Honorable Dato Mohammed Hatta Bin Abdul Aziz, Secretary, National Security Council and Chairman of the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference,
Honorable Ministers from various countries,
Distinguished delegates,
Representatives from the ISDR and various conference partners,
Representatives from various media agencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honour and privilege to address this very important forum – the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Management, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. First of all, my apologies for not being able to participate in the pre-conference session due to unforeseen disruption in flight schedules pertaining to recent events in Bangkok.

Since the 1st Asian Ministerial Conference in Beijing, China in 2005, this conference has been an essential forum for discussion and sharing of experiences at the highest level. We cannot begin to underscore the value of such a forum, which brings together policy makers, development partners, researchers and disaster management practitioners in a comprehensive manner at all levels.

It is indeed a necessary forum for all stakeholders to share experiences, knowledge, and information and strengthen our coordination and common resolve towards disaster preparedness and the fulfillment of the Hyogo Framework of Action.

Bhutan has been fortunate not to have experienced major disasters, resulting in huge loss of lives and property. However, in view of the geo-physical location of the country in one of the most seismically active regions of the world, rapid urbanization, the increasing threat from Glacial Lake Outburst Floods and undeniable effects of Climate Change, it is the priority of the government to institute a comprehensive disaster management strategy in the country and mainstream disaster risk reduction concerns in all development plans and activities.

Since the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2005 in Kobe, Japan and the adoption of the Hyogo Framework of Action, Bhutan has been striving diligently to encompass and implement the Five Priorities of Action in our Disaster Management plans and activities.

The National Disaster Risk Management Framework endorsed in 2006, adopts a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary strategy, recognizing the roles of different sectors and agencies. At present, we are in the process of formulating a disaster management act and various planning guidelines that would re-enforce decentralized and empowered disaster management authorities at all levels. With this enabling environment in place, we hope to ensure multi-stakeholder partnerships at all levels and encourage mainstreaming of disaster concerns into all development plans and activities.

As a mountainous country with harsh terrain, fragile eco-system, isolated and dispersed settlements and threats from 25 potentially dangerous glacial lakes, another priority for Bhutan is to set up a comprehensive disaster communications network and end-to-end early warning systems. We are now in the process of finalizing our modes of communication and standard protocols.

Another priority for Bhutan is to cultivate a culture of disaster risk reduction and preparedness through awareness and education. As schools are important community nodes and learning centers with the largest outreach

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

potential, we have launched a safe schools campaign, through which we provide basic first responder training to school authorities and conduct mock drills in pilot schools in each of the twenty districts in Bhutan.

In coordination with our risk reduction activities, we are also in the process of strengthening our preparedness and response capacities. In April 2008, the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) Team conducted a national response preparedness assessment resulting in 38 recommendations. In the process of implementing these recommendations we have conducted our first response simulation exercise and are in the process of formulating our National Contingency Plan.

I may add here that the strides Bhutan has made in our disaster management efforts would not have been possible without the generous assistance and support from our development partners and agencies. We are ever grateful to them for sharing their knowledge, experience and resources.

Before concluding, I feel it is an opportune time for me to share that 2008 is a special year in the history of Bhutan as we celebrate a hundred years of monarchy, the enthronement of our Fifth King and the transition from a Monarchy to a parliamentary democracy. As a member of the Cabinet in the first elected government of Bhutan, I can assure you all of the government's strong commitment and support to all disaster management endeavors in our country.

In conclusion I would like to first of all thank the host country Malaysia for their kind and warm hospitality and congratulate them on the efficient and splendid arrangements they have put in place. I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to all the conference partners for facilitating the participation of our delegation.

Lastly, I wish all delegates here fruitful discussions and I hope that the conference achieves its planned outcomes. With this I re-affirm Bhutan's commitment in making our world a disaster-resilient place.

Thank you and Tashi Delek!

THE HONOURABLE PEHIN DATO ADANAN YUSOF, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

The Honourable
Dato' Seri Mohamed Nazri bin Tan Sri Abdul Aziz,
Minister in the Prime Minister's Department,

His Excellency Dato' Muhammad Hatta bin Ab. Aziz
Chairman of the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction,

Honourable Ministers
Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, and very good afternoon.

1. On behalf of the Brunei Darussalam's delegation, I would like to convey our utmost appreciation to the Government of Malaysia for hosting this conference and for the warm hospitality accorded to us. I would also like to express my sincere congratulation to you, Dato' Muhammad Hatta bin Ab. Aziz as the Chair of this 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference. With your vast experience and able leadership, I am confident that this conference will come to a successful conclusion.
2. It is always an invaluable experience for me to visit Kuala Lumpur again to be invited at this conference and share our experience on Disaster Risk Reduction.
3. At the outset, I congratulate the Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia for his gracious presence and his inspiring inaugural speech and for sharing with us



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

his thoughts on the issues of disaster risk reduction. He has set the direction for this Conference and laid down important issues before us for our deliberation.

4. The theme of this Conference, "Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction from National to Local", is indeed very appropriate and timely as we are now witnessing events developing round us that demand our collaboration and cooperation in mitigating the effects of natural disasters. Our presence here is a testimony that we are all committed and seriously concerned about global warming, floods, earthquakes, landslides, tsunamis and forest fires, to name a few.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. A natural disaster does not recognize boundaries. They usually led to political, security, economic and socio-cultural impacts. When it does, such disasters affect the livelihood of vulnerable group of people - the elderly, women and children. In many cases, the severity of such disasters cannot be handled by a country alone, or let alone a local community or multi-stakeholders within the country. When this happens, a helping hand in the form of cooperation and assistance by countries far and nearby, international, regional organization and other relief agencies are very much welcomed. These cooperation and assistance help to reduce the pressure on the government and local communities and they help the affected people to stand up again and put their lives back together. However, in order to meet the challenges ahead, accelerated efforts must be made to build the necessary capacities at the community and national levels to manage and reduce risk for sustainable development.
6. It is encouraging to see that we have seen stronger cooperation and collaboration between countries and with international bodies in addressing natural disasters. We managed to join other countries and international bodies in providing assistance to the affected countries (including Republic of Indonesia from the Tsunami in 2004, the People's Republic of China who suffered the massive earthquake in Yunnan Province in 2007 and recently [May 2008], the Union of Myanmar when the Cyclone Nargis struck Yangon and its surrounding areas).

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. We thank Allah the Almighty that Brunei Darussalam has been blessed and our experience on natural disaster has been limited to flash flood, strong wind, forest fires and haze. We too are fortunate that these disasters had not resulted in loss of lives, while the damage to property are limited.
8. Having said that we are not complacent. On this regard, in 1997, the Fire and Rescue Department of Brunei Darussalam has established Disaster Unit, in anticipation of increasing number of weather-related natural disasters. This unit coordinated responses with relevant stakeholders such as Ministry of Defense, Police, Public Works Department, District Offices as well as local community leaders, in support of the Fire and Rescue operations.
9. Over the years, we recognized the importance of institutionalizing our approach in managing disasters so as to make it more systematic and integrated in all aspects of disaster management. The Brunei Darussalam's Disaster Management Order in 2006 has a provision for the National Disaster Council whose chairman is His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office. The Minister of Home Affairs acts as the Permanent Deputy Chairman. Subsequently, National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) was established in August 2006.
10. The establishment of NDMC which is the Secretariat and as a focal point of all disaster management programmes, has significantly enhanced the efficiency and effectiveness of Brunei Darussalam's efforts in managing disasters in the country. The Centre proved its ability by coordinating and working through partnership with multi-stakeholders such as government, private sectors, NGOs as well as local communities in delivering relief and emergency services when some parts of the country were hit by floods, landslides and strong wind. The high level of cooperation and collaboration with these stakeholders especially the grassroots leaders was the success factor in dealing with those disasters.
11. NDMC is a relatively new centre. We are now embarking to enhance the main infrastructure, Disaster Command Centre, Disaster Management System as well as expanding the organization. We also intend to strengthen our capacity building that would disseminate relevant knowledge and information on hazard, vulnerabilities and capacities. In this context, Brunei Darussalam welcomes expert assistance and cooperation from members of this Conference and relevant international organizations.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

12. NDMC acts as focal point in international and regional cooperation notably through ASEAN Committee of Disaster Management (ACDM). Our participation in 'ASEAN Regional Programme on Disaster Management' has helped us to develop our capacity in many areas in disaster management, including disaster risk reduction and disaster response. This enabled us to be more strategic and working together through partnership in implementing disaster risk reduction in line with the priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

13. In July 2007, about 200 houses on our water village, called Kampong Ayer, were badly damaged by strong wind and needed urgent repair. Through concerted effort by multi-sectoral partnership such as government agencies, district offices, local community leaders, private sectors and the public have enabled the government to respond rapidly and to provide relief to the affected victims within much shorter time, 5 days. Within this period, all of those affected had their houses repaired whilst a few had their homes rebuilt within a month. The success of this effort was attributed by the overwhelming support by the private sector and the community in contributing donation, manpower and materials.
14. Likewise, the success of multi-sectoral partnership is also proven in February this year when we experienced a major flood in Temburong, one of our districts. This was one of the worst floods in 40 years. We found that communication and distance were big obstacles for immediate relief assistance. However, this was overcome by the establishment of the local command centre under the leadership provided by local district officer with the strong support of village consultative councils. Through the centre, all relief efforts were coordinated and recovery was soon underway once the flood recessed and the work was completed within a few days.
15. Our efforts were strongly supported by the commitment at the highest level. In this case, we are fortunate that His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, being a caring leader and high commitment has paid personal attention to the well-being of his people and visited the affected areas to ensure relief efforts carried out efficiently and effectively.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

16. Let me once again express our congratulations to our host for this important Conference. Brunei Darussalam is delighted to be part of this international community with a common vision and goal as outlined by the Hyogo Framework for Action. We join the others in this Conference in strongly supporting the theme and look forward to the meaningful deliberation.

Thank you.

Wabillahi Taufik Wal Hidayah, Wassalamualaikum Warrahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

**LUO PINGFEI, VICE MINISTER OF CIVIL AFFAIRS,
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

Honorable Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen:

First, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, I would like to extend my warm congratulations to the convocation of the 3rd Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction! I would also express my sincere thanks to the Malaysian Government for its elaborate preparations for the meeting!

The meeting is an important follow-up to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in January 2005 in Hyogo Japan, and the two Asian Conferences on Disaster Reduction held respectively in September 2005 in Beijing China, and November 2007 in India.

It is worth noting that 2008 is an unusual year for China. In 2008, China was twice encountered with catastrophes. One was the low-temperature induced freeze disaster early this year, and the other was the 8.0 Richter scale earthquakes in Wenchun County of the Sichuan province. To tackle this disaster, the Chinese government has leveraged resources extensively and mobilized strength of the entire country for the disaster

resistance and relief. Meanwhile, the Chinese government has been effectively supported by the world, including many Asian countries. On behalf the Chinese government, I would like to extend our heart-felt gratitude to all countries, organization, business and friends for their care and assistance to the Chinese people!

Centering on the topics of today's conference, I'd like to briefly introduce to you major effort of the Chinese government since the 2nd Asian Conference on the Disaster Reduction, and propose suggestion for further disaster reduction cooperation within the region of Asia.

I. China's Major Efforts in Disaster Resistance and Disaster Relief in 2008

In early 2008, Southern China was hit by a very severe low-temperature induced freeze. The disaster fell during the Spring Festival, a most important traditional Chinese festival for family gathering, on regions with key power transmission lines, material transportation backbone, high population density. The disaster was featured by huge temperature drop range, high precipitation intensity, long duration and wide coverage, therefore incurring huge losses. Emergency displacement amounted to 1.16 million, and direct economic loss reached 151.65 billion Yuan.

On May 12th 2008, an intense earthquake of 8.0 magnitudes on the Richter scale jolted Wenchun County of Sichuan Province and affected 10 provinces in China. The total disaster area was around 500,000 square kilometers, and the casualty number exceeded 46.25 million. Over 80,000 Chinese were missing or dead and 15.1 million people were subject to emergency transfer and resettlement. The direct economic loss of this disaster was 852.309 billion Yuan.

Facing the two catastrophes, the Chinese government took up the following measure:

(I) *establish timely the reaction command center.*

Confronting the freeze disaster, the Chinese government established the Emergency Reaction Command Center for Coal and Oil Transportation, Power Transmission and Disaster Relief, under which 6 affiliates were set up targeting respectively (1) coal and oil transportation and power transmission; (2) road transportation maintenance; (3) power grid maintenance; (4) disaster relief and market assurance; (5) post-disaster reconstruction; and (6) press and publicity.

On the very day of the quake eruption, the Chinese Government established the State Council Earthquake Resistance and the Disaster Relief Command Center, headed by Premier Wen Jiabao, and equipped with 9 affiliate working groups. Meanwhile, frontline command centers were established right on spot of the disaster areas. All levels of governments in the disaster areas established disaster resistance and relief leading offices to ensure efficient operations of the disaster resistance and relief mechanism.

(II) *Do the uttermost to relieve disaster victims.*

The Chinese Government has always put people as the center of disaster resistance and relief. During the earthquake, the Chinese government dispatched over 146,000 PLA officers and soldiers, armed police force, and over 75,000 militia and reserve police officers and soldiers, armed police forces, militia and reserve police officers for disaster relief and salvation. Local people were transferred and resettled, with an aggregate number of 1.486 million. 84,000 lives were grabbed back from rubbles. 55,000 tourists were timely rescued and evacuated. To ensure the earthquake victims were well fed and dressed, had temporary residence, and had access to clean water, the Chinese Government timely allocated the emergency fund, responsively delivered tent, quilts, food, medicine and other disaster relief materials, flexibly readjusted its relief policies and properly settled the disaster victims.

(III) *Mobilize the entire country to participate in disaster relief.*

The Chinese government made particular efforts to channel all walks of the life into disaster relief. Since the eruption of the Wenchuan Earthquake, the Chinese government timely mobilized resources of personnel, technology, capital, and information for earthquake rescue. Over 1.3 million person time volunteers from in and out of China were on spot of the disaster frontline for life search, medical treatment and rescue, hygiene and vaccination, material distribution, among other voluntary services. Overseas rescue teams and medical teams went directly to the frontline for operation. Over 160 countries and 10 international organization offered capital and material assistance. The Chinese Government set the assistance tactics of matching each of the 20 disaster stricken counties and cities with one province or municipality in China. By Nov. 25th, the Chinese Government has altogether received 60 billion Yuan worth of donation money (over 50 billion Yuan) and materials from in and abroad.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

(IV) Disclose information timely and accurately.

Immediately after the low-temperature induced freeze and Wenchuan earthquake, the Chinese government launched the contingency publicity and report mechanism. The State Council Information Office and Disaster areas' local governments held regular press conferences. Mainframe CPC media and government portals had created a sound social opinion environment for disaster resistance and relief. They delivered timely important decisions and deployment of the Central Government, announced to the public the disaster situation in the first instance, posted related information authoritatively and timely, voiced strongly unyielding and solitary national spirits and heart-twisting heroic stories happening to the soldier and the people and their combat against the natural disaster, and actively influenced social opinions.

(V) Scientifically set the restoration plan.

Since the Wenchuan earthquake, the Chinese government launched timely the disaster area and loss evaluation, deployed far-sighted post-disaster restoration plans, made elaborate arrangements, clarified goals, tasks, responsibility subject, focus, timeframe and policy measures for post-disaster restoration, and issued the Overall Restoration Plan after the Wenchuan Earthquake and 10 specific plans on township system, rural development, urban and rural housing, disaster prevention and reduction, as well as ecological restoration. The Chinese Government expects to restore, within 3 years, basic living condition and economic and social development levels in the disaster area, to equal or exceed the pre-disaster level.

II. Progress since the 2nd Asian Disaster Reduction Conference

The Chinese Government puts disaster reduction high on the agenda. From the *Hyogo Action Framework* to the two Asian Disaster Relief Conferences to now, the Chinese Government has made constant effort to integrate disaster risk reduction into a country's sustainable development policies and actions and actively develop the national disaster reduction platform, under the guidelines of comprehensive reduction and with the aim to build up disaster reduction capacity. Major efforts of the Chinese Government include:

(I) Integrate disaster reduction into the national development plan and social policies.

In August 2007, the Chinese Government promulgated China's 11th Five-year Plan on the Comprehensive Disaster Reduction. In accordance with this Plan, the Chinese Government aims to improve the nation's comprehensive disaster reduction capacity by establishing mechanisms in disaster monitoring, early warning and reporting, disaster relief emergency commanding, and disaster management, by building up urban and rural community capacity on disaster reduction, by strengthening science and technology bolstering effect in disaster reduction, and by publicity and education in popular science. Currently, the Plan is being implementing and has been extensively recognized by government at all levels.

(II) Build up capacity on disaster monitoring and early warning

Based on the current monitoring networks in meteorology, hydrology, seismology, geology, oceanography and environmental science, the Chinese government is constantly adding up to its monitoring density and improving its monitoring level. On September 6th 2008, the Chinese Government has successfully launched Satellites HJ-A and HJ-B for the "environment and disaster monitoring and forecasting satellite constellation". The constellation serves as a sound platform for disaster monitoring, early warning, evaluation, and emergency relief commanding systems.

(III) Push forward urban and rural community disaster reduction capacity building.

Community disaster reduction capacity building is the basic link to effectively reduce the loss of natural disaster. In recent years, the Chinese Government has effectively pushed forward capacity building in urban and rural communities on disaster reduction. Our efforts are paid off as communities improve their capacity on disaster reduction with well-designed disaster emergency management system and disaster contingency plan, with disaster reduction facilities and devices, and with constant drill practices or various forms of disaster reduction publicity and education campaigns.

(IV) Carry out disaster reduction related popular science publicity and education.

To improve disaster reduction awareness of the entire society, the Chinese Government has put more effort on popularity of disaster reduction knowledge, acceleration of disaster reduction personnel training, and enhancement of disaster management level of government working staff. We increase the risk awareness of the public through promotion of disaster reduction knowledge. For instance, we conduct disaster reduction publicity and education activities, print disaster reduction promotion materials and books, and celebrate nationwide the World Disaster Reduction Day under the theme of "Hospitals Safe from Disaster".

- (V) Actively conduct international exchange and cooperation on disaster reduction.

The Chinese Government stresses highly exchange and cooperation within Asia on disaster reduction. Ever since this year, China has held a series of workshops and seminars, including the APEC Disaster Emergency Management Workshop, the SCO Disaster Area Restoration and Reconstruction Management Workshop, the Catastrophe Risk Prevention Senior Level Seminar, and the Capacity Building Seminar against Catastrophes in Asian Countries. Meanwhile, China has conducted cooperative programs with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center and the Asian Development Bank. The variety of cooperation and exchange activities demonstrates the urgent demand of the Chinese Government for international disaster reduction experiences, and the earnest will of the Chinese Government to contribute to disaster reduction in Asia.

III. Suggestions

Ladies and gentlemen:

Natural disasters are common threats to all human beings. To effectively reduce disaster risks and losses, countries and regions should have more and more coordination and cooperation. In order to further the cooperation of Asian countries on disaster reduction, and promote the regional disaster reduction level, I would like to, on behalf of the Chinese Government, raise four suggestions:

- (I) Put bilateral and multilateral disaster reduction and relief cooperation high on the agenda of Asian country and regional cooperation.

We should establish, in Asian countries, a cooperation mechanism on disaster reduction. We look forward to common capacity improvement through platform building, advantageous resources consolidation and experience/practice sharing in disaster reduction, disaster preparedness, emergency management and restoration effort.

- (II) Continue to build up capacity on major natural disaster monitoring, early warning and evaluation.

- (III) Fully recognize the importance of disaster reduction capacity building of grassroots level communities.

Disaster risk management and handling capacities of local governments, especially grassroots level communities, are of great importance to reducing disaster losses. We should continue to mobilize local resources, and take effective measures in compliance with natural, economic and social conditions of the locality, to enhance local disaster reduction capacity. The Chinese Government is looking forward to drawing experiences of other countries on grassroots level disaster reduction capacity building.

- (IV) Continue to press for disaster reduction publicity and education.

Previous natural catastrophes have demonstrated that a person's disaster reduction awareness, disaster evasion capacity and self-rescue capacity, are essential not only to the safety of the person himself, but also to the rescue of more lives. Besides public education on disaster reduction, the government should leverage all resources of the NGO's the science research institutions and universities, so that disaster reduction publicity is more effective and fruitful. The Chinese Government is willing to conduct close cooperation with Asian countries in disaster reduction promotion and education, so as to find better means to constantly raise public awareness knowledge on disaster reduction.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen,

Asia, vast in area and dense in population, has various geological and geographical conditions, and constant major disasters. They have taken a heavy toll on life and property security of Asian people. Confronting disaster risks, each country should rely on its own effort and cooperation as well.

It is the common goal and aspiration of all Asian people, and is an arduous task bestowed to us by history, that we should strengthen cross-border disaster reduction and relief cooperation and exchange, make common effort against challenges of all sorts of disaster risks, and promote sustainable development of economy, society and environment in all Asian countries. Let's join hands to strengthen exchange and cooperation, so as to contribute more to effective reduction of natural disaster and sustainable economic and social development.

Thanks you!

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

MS. NOELEEN HEYZER UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ESCAP

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The holding of this Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster risk Reduction demonstrates the continuing commitment of our region, at the highest political level, to work together on an issue of critical importance-reducing the risk we face from disasters.

The Asia-Pacific region suffers more heavily from natural disasters than any other. In 2007, 37% of the world's disasters occurred in this region, accounting for more than 90% of all reported victims and almost half of the economic damage that disasters caused in the world. With catastrophes like Cyclone Nargis and the Sichuan earthquake in 2008, this region has again faced, this decade, one of the most disaster-prone years in its recorded history.

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP, is the regional development arm of the United Nations Secretariat, and is working to promote inclusive and sustainable development in the region. It has become increasingly clear that disasters are setting back these efforts in every area-they can cripple the economy, destroy infrastructure, plunge more people into poverty, and widen gender disparities, since disasters hit woman and children the hardest. Overall, disasters imperil the region's recent progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

It is also becoming clear that factors like climate change, environmental degradation and urbanization are increasing the risk the region is facing, and that the human and financial cost of disaster will continue to rise.

This year, the Commission established a new intergovernmental Committee and programme of work on disaster risk reduction and mandated ESCAP to strengthen its capacity in this area. This decision by the commission recognizes that disaster risk reduction is a cross-cutting issue of great complexity, requiring understanding, knowledge, commitment and action by a wide range of stakeholders.

In these hard economic times, Governments and the international community are facing a dilemma. On the one hand, resources are limited. On the other hand, the need for assistance is higher than ever. And it is almost certain that the hardship people are facing will be compounded by new disaster in the region in the month ahead.


In this vein, it has become clear that investing in disaster risk reduction-preventive measures that reduces the damage disaster cause -is not only morally sound, it is financially smart. Studies from the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank have estimated that for every dollar invested in reducing disaster risks, 4 to 7 dollars can be saved. With this level of returns, these investments may be some of the best bargains available.

On the positive side, there are many success stories from the Asia-Pacific region where governments, civil society and the other actors have taken effective measures to reduce the human and economic cost of disasters. ESCAP is organizing a High-Level Round Table at this Conference on "Resource mobilization for disaster risk reduction", which will look at some of these experiences and hopefully provide you with food for thought that you can take home to your countries.

Asia and the Pacific is rich in experiences and actors working in the field of disaster risk reduction. In line with ESCAP's convening role, we look forward to continuing to support policy development, information sharing, analysis and development for partnership for the benefit of countries in the region through a "network of networks" approach.

Finally, I wish to express our gratitude to the Government of Malaysia for hosting this Conference in the spirits of its contribution to the region. I wish you a very fruitful debate and a successful outcome.

Thank you.



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

H.E. VINCENT PIKET HEAD OF EUROPEAN COMMISSION DELEGATION TO MALAYSIA

Honourable conference organizers and participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to greet you at the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. I would like to thank the Government of Malaysia, and specifically the National Security Council, Prime Minister's Department for hosting and organizing this conference. This event merits special attention given the global challenges affecting all of us. It also demonstrates a good will of all the Governments to address the issue of Disaster Risk Reduction for the safety and wellbeing of our people.

The European Commission shares the concerns of the Asian Governments related to the current increase in disasters and their devastating effects on development and poverty reduction efforts. The changing nature of risks, partly due to climate change, is a concern we share. In particular for Asia-Pacific, already the region in the world the most affected by natural disasters.

We would like to reiterate our strong commitment to contribute to global efforts towards Disaster Risk Reduction and to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action. We recognize the need for continued joint efforts in the international mobilization to develop more effective strategies in these areas. The European Union's assistance policy to other countries is being shaped accordingly. In particular, we are currently developing a policy paper on the EU Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction in Developing Countries. This Strategy aims at scaling up the European Union's efforts to integrate Disaster Risk Reduction within development and humanitarian aid policies. The adoption of this policy paper is scheduled for early 2009. The European Union's position is also reflected in the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, adopted in December 2007, and more concretely in its Action Plan elaborated recently. As the world largest donor of development and humanitarian assistance, the European Union has committed itself to promote *"Disaster Risk Reduction and disaster preparedness in developing countries through coherent and coordinated action at local, national and regional level"*.

This new comprehensive framework will allow improved mechanisms for effectiveness, complementarities and for donor and Government coordination. This Strategy will also make sure that linkages to climate change adaptation are made evident and that we capitalize on the benefits of the proposed integrated action.

While we, as Government have a clear responsibility in implementing Disaster Risk Reduction, we need to ensure that the ultimate goal is to help the most vulnerable populations to be protected better, safe from the impact of disasters. In this context, we are pleased to see that Community-based Disaster Risk Reduction has been included as a main focus of this Conference. The European Commission believes that long-term reduction of vulnerabilities can be reached through coordinated interventions at all levels. Considering the high number of vulnerable populations living in high risk areas in Asia, we feel that community-level initiatives are among the most efficient approach to Risk Reduction. Through *ad hoc* instruments, such as the Disaster Preparedness Programme ("DIPECHO"), the European Commission has positioned itself as a lead actor in community-based disaster preparedness interventions with high levels of local ownership.

Over the last 12 years and through continued support, 65 million Euros have been channeled in almost 20 countries in Central, South and South East Asia for such initiatives. The Disaster Preparedness Programme also supported the development of the ASEAN Regional Programme on Disaster Management 2004-2010, and several National Strategic Action Plans and National Platforms (as in Nepal, Cambodia and the Philippines).

In the Pacific, the European Commission Disaster Risk Reduction Facility also contributes to Governments' strategies. This November, the European Union also announced a technical and financial assistance package for Pacific countries to adapt themselves to climate and global changes. The European Commission is a core supporter of international and regional bodies and frameworks, among others ISDR (International Strategy for Disaster Reduction), ADPC (Asian Disaster Preparedness Center), ASEAN. This partnership is enforced through regular dialogue at political level, as well as through programmes. To name a few initiatives among many: support to Early Warning Systems in the Indian Ocean (an overall 8 million euro support through ISDR since 2005); substantial research actions by the European Union Joint Research Center; a 50 million euro contribution to the new Global Climate Change Alliance for the period 2008-2010, which will include linkages with Disaster Risk Reduction.

As indicated above, strong efforts are made to ensure that our programmes and approaches fully integrate Disaster Risk Reduction. The European Union keenly encourages regional integration, which strengthens effective responses to the numerous global challenges being faced. The European Commission

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

fully supports the Delhi Declaration and the propositions of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration to work on a Regional Action Plan with clear targets and measurement mechanisms. We also welcome an innovative and higher engagement of non State actors such as the private sector and the media.

In conclusion, the European Commission renews its political and practical commitment to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action, in partnership with all Governments of Asia and key international and regional actors, for the benefit of the most vulnerable and poorest populations.

Thank you for your attention.

MR. MANASA R. VANIQI
PERMANENT SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND MULTI ETHNIC AFFAIRS
THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI ISLANDS

Mr. Chairman
Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Bula Vinaka

The Republic of the Fiji Islands wishes to express our profound gratitude and appreciation to the Government and People of Malaysia for hosting the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, and also to the Director and Staff of the Secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction for their continued support in convening such important regional conference for the Asia Pacific which is aimed at finding ways and means to reduce the risks of disasters and its effects on the lives and development of our nations.

Allow me to go straight into my country statement. Fiji is a developing island nation in the centre of the South West Pacific. It is made up of 330 small islands with a total land area of 18,330 square kilometers, with a total sea area of 2.5 million square kilometers. Fiji in its 2007 census has a population of 827,900 people. Because of our geographical location, Fiji enjoys a tropical south sea climate with its two main seasons, namely:

- A. the November to April, hot and wet season which is also our rainy and cyclone season, and
- B. the May to October, cool and dry season.

One would ask the question, Why Disaster Risk Management for Fiji? We in Fiji, like all our nations represented in this Conference, are not immune to the devastating effects of both natural and human induced hazards. Our geography presents that we are located in the Cyclone Belt Region of the South West Pacific – that is a given phenomenon that we have to live with. We are sitting on the “Pacific Ring Fire” – i.e. on the fault line that runs from New Zealand to the South Western Pacific to Japan then around to the western coast of the American Continent. Our geography and weather pattern also presents that Fiji is prone to flooding, landslides, high waves, sea level rise, fire, earthquake and tsunami. For Fiji, it is not the question of IF but WHEN. Again our strategic location being in the centre of the South West Pacific, and transit points between mainland America with New Zealand and Australia and to Pacific Regional countries, we are prone to the effects of trans-national activities, diseases and the spread of pandemic influenza. With all that said, Fiji is currently aligning its Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management implementation activities and initiatives to the Global, Regional and Pacific sub-Regional frameworks already developed. We are a party to the 2005 Hyogo Framework for Action that developed 5 thematic areas for Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management implementation at the 2nd World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Kobe, Japan.

Following the 2005 World Conference on Disaster Reduction, the Pacific Leaders approved the 2005 Pacific Plan that calls for the development and implementation of policies and plans for the mitigation and management of natural disaster in the Pacific. At its annual Pacific Regional Disaster Managers Meeting in July 2005, the document titled, *“An investment for Sustainable Development in the Pacific Islands Countries, Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management – A Framework for Action 2005 – 2015”* was adopted and



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

then approved by Pacific Leaders in October 2005 at their meeting in Madang, Papua New Guinea. The Pacific Leaders also approved in that meeting the document titled the *"Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change Adaptations 2005"* that advocates the reduction of risks associated with the impact of extreme weather and climate variability through the application of various principles.

The Pacific Framework for Action on Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management supports an "all hazards" and integrated approach to the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction and disaster management. The document advocates six (6) thematic areas:

- A. Theme One – Governance, looking at organizational, institutional, policy and decision-making frameworks
- B. Theme Two – Knowledge, information, public awareness and education
- C. Theme Three – Analysis and evaluation of hazards, vulnerabilities and elements at risks
- D. Theme Four – Planning for effective preparedness, response and recovery
- E. Theme Five – Effective, integrated and people-focused early warning systems
- F. Theme Six – Reduction of underlying risk factors.

The translation and national adaptations of these global Hyogo Framework for Action and Pacific sub-regional framework for actions is through the "Whole of Country approach" whereby consultations at the national, local and community or village levels. The process involves:

- A. the identification of disaster risk reduction and disaster management strategies
- B. the development of implementation activities under each strategy, and
- C. the indicative resource requirements and costs for activities developed.

First and foremost for Fiji, with the process of aligning the national platform for disaster risk reduction to global Hyogo Framework and Pacific sub-regional framework currently underway, Fiji sees the need to review its current disaster risk management legislation and arrangement. It is envisaged that the new disaster risk management Act and arrangement be promulgated by early 2009. This will set the national platform for addressing the five thematic areas under the Hyogo Framework for Action and the six thematic areas under the Pacific Framework for Action document.

Since the theme for the Conference is *"Multi-stakeholders Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction from National to Local"*, we are currently working on disaster risk management programs that involves the contribution, collaboration and support of all sectors of the Fiji Community, the Public Sector, the Private Sector, the Non-Government Organizations, the Civil Sector and the Community.

Some of the ongoing programs are:

- A. establishment of Flood Early Warning System,
- B. establishment of Tsunami Early Warning System,
- C. establishment of Disaster Management Committees from the National, Divisional, District and Community levels,
- D. ongoing programs on Disaster Risk Management training, awareness and education,
- E. continuous upgrading of Emergency Operations Centres at the national, divisional, district and community levels, and
- F. continuous upgrading in Information Technology for disaster risk management.

To conclude, Fiji would like to thank and acknowledge the support of all the countries and organizations that have supported us in the mainstreaming of the provisions of the Hyogo Framework and the Pacific Framework for actions into our national and local implementation programs and activities. The deadline of 2015 is still some years away and the work is not completed yet. We certainly look forward to your continued support, cooperation and collaboration among countries of the Asia Pacific region with regional and international organization to become the highest priority and be immune from any political interference and considerations.

It is with our highest hope and expectations that the Conference will definitely achieve its objectives and addresses the adaptation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in the region.

Thank you and May we all contribute in building the resilience of our nations and the region.

Vinaka Vakalevu

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

MR. GREG VICKERY CHAIRMAN, AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS AND GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

Thank you Mr. Chairman and thank you to our friends with the Government of Malaysia, and to all of those who worked so hard to bring this conference together. My name is Greg Vickery and it is my distinct honour to represent today the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and our 186 National Societies around the world. I am a member of the IFRC's International Governing Board and serve as Chairman of the Australian Red Cross. It is also, perhaps, worth noting that I am a volunteer.

It is my sincere belief that, as auxiliaries to governments in Asia and around the world, Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies serve as key, essential partners in the successful design and implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies and activities at the global, regional, national, and community level. Indeed, our volunteers are engaged every day in life saving work, and more can and should be done as we continue to witness the humanitarian consequences of climate change and other emerging global challenges. But before I discuss next steps and needs, allow me to take a step back and to define in clear terms the role for the Red Cross Red Crescent in disaster risk reduction and to share with you just a couple of examples of our programmes in action.

The International Federation has three main priorities in this arena:

- 1) We help communities to improve their awareness of specific disaster risks they face in their own environment;
- 2) We strengthen the preparedness and response capacities of communities so that they are in a better position to react to disaster events and even to build back safer after emergencies;
- 3) And, we promote and support activities and actions that mitigate the adverse effects of likely hazards.

In November of last year, we saw clearly the impact of disaster risk reduction efforts when Cyclone Sidr (pronounced like the man's name "sid-er") made landfall in Bangladesh. Demonstrating the power of grassroots volunteer involvement and strong collaboration between the Red Cross Red Crescent and Government, tens of thousands of lives were saved. Because of the Cyclone Preparedness Programme, dedicated volunteers used bullhorns and bicycles to issue early warnings and to take early action by moving evacuees to well-built, strategically located cyclone shelters. In 1991, what is known as the Bangladesh Cyclone took the lives of more than 150,000 people. During Sidr, too many lives were still lost, but we have made progress; good planning and public-private collaboration can make a difference.

Lessons learned from Bangladesh have been incorporated into our plans with the Myanmar Red Cross as recovery continues from Cyclone Nargis. Important investments will be made in working through communities to train village-based volunteers to engage in early warning activities. Schools will introduce disaster preparedness lessons to their curricula, and strategic projects will be undertaken to reinforce emergency shelter facilities.

As Southwestern China rebuilds after its devastating earthquake in Sichuan Province, Red Cross volunteers and leaders alike are advocating for safer construction methods and providing vital information to homeowners as they undertake their reconstruction efforts. In support of an "owner driven" reconstruction model adopted in China, we can have a significant impact at the community level by making sure that homeowners understand and appreciate the lifesaving value of making the right construction choices from the very beginning. And in other countries throughout Asia, thousands of volunteers work each year with their Red Cross Red Crescent societies to plant mangroves, reinforce levees, and mitigate the impacts of increased flooding. So, our strength as a Red Cross Red Crescent network comes from the fact that our millions of volunteers live in the communities that will be impacted by emergencies. While our auxiliary status affords us vital opportunities to engage in dialogue with governments and key partners, the most important work we do happens at the grassroots level.

The same is and must be true for our successful work in disaster risk reduction. With that network of humanitarians in mind -- and with those who need our help also in mind -- we encourage the following:

First: Engage at the national and local level with your respective Red Cross or Red Crescent National Society. We recognize that building community safety and resilience through Disaster Risk Reduction cannot be achieved by us alone. We can and are ready to make our continuing contributions, but the systematic reduction of risk can only be based upon strong working partnerships between all stakeholders.



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Second: Include the voices of the vulnerable in your planning for the future. Vulnerable communities and civil society are themselves essential stakeholders in this dialogue. The needs and visions of those we aim to serve must be incorporated into our planning, particularly at the local level. This calls for greater flexibility in local government development planning to incorporate actions identified by vulnerable communities for scaling up disaster risk reducing actions.

Third: Recognize the role and importance that Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies play in advocating for laws, policies, and other regulatory mechanisms that can positively influence sustainable disaster risk reduction actions. Our experience with the International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles programme (also known as IDRL) has been extremely positive, and there are transferable lessons to the work we undertake here in Kuala Lumpur.

Finally: Acknowledge the unique role of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies as auxiliaries to government by making explicit reference to our Movement at appropriate points in the official declaration of this conference. We recognize that in securing this reference, we take on certain responsibilities for action, and we accept those responsibilities willingly. Within a broader framework of "Early Warning, Early Action," – a framework, I might add, that is perfectly aligned with this gathering's Disaster Risk Reduction agenda – the IFRC has just finalized an ambitious two year plan of action for the Asia Pacific region.

With an identified need for 50 million Swiss francs per year in Asia Pacific alone, that plan will surely help us to make a significant and sustainable mark on the lives of those we aim to serve. We need and value your support along the way. In closing, let me again thank you, Mr. Chairman for your hospitality. 2009 marks 150 years since one man – Henry Dunant – had a vision for a more humane world. His vision and his commitment to take up the humanitarian challenge led to the formation of the Red Cross Movement. Gatherings like this one allow each of us to take up our own piece of that ongoing challenge, and we look forward to working together to move forward in 2009.

Thank you very much.

**SMT. V. RADHIKA SELVI
HONORABLE MINISTER OF STATE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

Distinguished Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great privilege to be here this afternoon before the distinguished gathering of Ministers and Policy makers to deliberate on reducing the risks of disasters in Asia and the Pacific countries. Last year, we had the opportunity to host the Second Asian Conference in Delhi that adopted the Delhi Declaration which decided inter-alia that the Bi-annual Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction which started in Beijing in 2005 would be expanded into a Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction with participation of all stakeholders including the civil society, scientific and technical organizations, private sector and the media. I am happy to see that the Ministerial Conference this year has further broad based with the participation of media, civil society and the corporate sector.

It has indeed taken the shape of a Regional Platform as a prelude to the Global Platform meeting in Geneva next year. Asia has always led the global movement for disaster risk reduction. It was in the Asian city of Yokohama that the global *Strategy for Safer World* was adopted in 1994. It was again in the Asian city of Kobe that the *Hyogo Framework for Action* was adopted in 2005.

We are all deeply committed to the implementation of the five priorities for action of the HFA. In our country we have taken significant initiatives for the implementation of the HFA. We have enacted a comprehensive legislation on disaster management and constituted dedicated institutional mechanism at the national, provisional and local levels for holistic management of disasters. We have created separate funds at all these three levels for disaster response. And we are in the process of creating funds at all levels exclusively to address the risk reduction issues. We have constituted eight battalions strong Natural Disaster Response Force for specialized response to disaster situations, which significantly augmented our preparedness. We have established a National Institute of Disaster Management at the centre and Disaster Management Centers in the States which train about 28,000 cutting edge functionaries of the Government and the NGOs annually.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

We are using space and communication technology in a big way to provide support services for disaster management. We have developed a state of the art Early Warning System for Tsunami and Storm Surge which can track the movement of sea wave and windstorm on a real time basis and provide accurate warning to the administration for timely evacuation of the people in the event of any impending disasters. The benefits of the system developed by the Indian National Centre for Oceanic Information Services shall be available to the countries of South and South East Asia. We have taken up a massive modernization of our meteorological system which would significantly augment the observational network for weather and rainfall and improve modeling capacity for better forecast of weather and climate.

We have improved the disaster communication system and last mile connectivity connecting the States and the Districts with dedicated fail proof networking triple redundancies. We are in a position to drop mobile Emergency Operation Centre aerially to remote disaster sites which can link up with National and State Emergency Operation Centers. We are implementing the largest community based disaster risk programme in the world, which covers 300 million people in nearly 176 districts of the 17 multi-hazard States in the country.

The effectiveness of our disaster preparedness has been demonstrated a few months back when a breach in the embankment of a river in Nepal had forced turbulent river Kosi to change its course and inundate a large area of the state of Bihar affecting more than 3 million people. We could evacuate a large number of people to safe places under challenging circumstances and reduce the casualties to its minimum. We are now focusing our attention on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in development across sectors. We have taken up implementation of specific projects for mitigating the risks of natural hazards. Two mega projects, one for the mitigation of the risks of cyclone and the other of earthquake are being launched soon with assistance from the World Bank. We are also taking up two separate national programmes for school and hospital safety throughout the country.

Ladies and gentlemen,

India has always been forthcoming in extending assistance to countries affected by disasters. We have been taking several initiatives to enhance regional cooperation for disaster risk reduction in South Asia. We stand ready to play an active role in sharing with the members of the Regional Platform, our material and human resources support to implement the disaster risk reduction agenda in the Asia-Pacific region.

I thank you all for giving a patient hearing.

DR. SYAMSUL MA'ARIF, MSC
CHIEF OF NATIONAL AGENCY FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

Toward A Better Disaster Management System: Establishment of National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Indonesia

Excellency Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies, Ministers of the Asian Countries,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Let us all be thankful to our Almighty God for His grace that has allowed us to gather in this very important event, that is, the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. As representative of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, we would like to convey our highest appreciation and deep gratitude to the Government of Malaysia, as well as UN-ESCAP for the invitation and congeniality extended to us and to our delegation. It is an honour for us, to be given such an opportunity to share experiences and knowledge as a way to contribute to the implementation of disaster risk reduction in the regional level. Indonesia, being a nation that is prone to various kinds of disasters, is fully aware on the importance of disaster risk reduction, as means and efforts to protect the people from the hazards of disasters. This enhanced awareness on the importance of disaster risk reduction is also taking place widely in various parts of the country. For this reason, the Government of Indonesia has given its firm commitment and will always maintain our commitment to support efforts in implementing disaster risk reduction as mentioned in the Hyogo Framework for Action.



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

At this stage, Indonesia has undertaken efforts to implement all those Priorities for Action with significant achievement, and this led to various parties involved to receive praise and appreciation. However, our tasks remain to be endless, considering that Indonesia is a large country with various types of disasters, and yet we have limited resources for disaster management. The results or impacts of disaster risk reduction activities that we are implementing cannot instantly be shown. These can be seen, rather, in a long term, and therefore, the commitment for disaster risk reduction implementation should continuously be guarded and requires programme planning that are measurable through clear achievement indicators. Various kinds of disaster risk reduction programmes that we have been and are currently undertaking, in which they are the realization of our commitment to the Hyogo Framework for Action, include the following:

1. In regard to legislation and policy, Indonesia enacted its Disaster Management Law, as well as its ancillary regulations. The Disaster Management Law is our foundation in developing a comprehensive and reliable national system for disaster management in Indonesia. Based on the mandate outlined in the Disaster Management Law, we strengthen institutions at all level, provide sufficient budget, develop planning, utilize science and technology, as well as implement effective disaster management by involving all pertinent stakeholders in a coordinated and integrated manner. Furthermore, we admit Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change as one of National Development Programme Priority.
2. The second Priority for Action, namely, risk assessment and early warning, have also been implemented. The most significant achievement is the launching of Indonesia Tsunami Early Warning System by the President of the Republic of Indonesia on the 11th of November 2008. Furthermore, early warning for other hazards is continuously being developed, for example early warning for volcanic eruptions, landslides and floods. In regard to risk analysis, at this stage, efforts have been put mostly on risks identification, especially on hazard identification and mapping. We have gathered experts to develop guidelines and standardization on risk assessment that will enable local government to undertake risk assessment independently on their own area.
3. In regard to the third Priority for Action, concerning education and utilization of science and technology, various efforts have been undertaken to support the development of safety culture by exchanging information and sharing experiences, as well as through socialization and education at various level, including the community level, through various media. We also have already established education forum in order to facilitate provision of disaster education to school age children.
4. To reduce the underlying risks factors that may lead to disasters, we have enacted Law No. 26 Year 2008 on Spatial Planning that has accommodated or required the needs to undertake disaster risk analysis in developing spatial planning.
5. Meanwhile, in regard to the enhancement of disaster preparedness, the programmes that we are currently supporting include training and outreach, in addition to encouraging for every disaster prone area to develop its own contingency planning. In line with those efforts, we have been developing Emergency Operation Center at national and local level. Programmes or activities mentioned above are only few of disaster risk reduction activities that we have been undertaking as outlined in the Hyogo Framework for Action, and they have been placed in the National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction 2006 – 2009. To implement consistently Hyogo Framework for Action, we need to have agreement among stakeholders involved. We have agreed on the importance of a platform for disaster risk reduction that functions as a forum, as guided by UN/ISDR. In line with this conference theme, which is “Multi Stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction from National to Local”, Indonesia has already established National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. The establishment has recently taken place on the 20th of November 2008.

National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction that we have established is a mechanism for coordination and policy guidance concerning disaster risk reduction that involves multi-sectoral and multi-disciplines by all pertinent stakeholders, including non-government organizations, both national and international, as well as those under the United Nations. This is in alignment with the mandate given by the Disaster Management Law and has been emphasized on Government Regulations no. 21 Year 2008. This National Platform is expected to provide recommendations, advocacy, and inputs for policy making on Disaster Management and Disaster Risk Reduction, to strengthen and broaden networking, experience sharing, and also to enhance public information and strengthen coordination. Some parts of the country have the initiatives to establish its forum for disaster risk reduction at local level with the initiatives mostly from the local society, not the local government. However, the local government also plays significant role, as they consistently encourage, facilitate, and support the enabling environment for the establishment of these local forums or platforms. This indicates that the establishment of those forums or platforms is derived from the needs of all parties involved, not merely from the government.

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

In establishing our platform, we try to learn and listen from various stakeholders about their expectations as part of the process in the establishment of the forum. We hope, through this mechanism or process, we would be able to establish a platform or forum with the ownership of all stakeholders involved to enhance and strengthen the implementation of disaster management in Indonesia. In this occasion I would like to thank all parties who have given us the support and assistance in building safer community through disaster risk reduction programme as well as facilitation in the establishment of national and local platforms.

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

We would like to take this opportunity to remind us all that in this globalization era, it is very likely that the occurrence of a disaster in an area will bring an extensive impacts that is beyond the boundaries of State administration. For this reason, there is a need to gather joint efforts or solidarity in facing disasters. This humanitarian affair hardly recognizes the differences in ideology, and may even become means to bring peace and unity to the nation. We would like to conclude our statement and we hope that this Conference will strengthen our networking, as well as our commitments to implement disaster risk reduction, not only nationally, but also regionally and globally. We also hope that all parties involved can bring their positive contribution into this Conference so that the shared experiences and lessons learnt can be adapted in other countries as well. All efforts that we all undertaking are based on the spirit of togetherness with the humanitarian principles, that is, to enhance the welfare of our people.

Thank you.

H. E. MR. HOSSEIN BAGHERI
HEAD OF DELEGATION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

In the Name of God
The Compassionate the Merciful

Mr. Chairman,
Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to express my profound gratitude to the Government and people of Malaysia for hosting 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, and also to the Director and staff of the Secretariat of International Strategy for Disaster Reduction for their continued support in convening such important conference which is aimed at finding best ways and means to reduce the risk of disaster and its effects on the life and development of nations.

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

Despite of increasing disaster in the Glob, especially in the Asia region, leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran believe that, not only we are not convicted to the disaster, but also we can reduce considerably its risk through the both correct management and promoted safety culture.

Undoubtedly disaster risk reduction can be considered as a unique solution to reduce the impact of disasters and build the resilience of communities and nations to disasters and build the resilience of communities and nations to disasters towards development goals and poverty alleviation. Therefore, this conference as a high level initiative can reaffirm the commitment of attending governments to Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and exchange experience and information to implement effectively disaster risk reduction at the national and local levels.

As the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on the occasion of the International Day for Disaster Reduction on 8 October 2008 stated "*disaster risk reduction needs to be acknowledged and incorporated as a key plank of our efforts to achieve the development goals*", the threats posed by increasing drought, floods,



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

earthquakes and storms in Asia region prove the necessity and importance of attention which the governments and people of the region have to pay to the theme at different levels, both local and national.

Mr. Chairman,
Honourable Minister, Distinguished Delegates,

Disasters widely impact the life and the future of people throughout the world. Therefore constant and tireless efforts in prevention, preparedness and relief by all members of international community at national, regional and international levels are needed. The Islamic Republic of Iran as a prone country to a number of disasters actively participated in "World Conference on Disaster Reduction" in 2005 in Hyogo, Japan and after that it has undertaken many steps to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action such as:

1. Forming the "National Platform to Disaster Risk Reduction" comprising of all relative Government and non-Government Organizations willing to combat against disaster and implement HFA priorities. To realize its objectives the National Platform holds regular meetings in both high and technical levels.
2. Preparing the National Report of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the form of "HFA Monitor" which is sent to the ISDR Secretariat.
3. Establishing the Asian Seismic Risk Reduction Centre (ASRC) in cooperation with UN/ISDR in Tehran aimed at reducing seismic risk in the Asia region. Here, I would like to invite countries, regional organizations and those interested in disaster risk reduction in Asia Pacific join to the centre and cooperation with it.
4. Adoption of the act entitled: "Establishment of National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO)" by the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Parliament) of the Islamic Republic of Iran on May 2008. According to the said act the management level of disasters is promoted to a "High Council" headed by the President, which coordinates the activities of all governmental bodies from three branches of executive, judiciary and legislative.
5. Holding the "Third ECO International Conference on Disaster Risk Management" in October 2008 in cooperation with Economic Cooperation Organization (UN/ISDR). The conference adopted 22 recommendations that will be presented to this important meeting.

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We had concluded a joint five-year program with UNDP office in Iran on "Strengthening Capacity for Disaster Risk Management" for the period of the 2005-2009. based on Disaster Inventory Database prepared through this joint program, Iran has been selected by ISDR as the "Case Study Country" among ten countries in the world, for contribution to the Global Risk Assessment Report (CAR) to be launched by the UN Secretary General in 2009.

Mr. Chairman,

Among about 31 types of disaster in Iran, repeated earthquakes are the most devastating ones. However, financial effects of flood and drought are not less than earthquake. In Bam earthquake with the magnitude 6/5 Richter in 2003, more than 30 000 of people lost their lives and a great number of houses nearly levelled to the ground. Historical Arg Bam, a national and culture heritage, hardly damaged, let say almost destroyed. While appreciating the support rendered by world community, I should say that the relief and resilience efforts of my Government and people also have been recognized internationally.

Mr. Chairman,
Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates,

Through early and timely warning, people could manage to evacuate their houses and districts in Lorestan province which was hit by an earthquake of 6/1 magnitude at a Richter scale in 2006. Therefore, despite the large destruction of houses and buildings, we could prevent big losses of life, compared to that of the said earthquake in Bam. This could be mentioned as an example of successful lesson learned from interaction of people and disaster management.

Mr. Chairman,
Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates,

Due to the high priority given to disaster risk reduction, the "Comprehensive National Plan for Disaster Management" is prepared by my Government. Based on this nation plan, the logistic and disaster management centres are established in the cities and centre of provinces which are training people disasters, and are active to rescue at the time when a disaster occurs.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

On preparedness, we have allocated 4 billion dollars in the biannual program of 2008-2009 for school safety and a separate budget is allocated for hospital safety as well. Also, we are reconstructing around 300 000 village houses annually.

In order to educate the people and increase their preparedness, we are exercising annually the earthquake manoeuvre throughout the country by all concerned bodies and people especially at the schools for students in all levels. Just 3 day ago we successfully exercised the manoeuvre with the participation of around 15,000,000 students in 140,000 schools in Iran and 50 schools in abroad.

Mr. Chairman,
Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is expected that the cooperation and collaboration among countries of the region and international organizations become a high priority and free from any political considerations. The expectation also goes to the countries with different kind of disasters.

At the end, I do hope that the conference will achieve its objective and will identify concrete steps to promote disaster risk reduction and the Hyogo Framework for Action in Asia region in each of the Asian countries.

Thanking you all, I hope for safe and secure society throughout the world.

Thank you.

MAJOR GENERAL ABED AL-RASSOL JASSIM AL-ZAIDI, CHIEF MINISTER OF CIVIL DEFENSE OF IRAQ.

Spotlight of the Civil Defense of Iraq

Provision No. (2) Of Civil Defense Code (2) in 1956 contain the Regulation of Civil Defense published in (ALWQAA) Iraqi Newspaper periodic no. (3901) in 18 October 1956 consists the following:

"The Ministry of Interior forms the General Directorate of Civil Defense. Its tasks are to protect civilian people and offer them helps from air attack beside the precautionary procedures to enable them to protect themselves and properties in addition to put the necessary programs and plans for such cases."

Provision no. (1) Of amended code of Civil Defense no. (64) In 1978 identify the tasks of Civil Defense as the following:

1. Organize (air attack) alarm devices
2. Prepare peoples to be in safe side from war damages
3. Prepare the team of Civil Defense
4. Identify the premises of Civil Defense and pursuance its construction and maintain it.
5. Take the precautionary to protect and essential places during the air attack and natural disasters
6. Put implement evacuation plans for some cities, towns, and suburb in addition to organize and restrict the traffic in cooperation with the Ministry of Defense
7. Make the necessary preparation like turn off all lights during air attack
8. Prepare the public and private hospitals and relief centers which is important to help affected people during the war, emergencies, and other disasters
9. Remove the ruins of air attack and other disasters in cooperation with the Ministry of Health
10. Organize the operation of exposing unexploded bombs and remove it in co-ordination with the specialized parties
11. Prepare all the requirements to help the affected people
12. Prepare the training team and identify its main duty for the residential areas
13. Fire fighting

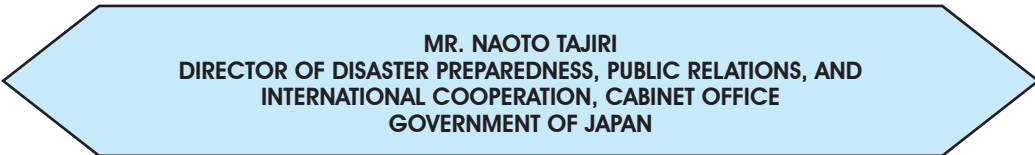
Iraqi Civil Defense

Article 18 of Civil Defense amended 92 executed the deputies on unexploded bombs. In 12 February 2007, two cars exploded and was damage all the infrastructure near it such as market and malls, in Assorja. This market was crowded all the time. The exploded was killing 17 peoples and 115 were injured.

In 5 March 2007, at al-Mutanabbir Street, one of the most important places in Iraq was exploded.

In 10 November 2007, the fire was caused by mortar missiles at the fuel tanks include 6 millions liter of fuels.

These are some of the problems facing by Iraqi Civil Defense.



MR. NAOTO TAJIRI
DIRECTOR OF DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, PUBLIC RELATIONS, AND
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, CABINET OFFICE
GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

Chairman,
Honored International Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Let me start by expressing my sincerest gratitude to our kind host, National Security Council, Prime Minister's Department, Government of Malaysia, and to all of those who put so much effort into organizing this conference, "The 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR)". Please accept our apologies that our Minister of State for Disaster Management of Japan is not able to be here, due to the parliamentary session. On behalf of Minister of State for Disaster Management in Japan, I would like to make an oral statement. As a host country of the January 2005 "World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR)", Government of Japan is delighted that so many delegates from countries of Asia and the Pacific, and from various international institutions have come to participate in this important conference to reaffirm their commitment to the Hyogo Framework for Action which was adopted in the WCDR.

Japan is one of the most earthquake-prone countries in the world. The Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake hit Kobe, western Japan in earlier 1995, and claimed the lives of more than 6,400 people. In addition to earthquakes, we also face natural disasters such as tsunami, volcanic eruptions, torrential rain, and tremendous snowfall. This summer, Japan suffered from major earthquake occurred in north-eastern territory, Iwate and Miyagi Prefectures. Since disaster reduction is one of the most important policies of the Cabinet in Japan, Government of Japan is striving to make my country disaster-resilient, not only in times of emergency but in ordinary times as well. Tackling natural disasters is a common challenge to all humans, and is a prerequisite for both the safety and security of citizens and for sustainable development. It is possible for both industrialized and developing nations to prevent damage from natural disasters by preparing the country to face disasters and reducing social vulnerability.

Our country has learned many lessons from the horrific damage of past natural disasters and from our experiences in upgrading national countermeasures for disaster reduction. In the 1940s and 1950s, thousands of people were killed by huge typhoons. For example, the Isewan typhoon, or Typhoon Vera, took more than 5,000 lives. Learning from these tragedies, we made comprehensive improvements in legislative and institutional systems and invested in disaster-preventive measures through collaboration among central governments, local municipalities and related private sector parties.

These efforts were successful in helping reduce the number of victims of weather-related disasters. As for unexpected earthquakes, the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake also taught us many lessons. Most importantly, we learned the importance of improving the earthquake resistance of buildings, taking measures for social infrastructure such as public transport and life-line services, as well as disaster prevention drills and education. We have also been improving initial response systems, such as data collection, when disasters occur. For tsunami countermeasures, we have been improving tide embankments and early warning systems, and implementing efforts to raise awareness among the people living along the coasts.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Chairman,
Honored International Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Let me introduce three ongoing projects to which Government of Japan has recently been making a commitment. First, Earthquake Early Warning Information System has been promoted as one of Japan's advanced scientific technology. Earthquake Early Warning Information System is made possible by detecting the Primary wave near the epicenter and immediately processing the data since there is a speed difference between Primary wave and Secondary wave. The system announces not only the estimated hypocenter and magnitude of an earthquake, but also the estimated arrival time of the Secondary wave before the actual shaking starts. While a time allowance is several seconds to several tens of seconds, this can be a critical time to be used for mitigating damage by stopping trains and elevators, extinguishing flames or crawling under tables.

Second, nearly ten thousands (10,000) public schools in Japan are pointed out to have problems related to resistance to earthquakes. In view of this situation, this year, "the Act on Promotion of the Earthquake-proof Retrofit of Buildings" has been amended, and the subsidy system that provides financial support to promote retrofit has been expanded. Government of Japan accelerates earthquake-proofing plan of public schools, as a national priority.

Third, in this year, Japan has frequently been suffered from localized downpours accompanied with thunder, caused by well-developed thunderclouds. In order to reduce damage caused by the disaster, Government of Japan has been working on introduction of new technology that improves accuracy and quality of observation, narrows down the range of possible torrential rain, and thus, improves short-term forecast. Now, I would like to mention in particular, five important initiatives that are recently contributing to disaster management in Japan.

First, Government of Japan keeps working on countermeasures nationwide against large-scale earthquakes, such as the Tokai Earthquake, Tonankai and Nankai Earthquakes, Earthquakes around the Japan and Chishima Trenches, and Tokyo Inland Earthquakes.

Second, the Central Disaster Management Council has been working on the analysis of anticipated situations and countermeasures against flood disasters that are supposed to cause immense damage to the capital region.

Third, in view of the aging society and the increasing number of the elderly being killed or injured by disasters, Government of Japan has been reinforcing measures to provide necessary assistance to those such as the elderly and physically impaired at the time of a disaster.

Fourth, applying the knowledge and expertise acquired from numerous bitter disaster experiences, Japan has been an active facilitator of international cooperation for disaster reduction. Japan would like to seek possibilities to promote effective cooperation in the area of disaster reduction.

Lastly, Government of Japan has been promoting a nationwide movement, with a close combination of "self-help efforts" rooted in the awareness of people and corporations, "mutual-help efforts" of various community-based organizations, and "public-help efforts" made by the national and local governments. I sincerely hope that this conference achieves its intended results with everyone's efforts and contributions.

Chairman,
Honored International Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Let me conclude my statement by thanking Government of Malaysia once again for their efforts to make "the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction" successful.

Thank you very much.



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

H.E. ALI AL FAYEZ GOVERNOR IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OF THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

Besm Allah Al Rahman Al-Rahim and
Peace be upon our prophet Mohammad seal of all the prophets and messengers

Your Excellency the Chairman,
Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me at the outset to extend my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the Government and friendly people of Malaysia for hosting this significant conference, good preparation, generous hospitality and warm reception accorded to me and the participants of this conference.

Dear brothers,

The conference is entitled "Multi-stakeholder partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction from National to Local", which entails the inevitability of disasters; accordingly, we should always be prepared to a disaster which requires the application of the following fundamental steps:

- 1) Evaluating the threat by the assessment of the status and collecting information.
- 2) Information system: refers to the tools to collect and analyze the information.
- 3) Response mechanism: refers to the actions taken to handle the threat.
- 4) Planning which is the most important element. A good plan should include the following:
 - 1.1. Clear goals such as establishing cities in areas remote from the threat
 - 1.2. Neatly arranged steps to be followed.
 - 1.3. Identifying the methods which satisfy the goals.
 - 1.4. Allocating the responsibilities and obligations.
 - 1.5. Networking all these methods.
- 5) References as a means of collecting the available data.
- 6) General education and training which refers to enlightening the public and explaining to them how to handle disasters.
- 7) Institutional framework: working with all the related authorities both vertically and horizontally in order to evade disasters.
- 8) Alarming system: in this step, we have to take into consideration previous experiences of the public and the level of suspense they have when we issue warnings about disasters either by public media or any other available means.
- 9) Procedures, which is the last step in the preparations to disasters; this step refers to the exercising programmes in order to observe any flaws and rectify them.

Your Excellency the Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen

The most important element in handling disasters is cooperation which is the core principle in making decisions, i.e. cooperation inter and intra institutions in the whole country and cooperation among various countries in order to work out plans and strategies governing joint work between the related institutions.

Dear colleagues, I liked what I saw in Germany when I headed a delegation to observe their experience in decentralization. I noted that cooperation exists between Kindergartens and cooperation in civil defense. Even the rich states used to help the poor.

Mr. Chairman,

I wish that my turn to speak was yesterday when there was no bell in order to elaborate more on the issue of disasters. Disasters are not limited to earthquakes, floods or fires but there is a more serious one which is the rise of food prices as mentioned by one of the speakers. The victims of earthquakes are dead under the earth, but the victims of high prices are dead over the earth. I believe that we have to issue recommendations that include capacity building and gathering the public opinion to face disasters.

Mr. Chairman, allow me to talk about Jordan before the bell tolls. There are programmes and plans to disasters in Jordan. In addition, a law entitled "Civil Defense Law" is endorsed which included a paragraph about the formation of the Higher Council for Civil Defense headed by the minister of interior, deputy headed by the general director of the Civil Defense Directorate and the secretary generals Red Cross and Red Crescent as members.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Jordan has taken all the necessary procedures and prepared plans to tackle disasters though there are no direct threats to it. The Civil Defense Directorate holds regular lectures and seminars in the schools. In addition, there are friends to the Civil Defense comprising old and young males and females who participate along with school students in the live Civil Defense exercises. Furthermore, H.M. King Abdullah II has directed to establish a Civil Defense Academy, which will be accomplished in the next year. Topics related to Civil Defense such as disasters, rescue, evacuation and fire extinction will be taught in this academy. Bachelor degree will be awarded in these fields. We wish to receive your students in this academy because Jordan is their second home, and we feel proud of your students who study currently at the Jordanian universities totaling more than 1500 for their dedication, morals and good manners.

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Jordan is considered as a developed country in extending technical consultations in the fields of rescue, ambulance, fire extinction and disasters. I would like to take this opportunity to mention that the secretary general of the International Organization for Civil Defense is one of the Jordanian Officers who retired at the rank of General.

In concluding, I reiterate my heartfelt thanks to the organizers for their relentless efforts which is crowned with success. I wish that this conference will come out with recommendations which are useful to the whole world, and for these recommendations to be implemented. Among the recommendations proposed by the speakers in the conference, I would like to refer to the one by the deputy prime minister proposing to establish a fund in Malaysia to disasters supported by the government. I wish that such a fund to be established in all the countries and to be financed by both private and public sectors.

I, in turn, suggest imposing a new tax of one cent on each packet of cigarettes or bottle of alcohol called the disasters' tax.

Once again, thank you and peace be upon you all.

**HE MR. VLADIMIR BOZHKO,
MINISTER OF EMERGENCY SITUATIONS
REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN**

Dear Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Kazakhstan delegation I would like to welcome participants of the International Forum and to thank sincere its organizers, the Government of Malaysia, UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and personally Mr. Salvano Briceno. Large-scale disasters with having a transfrontier character are often threatening too many countries and demonstrate its significant growth in the last time. Disasters cause huge damages and its negative sequences are still the problem for a steady development of whole regions around the world.

In these hard conditions the prior purpose, in our opinion, is in integration of efforts, material and intellectual resources for timely reaction onto natural and anthropogenic cataclysms and in adoption of some package of preventable extents to reduce its negative impact to social, economical fields, and also to ecological balance. Because of variety in natural and geological conditions a territory of Kazakhstan is also threatened with most of known disasters as earthquakes, floods, torrents, snow avalanches, land and snow slides, drought, sharp temperature drop, snowstorms and hurricane, forest and steppe fire. There were a number of large natural disasters as floods, heavy snow and rain, hurricanes, and also anthropogenic ones as large accidents at coal mines in 2008.

I would like to point out here that in all cases our people have not being faced with their own troubles. An effective work of the National Platform of Kazakhstan on reaction to natural calamity or disasters, which the fact of establishment was pointed out by the UN General Secretary during the 63rd General Assembly. An additional impact is practical realization in Kazakhstan of the Hyogo Frame Plan of Action on disaster risk



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

reduction for 2005-2015 and in the first place an operation on risk significant reduction of its influence on social, economical and ecological systems. National protection is one of the basic priorities of the long-term Strategy of the Kazakhstan Development until 2030. Realization of the organizational, engineering, social, economical and legal package directed onto prevention and elimination of disaster consequences, anthropogenic accidents is adopted in the middle-term Strategy Plan of the Ministerial Development and Governmental Program of the Republic of Kazakhstan. All national stakeholders as Government of Kazakhstan, Legal and Financial Institutions, Local Authorities are involved into this responsible work. The range of legislative duties of the emergency services is multifunctional. Subdivisions for civil defense, National Material Reserve, fire and industrial safety, companies, rescue crews, fire and medical services, mountain and gas rescue crews, elimination crews for oil fountains, torrent defense and aviation rescue with total number above 30 thousand people are involved into the uniform system.

In our country the legislative system for risk reduction is continuously in a progress and presented by the seven basic laws. The Government has approved the Conception for independent risk evaluation in a fire safety. For the purpose of elimination of emergency situations consequences the Government, local authorities and national companies have assigned means of about 116 million US dollars that means stability of a national financial system and efficient reaction of our authorities despite of global financial crisis. It should be noted that the Ministry budget for these purposes will be expanded in 2009 by 1.5 times compared to 2008 and will be higher than 400 million US dollars.

According the UN National Report of human development in Kazakhstan for 2008 the second vulnerable factor for economy after a climate change is water supplying sector. On this point our state has started a realization of strategically important Project for construction of flood-control compensator along the Syr-Dariya River. It provides good facilities for occupancy, safety and water supply for about 2.5 million people of the south Kazakhstan and decreases vulnerability of our neighbors in Uzbekistan from significant water evacuation to nearby aggregations and industrial projects. It is well known that disaster consequences have less repercussion when Population is well informed about practical steps for their protection. In Kazakhstan basic elements of disaster reduction are included into educational programs of high schools and universities and also mass media as television, radio and Internet. In soon, all mobile consumers in our country will be able to get SMS-messages of emergency threat and facts. Innovation experience and partnership in a population risk competence should be one of important subject for mutual cooperation at round table discussions and sessions of this Conference.

Republic of Kazakhstan in this year has confirmed its active position in the field of humanitarian reaction on negative consequences of disasters of social, economical and ecological characters. People of nine countries as Tajikistan, Afghanistan, China, Russian Federation, Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, and Cuba have been supported after disasters of military, ecological, natural and anthropogenic types with aid of 10 million US dollars in a money equivalent. Humanitarian aid in most case included food, medicine, clothes, tents and construction materials.

Dear Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Further integration of the Asian countries in a field of disaster prevention and elimination is one of the ways of safety and stability. With expressing of commitment to promote an implementation of HFA I would also like to point out an urgent necessity in sub-regional development of mechanism to enhance coordination for the risk management in Central Asia. This is following, in the first place, by common problems on early forecast of across the- border risk and close interconnection in ecological and anthropogenic areas. Realization of the Kazakhstan initiative on establishment of the Central Asian coordination center on risk reduction in our country will stimulate mutual reaction on a risk reduction in the region.

Therefore, a relevance of measures concerning disaster risk reduction and strengthening of multilateral cooperation has become much evident. In the end of my speech I would like to point out that Kazakhstan for nowadays has reached a sufficient potential for an effective cooperation with the Asian countries in a safety providing for vital activity, solving problems in prevention and elimination of emergency situations and is ready for practical cooperation. Further integration of Asian countries in prevention and elimination of disasters is one of the ways to safety and stability in the region.

Let me thank again the Conference organizers for invitation and hospitality.

Thank you for your attention.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

H.E. DR. TY PHOMMASACK, VICE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY OF THE LAO PDR

*Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

On behalf of the Lao delegation, I would like express our sincere thanks to the Government of Malaysia as well as to the people of Malaysia for their hospitality and generosity in hosting this conference. With excellent arrangements made by the host and strong cooperation of all delegates, I am confident that this conference will be a success.

Dear participants,

Natural disaster has become a global concern of our time. Over the past decades, our world has experienced various disasters that had claimed hundred thousand of lives and caused damages to economic infrastructure and social development, for instances, Tsunami occurred in December 2004 killed thousands of peoples and affected development foundation of many countries along the coastline of Indian Ocean and again this year, Nargis Typhoon hit Myanmar caused more than 80 thousand people killed. In this regard, the Lao delegation would like to join others in expressing our condolences to all people and their families affected by these natural disasters. Tsunami and Typhoon Nargis have demonstrated that without international cooperation, no country, big or small, rich or poor could be able to cope with such harsh natural disaster.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Lao PDR is also largely effected by Natural Disasters mainly flood and drought. Flood has a great impact on our social economic development and thus the life of the people, as the affected areas are the primary location of economic activity. To cope with natural disaster, a landmark decree No. 158/PM signed by Prime Minister in August 1999 provides the legal basis for disaster management activities and structures of the Government of Lao PDR. The decree calls for the establishment of an inter-ministerial National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC) which has the responsibilities for the development of disaster management policies, mobilization and coordination of national and international assistance, information management and public awareness, disaster preparedness, response and recovery and promotion of local disaster management committees down to the district and village levels. Under this decree, disaster management committees are established at the local level (provincial, district and village level). Government of Lao PDR has recognized disaster risk reduction as a key development priority that encompass hazard mitigation and vulnerability reduction through an effective preparedness strategy aimed at reducing the effects of natural and man-made disasters, particularly in rural areas.

Our country also developed National Strategy Plan on Disaster Risk Management from 2003 up to 2020 with the aims to: reduce disaster risk to the communities and strengthened capacities of disaster management body at national, local and community levels on disaster risk management. Hyogo Framework of Action adopted in the world conference on disaster risk reduction in Kobe 2005 as well as the Delhi Declaration 2007, the government of Laos very strongly support and put into action. Some progress report as following:

1. National and Provincial Disaster Management Committees had been reviewed and developed more widely involved significant agencies concerned to the committee.
2. Lots of training and workshops on disaster risk management had been conducted for local disaster management bodies and communities.
3. National Strategy Plan on Disaster Risk Management has been reviewed and plan to further develop a comprehensive National Disaster Management Plan including the Plan of Action in 2009.
4. Provincial Disaster Management Plan had developed in some provinces and some districts had developed the flood preparedness plan.
5. Disaster risk reduction has been discussed to integrate into development policy, planning, rural development plans and national poverty reduction plan in the country.



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

6. Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into school curriculum had been implemented in the past two years and ongoing and upcoming projects under project cooperation with Aus Aid and ADPC.
7. Disaster Risk had been identified and assessed at the local and community level, and hazard and disaster risk map had been created.
8. Weather forecasting and flood warning early warning and dissemination systems had been discussed and developed closely cooperated with meteorological and hydrological department. Early warning system had been developed at the community people under the Community Based Disaster Management Project.
9. The existing disaster preparedness response systems at national and local level had been assessed and giving the recommendation to improve this system supported by UN OCHA and UNDAC team.
10. Very strong partnership and cooperation in disaster preparedness and risk reduction with international community's both internal and external, particularly with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee for disaster preparedness and response in the country.

We believe that the international cooperation at all levels is the key to reduce the risk of natural disaster in the world and we fully support the regional and international cooperation on natural disaster reduction. I would like to reiterate our strong belief in the future benefits of such cooperation for disaster reduction.

Thank you very much.



HON. MINISTER AMEEN FAISAL MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND NATIONAL, MALDIVES.

I am honoured to join those who have spoken before me in congratulating the Government of Malaysia in organization the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

Minister, **Hon.Dato' Seri Mohamed Nazri Tan Sri Abdul Aziz**
Secretary National Security Council, **Hon. Dato Muhammad Hatta Ab. Aziz**
Director, UNISDR, **Mr. Salvano Briceno** distinguished guests and friends.

The Maldives is an archipelago of almost 1,200 coral islands located south-southwest of India. Most of the islands lie just 4.9 feet (1.5 meters) above sea level.

The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has forecast a rise in sea levels of at least 7.1 inches (18 cm) by the end of the century. Climate change is not only an environmental or sustainable development issues; it is first and foremost a human issue. With the release assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), there is now scientific certainty that human activity is the main cause of global climate change. Thus, the opportunity to avoid irreversible damage to the climate system will be lost, if urgent and definite actions are not immediately taken.

The extreme vulnerability of Small Island Nations to disaster events is well known. The small size of the islands makes retreat from the elements impossible. A single event can impact an entire country, rendering large portions uninhabitable, completely devastating narrowly based economies. Given the precarious nature of their existence, vulnerability reduction and disaster management issues would occupy a prominent role in all island development agendas.

Small Island nations have contributed very little to the release of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Yet, we are being forced to contend with the devastating effects of these emissions. We are faced with coral bleaching, sea level rise, salt water intrusion, water scarcity and increasingly severe weather events – all with very real financial and social costs for our already vulnerable economies.

Just over a month ago, the people of Maldives voted overwhelmingly for new leadership and a change of direction for our nation. We humbly offer our government as an example of peace and reconciliation in action. We bring together people committed to service notwithstanding our politically historical background.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

The government will put in every extra effort to look into adaptability measures as well as climate change issues affecting the country and I use this opportunity to welcome the international community to guide us forward.

We are aware that the UN agencies are seriously considering these issues in their future programs with a special focus in Maldives. I am also happy to know that UN-ISDR has already started considering project in the country keeping specifically in mind climate change integration.

The Chinese word of crisis consists of two characters which mean danger as well as opportunity. The 2004 Tsunami crisis that struck the nation will be converted into an opportunity by the new government in taking various steps in disaster prevention mitigation and emergency management. Thanks to the international community and, of course, our resilient and resourceful people, we have since become more conscious of the imperatives of disaster preparedness and crisis management. As a consequence, we will continue to be at the forefront of the activities to have this issue properly debated and appropriate action plans adopted and implemented. In doing so, we also look to our neighboring countries who taking various step in disaster risk reduction. The SAARC forum plays a pivotal role in extending regional cooperation. Maldives is in its infant stage Disaster Risk Reduction and I appeal to all organization and International community to specifically look into the uniqueness Maldives faces while implementing the projects.

I am particularly concerned that Maldives run of good luck with disaster might have lulled us into a false sense of security. In such circumstances, in addition to doing all that is physically possible to protect ourselves, we can only pray to God to spare our beautiful country from the impact of a serious natural disaster. Let us hope that we collectively do what is necessary in the years to come to protect life and property. I have no doubt that the deliberations in the conference will take us further in our effort and endeavors to build a safer society and safer world. My government urges that we capitalize on the spirit of cooperation and collaboration to assist vulnerable nations to become and remain viable, and to actively participate in a global process that needs the input of all nations of the world, big and small.

My best wishes for a successful and fruitful conference.

**HIGH COMMISSIONER TS.AMGALANBAYAR,
CHIEF, NEMA, MONGOLIA**

Dear Chairman,
Honorable Ministers, Distinguished guests and delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Government and People of Malaysia for hosting the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and to the Secretariat of International Strategy for Disaster Reduction for giving opportunities to have common understanding and policy on preventing from natural and man made disasters faced human being and overcoming them and to join the regional countries enthusiastic diligences.

Recent years global major disasters and catastrophes claimed lives of thousands have sufficiently reminded us that improved management of natural hazards and the reduction of disaster risks must be given the highest priority. The World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Kobe, Japan, in January 2005, approved the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters and determined that the implementation of this Framework for Action will substantially reduce disaster losses, in lives as well as the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries.

The Government of Mongolia recognizing the increases of disasters, resulted by global warming, in numbers and in types and the considerable pressure to national economic has set in its Plan of Action the objective "To implement a complex of measures for strengthening disaster management institutions and for

improving disaster prevention, rescue, response and recovery capacity” in accordance with five specific Priorities for Hyogo Framework Action.

1. Making disaster risk reduction a priority.

The agricultural sector of Mongolia has mostly affected by natural and climatic hazardous phenomena caused considerable damage to country’s development and economy. During dzud and drought of 1999-2003, Mongolia lost 8.3 millions of livestock out of 33 millions.

The Government of Mongolia for reducing disaster risk in livestock husbandry depending from nature has initiated the campaign to shift gradually from pastoral livestock husbandry to intensified farming husbandry and to increase meat and dairy products. The campaign “Agricultural Land-III” for supplying population by flour and vegetables is important measure to reduce food deficit that face not only Mongolia but also the world. In addition to that suitable circumstances for strengthening small and medium size enterprises have been created in local level for reducing disaster risks of rural population and diversifying their income and livelihood sources. The Government considering positive effects of this measure in reducing urbanization and developing rural infrastructure allocates sufficient resources and conducts awareness activities amongst herders and population adjusted to pasture livestock husbandry.

2. Improving risk information and early warning.

As a result of Government activities on introducing global progress of science and technology for strengthening disaster information and communication network and creating disaster database, all of 354 soums of Mongolia connected to mobilephone operators and administrative smallest units or bags and herders provided with the opportunity to receive weather forecast, disaster alert and early warning at pasture land caring about their livestock.

Repeater stations have being installed in urban areas and increased the scope of radio communication. New roads built in the framework of the Government program “Millenium Road” increase the possibility of timely disaster response and disaster relief. National Emergency Management Agency of Mongolia developed the project “Strengthening Early Warning” for making reliable disaster communication, providing required techniques and equipment and delivering timely early warning and seeks the way to implement it.

3. Building a culture of safety and resilience.

Mongolia has unique traditional disaster risk reduction knowledge, culture and custom appropriate to nomadic lifestyle and pasture livestock husbandry that experienced for hundreds of years. As a result of the campaign on delivering this knowledge to young generation by issuing series of manuals, handbooks and conducting distant and desk top training, herders obtained adequate knowledge on overcoming natural disaster with minimum of loss and heads of livestock in Mongolia reached 42 millions.

The project “Strengthening the Disaster Mitigation and Management System in Mongolia” funded by UNDP and Luxemburg Government, in its phase II, developed the model of Community Based Disaster Management and successfully practiced it in 8 soums of 4 aimags encouraging formation of herder/urban self help groups as CBDM units to reduce disaster risk. The project III will introduce the model to other communities facilitating community-to-community learning.

4. Reducing the risks in key sectors.

Only 6.8 percentage of the territory of Mongolia is covered by forest. The Government established the Forest Agency taking into account the increases of forest and steppe fires in spring and autumn. It was important measure in improving forest usage and reforestation

Disaster risk reduction measures like irrigating agricultural land and providing pasture land with water sources have been taken in the agricultural sector. In all of 21 aimags, 2-3 points have been identified for allocating food, petroleum, hay and fodder to rationalize location of the state and local reserves, items and their quantity.

5. Strengthening preparedness for response.

Special attention is paid into technical supply; human resource training and preparedness of special oriented disaster management units and in 2008 more than 100 rescuers were trained inside of country and in training centers of Russian Federation and Korea for search and rescue operation and improved

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

their professional skill. Legal environment for supplying rescue, fire extinguishing and recovery units with techniques and equipments under international standards have created.

In the conclusion, I would like to emphasize that Mongolia is reaching certain progress in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action approved by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of Mongolia, I wish a great success in your efforts to protect your states and population from disaster.

H. FADLULLAH WILMOT COUNTRY DIRECTOR MUSLIM AID BANGLADESH COORDINATOR FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA

Muslim Aid is operating in some of the most vulnerable and disaster prone countries in South and Southeast Asia and has therefore developed an integrated approach to DRR meaning it is incorporated in all Muslim Aid programmes and activities. Muslim Aid has been cooperating closely with the Disaster Management Agencies in the countries where it operates and is encouraging and supporting the paradigm shift from a reactive to a proactive approach, from a sectoral approach to a multi-sectoral one, from emergency response to risk reduction and from a centralistic and government centric approach to a local autonomy and participatory approach. This approach creates a space for NGOs like Muslim Aid and civil society to be more involved in disaster preparedness and response. Muslim Aid works with involvement local government and civil society to reduce the impact of hazards interacting with physical, social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities.

Muslim Aid believes that the involvement of civil society is vital in any DRR programme and therefore the emphasis is on education, gender issues and development as well as poverty reduction. The environment is a matter which needs community participation to protect it and move state agencies to better protect the environment. Safe housing is an important issue in all disaster-prone areas. In its infrastructure programmes Muslim Aid has ensured that all housing designs are resistant the major hazards in the areas it is working e.g. in Indonesia its housing programmes are designed to resist earthquakes and in Bangladesh its housing and other buildings like schools are designed to be cyclone-resistant and in both countries in areas subject to flooding or high tide minimising vulnerability to inundation is a priority such as providing housing on pillars in Indonesia or plinths in Bangladesh. Muslim Aid ensures that sanitation and water facilities are designed to both reduce risk of both disease and are accessible during floods. Muslim Aid is also involved in a flood mitigation project in the Central Business District of Banda Aceh.

Efforts to reduce disaster risks are systematically integrated into Muslim Aid policies, plans and programmes for sustainable development and poverty reduction, and supported through cooperation and partnerships. Muslim Aid believes that sustainable development, poverty reduction, good governance and disaster risk reduction are mutually supportive objectives. Muslim Aid also integrates 'Disaster Risk Reduction' activities with other on-going programmes such as its education and microfinance programmes.

The HFA (Hyogo Framework for Action) provides landmark guidance on reducing disaster risk and the impacts of disasters. Muslim Aid activities prioritise the HFA strategies in Muslim Aid's disaster risk reduction programmes in the context of sustainable development, poverty reduction and in building resilience to manage and reduce risk through enhanced national and local capabilities. MA provides training on 'disaster preparedness' to enable communities to be prepared to tackle any emergency situation through training and hands on experience. Muslim Aid undertakes 'Disaster Preparedness' programmes through community involvement, ensuring local Government participation for sustainability. Muslim Aid implements its Community Based Risk Reduction Projects through effective participation of local Government, community leaders, local youth and CSOs. In order to minimize the cost of the programme implementation strengthens the capacity of existing local Governments, communities and CSOs. Muslim Aid tries to reduce the substantial disaster losses in lives and the social, economic and environmental assets of communities by:

- (i) Integrating 'disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies and planning
- (ii) Strengthening the capacity of concerned institutions and mechanisms and (iii) incorporating risk

reduction approaches into the implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes.

Muslim Aid undertakes the following activities in DRR

1. Working with local communities in disaster-prone areas to prepare DRR strategies and plans which are 'owned' by the community
2. Working with the Government on the drafting of guidelines, training and managers handbook for sector and locales and coordination regarding DRR projects. Working with local governments – to prepare their own Local Action Plans for Disaster Risk Reduction, at the different levels of government.
3. Formation of 'Disaster Preparedness and Management Committees (DPMC)' in all the villages, sub-districts, districts and provinces which are most vulnerable and disaster prone.
4. Providing appropriate training to the DPMC members on disaster risk reduction and raising awareness of their roles and responsibilities
5. Mobilizing youth to be 'core' volunteers and providing training on disaster risk reduction (DRR)
6. Imparting training to all Local Government staff on DRR and ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities
7. Conducting training (TOT) on DRR for school teachers, public representatives, religious leaders
8. Conducting training for LG staff, volunteers and CSO staff on SPHERE
9. Providing training to LG staff, CSO staff and volunteers on 'Early Warning System' and making sure that they are aware of the warning messages
10. Conducting training for volunteers, DPMC members and CSO staff on emergency rescue, emergency relief and rehabilitation
11. Conducting refresher training courses in all disaster prone areas every six months where the DPMC members, LG staff, CSO staff and the core volunteers will share their ideas and experiences on disaster reduction.

H. E BRIG. GEN KWAY MYINT
DEPUTY MINISTER FOR SOCIAL WELFARE, RELIEF AND RESETTLEMENT, MYANMAR

Good morning,
Mr.Chairman,Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to address this 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. On behalf of Myanmar delegation and on my own, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Government of Malaysia for hosting this important Conference and to the Organizing Committee for warm hospitalities accorded to us as the excellent arrangement of this Conference. May I also extend my best wishes to all distinguished delegates.

Mr.Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

The Indian Ocean Tsunami in 2004,the Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar and the earthquake in Sinchuan Province, China in May 2008 are sorrowfully recorded natural disasters.

After Sumatra earthquake and tsunami in 2004, in Myanmar, the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee was formed with the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister of the State. It comprises of (37) members supervise and coordinate systematically; rescue, emergency relief and rehabilitation tasks are being successfully implemented.

At that time, 5 based-line camps, 6 transit-line camps and 12 front-line camps in coastal areas were set up in the affected region and relief supplies were distributed to the storm affected people without delay and quick momentum.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

In addition, the Tripartite Core Group (TCG), comprising of three representatives each from government of Myanmar, ASEAN and UN, is chaired by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs. Its main task is to coordinate and organize the relief and rehabilitation activities of UN, INGOs and Government of Myanmar.

Consequently, thank to the supports of the State, local and international donors with humanitarian spirit, the survival of the storm-affected people are quickly recovered in the emergency period. We could manage to conduct emergency relief tasks.

There are three types of livelihood in Ayeyawady Division: agriculture sector, power tillers, draught cattle, paddy strain and pumps were provided.

In fishery sector, 11918 fishing boats and 18529 fishing nets were provided. And also we made arrangement timely to start salt production

For rehabilitation of housing sector, 4852 units had been built, and 7725 units have already been donated by local well-wishers.

The Government is preparing an Action Program on Disaster Risk Reduction in line with HFA with technical assistance from Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC).

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

After Nargis, workshops and trainings are being conducted from National Level to Local Level to enhance capacity building for Disaster Risk Reduction. As a National Level, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement with the collaboration of UNHCR e-centre has conducted the International Humanitarian Response Workshop.

Training of Trainers on Disaster Risk Reduction was also provided four times under the guidance of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in collaboration with UN agencies such as UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNOCHA, UNEP and Asian disaster preparedness centre, ASEAN, INGOs such as action aid, world vision and local NGOs such as Myanmar Red Cross Society and Mingalar Myanmar Foundation.

Furthermore, State and Division Level Disaster Management Courses were being opened eight times in 2008. The participants who attended TOT on Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Course conducted multiplier courses in townships and villages. For community level, workshop on Community Based Disaster Risk Management is also provided by the Ministry with the partnership of INGOs and local NGOs.

HONORABLE R.C. JHA
MINISTER, LOCAL DEVELOPMENT GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL

Respected Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

It is with great pleasure to update Nepalese government's disaster risk reduction initiatives in line with Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015 in this forum. Nepal, along with the rest of the world, actively committed itself to reducing the localised vulnerability to disaster at the United Nations Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDDR) in Kobe in January 2005. This initiative sets out Nepal's obligatory contribution to international efforts to reduce disaster risk vulnerability at national level. Nepal is concerted efforts towards institutionalizing a National Strategic Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction to reduce impact of disaster, including climate change, and promote disaster risk governance policy and strategies through public and private partnership.

Respected Chairperson, let me share some activities Government of Nepal did since Delhi Declaration 2007.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

The Government of Nepal:

1. Accelerated the process to form National Platform at the central level;
2. Appointed disaster risk reduction focal person at 10 ministries;
3. Implementation a pilot project called "Municipality Risk and Resilience Committee" at Dhankuta Municipality in the eastern part of Nepal.
4. Facilitated various local, national, regional and international non-government agencies efforts to minimise disaster vulnerability.
5. Preparing Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan manual for local bodies.

Dear Excellencies, an increase focus on building community resilience for pre-post disaster planning has been apparent. Three examples demonstrate this:

1. At an academic level, rewritten 'At Risk' by Wisner shows significantly increase in text on community based approaches.
2. At a policy level IPCC3/4 and HFA (2005-2015) have an emphasis not only in mitigation but on adaptation to climate change. The Government of Nepal, through the Ministry of Local Development, believes that adaptation is essentially resilience planning and has to be actionable at community level. Implementation of various adaptation strategies and adaptation for poverty alleviation are driven by land use and demographic changes.
3. At the practitioners' level, various national and international non government agencies are in partnerships on community based disaster risk management planning with are declared intent to build community resilience.

Dealing with disaster risk is a major development challenge in Nepal. There are resources constrains and Nepal Government needs to support: hopefully this problem will get more attention in this forum. Nepalese communities have strong social that could help future public private partnership. The Ministry of Local Development believes that such social capital enables people to build community resilience to disaster.

Distinguished delegates, let me take this opportunity to inform you that Government of Nepal through the leadership of the Ministry of Local Development is willing to organize Dealing with Disaster Conference in November 2009 in Kathmandu next year. The title of the conference is *Resilience through Local Governance*. The of Nepal will organise in partnership with Disaster and Development Centre, School of Applied Sciences, Northumbria University, UK, BARC University, Bangladesh and Kathmandu University, Nepal. On behalf of Ministry of Local Development, I would like to welcome you all in Kathmandu.

I personally thank the organisers of this event that provided me and members of the team an opportunity to share Nepalese Government's disaster risk reduction initiatives.

Thank you all.

**MR. GERHARD PUTMAN-CRAMER
OCHA**

MR/Madam Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Representatives, Esteemed Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen...

It is my great pleasure and privilege to be here in Kuala Lumpur at this important moment and to address this distinguished audience. In fact it feels like not so long ago that we met - in New Delhi - to discuss how we can work together, nationally, regionally and internationally, to make the world a safer place, and to make populations and societies more resilient and less vulnerable to disasters.

Since we met last year, this region has again been severely hit by disasters; to name the most obvious of course is the Cyclone Sidr that hit Bangladesh just after we had all returned from Delhi, in November 2007, Cyclone Nargis which hit Myanmar in May 2008 with devastating effects on the population. And then the earthquake in China, just a few days after the cyclone in Myanmar. There was also the extremely harsh last winter, in Central Asia and in Afghanistan. There were numerous other disasters, on various scales, such as Cyclone Gene that hit Fiji and Vanuatu, land and mudslides in Indonesia in January, Cyclone Guba affecting Papua New Guinea, cyclones and earthquakes in Pakistan, flooding in Nepal and India... The list is long and

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

each entry on that list implies human suffering, loss of livelihoods and an adverse impact on national and regional economies.

Let us on this account recall that 168 Governments adopted a 10-year plan to make the world safer from natural hazards, at the Kobe Conference in 2005, which many of us attended. This plan is the Hyogo Framework for Action.

Reducing risk of course does not mean that risk can be eliminated entirely and there will always be events that we cannot avoid. It is in this regard vital that we prepare for how we respond to those events that we cannot prevent. Let me assure you that the United Nations Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) considers Emergency Preparedness one of the most essential parts of improving overall humanitarian response.

Being prepared and ready to act by strengthening disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels is, as you know, the focus of HFA Priority Number 5, which is in turn the logical flow of the first four priorities, i.e. making risk reduction a national and local priority; knowing risks and taking action; building understanding and awareness and reducing risk.

It is however you – the Governments – who are primarily responsible for responding to disasters occurring within your territory. It has been proven, again and again, that the local and national authorities provide the quickest and most effective response to a disaster. The international community, and the international system's assistance, whether bilateral or multilateral, normally represents only a small fraction of the assistance provided. Risk reduction through effective disaster response preparedness is therefore all about working with governments, communities, donors and regional organizations, before a disaster strike, to improve the effectiveness of response activities, when these are called for.

As we recognize that you – the national emergency-management officials of your countries – are the frontline of humanitarian action in times of disasters, we value our partnership with you and we are committed to build upon this partnership through meetings such as this, and more important still, through our practical cooperation and daily contacts with you.

MR/Madam Chair, one of the great concerns today is that ever-larger parts of the world's population are living in the most vulnerable areas, such as low-lying coastal land and earthquake zones. The incidence and severity of disasters are likely to increase under the effects of climate change, population growth, urbanization, desertification and environmental degradation. This will in turn require us to fundamentally review and upgrade our response preparedness in light of prospective scenarios.

Allow me at this juncture to reflect on some of OCHA's engagement for risk reduction and response preparedness in the Asia-Pacific region. The UNDAC system, which most of you know, is used in times of disasters to coordinate and assist in the response to a disaster. You probably also know that the UNDAC system is at your disposal for assessing national capacities for response preparedness. So far UNDAC National Capacity Assessment Missions have been conducted in this region in Mongolia, the Philippines, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Lao PDR and Bhutan. Such assessments, no doubt, provide a very useful tool for national authorities in reducing risk and in strengthening their preparedness. These have been discussed in greater detail, in a side-event at this Conference.

OCHA is of course also engaged through our regional and national offices. We have a Regional Office in Bangkok. We have Regional Disaster Response Advisors Offices in Fiji and in Almaty, Kazakhstan, We have National Disaster Response Advisors in Pakistan and the Philippines and we have Field Offices in Iran, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste. We are also planning a new OCHA Office in Afghanistan for 2009.

Through these and other structures we are able to more closely collaborate with you, the governments of the region, with the United Nations Country and Humanitarian Teams, and other key regional and national partners. The main objective is to build networks and to reinforce local capacity to respond when disasters strike.

I would like to use this opportunity to express OCHA's appreciation for the active involvement of the Asia-Pacific region in these various networks and mechanisms. Let it be clarified, again, that these are your instruments, not ours!

In closing, I would like to emphasize that work in the region is done through strong partnership arrangements with Governments as well as regional organisations. At the core of any UN initiative is the ultimate intent to



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

see the capacities of Member States strengthened. As we are all aware, we live today in a world of multiple responders, joint planning, joint operations, negotiations, consultation and collaboration. It is imperative that we link national capacity to the regional and international mechanisms, which exist, well rehearsed and accessible to all, so that any duplication of efforts and therefore confusion can be avoided.

MR/Madam Chair Let I close here by thanking you once more, in my own name and on behalf of OCHA, for your kind invitation to address this Ministerial Conference.

I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Government of Malaysia for hosting this meeting and for bringing about these much required deliberations, which I trust will be successful.

Thank you.

**H.E COLONEL SULEIMAN AI BUSAIDY,
SUPRITENDANT GENERAL OF POLLUTION CONTROL, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
& CLIMATE AFFAIRS, OMAN.**

Honorable Mr. Chairman, Ministers from various countries,
Distinguished delegates,
Representatives from the ISDR and various conference partners,
Representatives from various media agencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honor and privilege to address this very important forum – the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Management, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank to Malaysian Government for their kind and warm hospitality and congratulate them on the efficient and splendid arrangements they have put in place.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to speak on behalf of myself, country, and delegates to attend for this importance conference. I want to speak on what really happen in our part of this world. Oman has been very aware of man-made disasters. In 2007, Oman has hit by Cyclone Juru, which was not only damage our infrastructures, but also on peoples life. Sadly to say was, in most countries, if you have not had a disaster or some unfortunate incidents, you don't seem to be fully aware of what the impacts and the implications are, and what your needed. Sadly to say, this is about my own country.

Mr. Chairman,

However, I believe that among in a very sensible and a very straight forward excellent coordination of what Oman has. At the same time, I need to stress that one of the most importance aspects is a contingency plan, cooperation between government agency and the industries. I also want to stress on having a public awareness. Public awareness is very, very importance. This is because among the cases the government could have rules, laws, plan, and regulations. But is this are not actually compared on to the individual, then it will become extremely difficult to react.

As of you hope, in this task force when we found that even civilians at the time, when the government try to move them kindly and politely, because they have not never experienced this before. But when time came, and we have to face it and this kind of civilians went to hide gone and actually saw their village, animals, and livestock actually stoppable.

Mr. Chairman,

I can't stress enough on cooperation between government and industries. In my country, usually when the disasters coming and we thought that we had prepared enough, but we did not realize the severity of the actual python itself. You are lucky in the world; you did not actually the eye on what was hit on Oman. It was actually 400km offshore at on one time. However, the massive infrastructures damages, lost to line, one life exception.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction

From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

However, I must admit that I'm very proud of the Omani to actually see our youth to attend a part of our programme and helping the authorities. And this is something I never expect it to see. So, in facts, it was a lesson learnt coped, not by the parents, but by God.

Mr. Chairman,

I'm very quickly to talk about how the infrastructure was alike. A task force came under the command of the Inspector General of Police. We cooperate and work closely into the Contingency Plan. But unfortunately, it was not perfect as I never expected too. However, as you want to know, is there no communication, limited of communication, with no road transportations, normally we took half an hour to go from A to B, resulting 10 to 15 hours, because the infrastructures was totally devastated. There no other alternatives to replace it, so people have to go about 50 to 100 yards to actually walk up the mountain, with their camels and goats.

I believe we managed to do quite well. Let say if we have the situations like this, we need to look at lesson learnt. The lesson is in terms of correction and corrective in future events.

Mr. Chairman,

What other importance impacts was on exchange of information, not only in between government and industries, but also in between of neighboring countries. The neighboring countries in Oman like UAE, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Yemen was extremely helpful. However, their assistant was very limited due to the main airport was closed, which is very difficult for them actually come in to assist Oman. Public awareness is also very importance. The public must aware of the danger of any disasters.

My last point before I leave you is that about the huge lesson learnt to the peoples. If it happen again, all you have to do is only one point, move. That more ever faster than the Police Department.

Thank you.

**HE MR. ELIAS CAMSEK CHIN
VICE PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC OF PALAU
REPUBLIC OF PALAU**

Thank you.

I am pleased to be here today in order to represent the Republic of Palau, a small island nation in Oceania, at this important conference. Palau is a nation concerned about its security and how best to respond to disasters that might occur there. Our concern is tempered by our preparation – and we are prepared.

Palau is an independent nation in free association with the United States. We have a Constitution that has worked well for 14 years. In addition to a national government, the country is organized politically into 16 states. We have a Council of Traditional Chiefs, consisting of the highest traditional chiefs from each state that advice the President on traditional laws and customs. I am the Vice President and hold the title of Minister of Justice.

The Ministry I oversee includes the national police force, immigration, the Office of the Attorney General, marine law enforcement and the Bureau of Public Safety including the Department of Corrections. In other words, my role as Minister covers enforcement of our laws.

As Vice President, I oversee the National Emergency Management Office or "NEMO." This office is charged with responding to internal emergencies and disasters of any kind. Having the ability to test NEMO's capabilities in a realistic way is very important to ensuring the safety of our citizens and visitors. I am pleased to report that we have been tested – and we passed the test. I am very confident that the National Emergency Management Office would be able to take care of any disaster threat that faced Palau. Natural Disasters are the most common threat to which Palau is subject. Many of our states and islands are only several feet above sea level. Global warming or a Tsunami could overrun them and they could be lost forever. Palau borders the typhoon belt and is periodically affected by tropical storms that may disrupt air services, water and power supplies. So we feel that we are sometimes standing in harm's way. We may not be able to control Mother Nature, but we can act to alert of citizens and visitors of potential dangers and deal with them when



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

they occur. More than 86% of Palauans have televisions and nearly 90% have radios. We have established a notification system that uses these media sources to notify residents of pending disasters. We also have an emergency siren in the most populated area of Palau and have educated the public on what the different siren tones mean. We test that siren once a week. This testing, plus notification process we have in place, seems to be effective. The United States has conducted a series of training programs in Palau on responding to disasters and emergencies as well as hosting tabletop exercises that are very realistic. The infrastructure in Palau has done well in participating in such training and preparing for a wide variety of disaster scenarios. One of the initiatives I am working on is a method where everyone in Palau can be contacted via an automated computer system that would use telephones to call residents anytime of the day or night. This call would tell people to evacuate, tune to the radio or turn on the TV. This emergency phone system would be linked to a government-wide computer system that all agencies would use in providing services to citizens, businesses and visitors as well as monitoring immigration, work permits, etc. This system is still being developed in Palau. Until it is operational, we will rely on our siren and announcements on the public media.

It is my hope that the briefings, discussions and participation by all of us this week will result in the identification of any weaknesses in our respective disaster response capabilities. It is better to discover a weakness during a conference like this one, or to learn about new disaster response activities of other nations, than to find out about such things when there has been an actual accident, disaster or national emergency. I am looking forward to participating and I hope you are too. Each of the topics on the agenda represents enormous problems on a global and regional scale – and these are the issues we must collectively address during the conference. We must also find a way to enhance cooperation on a regional basis and with the rest of the world. At this conference, we will learn from each other as we discuss the threats and the challenges facing this region and the world.

In closing, I want to thank the organizers for taking the initiative and bringing all of us together. I look forward to our discussions.

Thank you.

HON. ERNESTO G. CAROLINA
UNDERSECRETARY FOR CIVIL, VETERANS AND RESERVE AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE,
NATIONAL DISASTER COORDINATION COUNCIL, PHILIPPINES

Chairperson,
Honourable, Ambassadors, and members of the diplomatic community,
Representatives of UN Agencies and civil society organizations,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In behalf of the Philippine Delegation, let me express our sincere appreciation to the Government of Malaysia for hosting this Conference. We also applaud the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), not only in supporting the organization of this event, but also in its continued endeavour to provide guidance to Government seeking to reinforce domestic resilience to hazard.

As we approach the Second Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, this is an important opportunity to take stock of where we are and the challenges that lie ahead. We believe the outcome of this Conference will be another significant contribution in shaping our visions and good for disaster risk reduction for vulnerable countries in this region.

Disaster Risk Reduction and humanitarian assistance are on top of the agenda for the Philippines and we will do our parting the joint effort to advance the Priorities for Action outlined in the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). There is a clearer, more deliberate, and an increased impetus in the Philippines to in place

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

appropriate policy, legal, technical, financial and institutional measures and enhance capacities on disaster risk reduction. Indeed, the Philippine Government, through the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), has an unrelenting commitment to invest in the implementation of the HFA.

Our strategy is guided by the principle of inclusiveness with a multi-stakeholder dimension that recognizes the critical role of different interest groups in propagating the significance of risk reduction, with preferential attention to the most vulnerable communities. Civil society organizations are visibly taking proactive steps and innovative approaches in addressing community-based disaster risks. Gaps between the government and other partners are being bridged through dialogues and partnership agreements. Donor agencies, through funded projects, have been instrumental in creating stimulus in the socio-political environment to direct stakeholders' energies in working together. In response to increasing support from UN agencies and international organizations, the Philippines' humanitarian assistance mechanism adopted the Cluster Approach to strengthen emergency preparedness and response capabilities and improve inter-agency coordination between and among various clusters such as health and education. This illustrates the positive value of national guidance resulting in incentives that influence multi-stakeholder behaviour and relationship.

Series of consultations among stakeholders facilitated the drafting of the document entitled "strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction in the Philippines: Strategic National Action Plan (SNAP) 2009-2019." Preparedness for the finalization of this long-term plan are already under way. The SNAP identifies eighteen (18) programs and projects on disaster risk reduction that will be given priority over the next ten years. In addition, the Philippines' Interim Progress Report on the Implementation of the HFA outlines three future agenda for action. First, establishing an enabling legal environment wherein roles and responsibilities of stakeholders are clear while organizational, societal and political structures especially at the local level empower and guide citizens, institutions, and businesses. Second, putting in place ways and means to impart and enable access to best available and practicable tools and technologies from natural and social sciences in order to create a critical mass of disaster risk reduction advocates and champions. Lastly, the Philippines will give importance to financial and economic soundness through partnerships, risk transfer mechanisms, and other non-regulatory schemes.

We aim to systematically address not only the systems of a crisis but also the causes of vulnerability. Gender-sensitive vulnerability reduction measures and accessibility to social and financial mechanisms are some of the areas that require further national attention. Rehabilitation efforts and sustainability of risk reduction activities are being compromised by overlapping occurrences of disaster events; thereby, exacerbating the complexity and enormity of disaster response requirements.

Climate change will make matters worse. Without concerted action, we could see natural catastrophes on an unprecedented scale that may even jeopardize international human security and sustainable development. But such ominous scenarios need not come to pass. By blending the cross-cutting tenets of climate change adaptation efforts with disaster risk reduction measures, the mainstreaming and institutionalisation of a comprehensive disaster risk management framework is raised to a higher notch at global, regional and particularly at national level.

Certainly, there is much to be done to save lives and reduce disaster losses. In conclusion, you can be assured that the Philippines will remain an active regional player in response to this quintessential global challenge.

Thank you very much.



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

HON. FAUMUINA TIATIA LIUGA MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT, SAMOA

Mr. President
Hon. Minister Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all, I wish on behalf of my delegation to thank the Government of Malaysia for hosting the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction; and the people of Kuala Lumpur for their warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to us our arrival.

Samoa is indeed honoured to participate in this meeting as we did in Beijing and also in New Delhi. We also participated at the Kobe, Japan, meeting when the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2010 on Disaster Risk Reduction was adopted for the Asian-Pacific region, requiring all countries to develop and implement national action plans to address the disaster risk and how to reduce them. Samoa is also working closely with other Pacific Island Countries and Development Partner to implement the Pacific Regional Framework for Action for Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management 2005-2015, a regional response to the Hyogo Framework reflecting the particular disaster risks affecting the Pacific Island countries.

Mr. President,

Samoa, like the other Pacific Island Developing State, is quite concerned about the effects of natural disasters on its people and economy. We are extremely vulnerable to tropical cyclones and other extreme climatic events. We are surrounded by the active fault lines of the Pacific Rim countries with the Tongan Trench only a short time away in the event of Tsunami. Samoa is therefore also at considerable risk from tsunamis.

Some of the disaster risks that Samoa faces are made worse by the impacts of Climate Change. Tropical cyclones are more frequent with greater intensity. Heavy rains or droughts are more common and extended over longer periods. Sea level rise and tides have accelerated coastal erosion and caused widespread floods. So you can appreciate why we are particularly interested in disaster risk reduction dialogue because we need to learn from each other and share our experiences on best planning and practice.

Mr. President,

I am pleased to advise that Samoa, since 2005, has made steady progress in its efforts to implement the Hyogo Framework. We have approved a new National Disaster and Emergency Management Framework comprising the National Management Plan, Agency Response Plans for all the key agencies and priority Hazard Plans for Tropical Cyclone, Tsunami, Fire and Pandemic. New Disaster Management Legislation has been passed and the Disaster Management Office established.

Overall control of disaster management operations comes under the National Disaster Council chaired by the Prime Minister. A Disaster Advisory Committee made up of representatives of all key agencies advised the Council and coordinates the implementation of the Management Plan. The main focus of our implementation programme is raising public awareness on disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

Mr. President,

I also wish to share with you our experience in Tsunami early warning. It is only recently that the GSM communication network was introduced to Samoa and for the first time our whole country is covered by mobile telephones. We are now able to send tsunami warning messages to selected representatives in every village who will inform their communities accordingly and effect agreed evacuation procedures. We have conducted national drills during the last two year and our people have been extremely supportive although we still have some way to go to perfect our warning and response systems.

Finally, we look forward to the successful conclusion of this conference and pledge our strong support and confidence in leadership.

Thank you.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

MR. K. SHANMUGAM MINISTER FOR LAW AND SECOND MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS SINGAPORE

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Since the conference last met in 2007, the world has seen a number of major disasters, including the devastating earthquake in Sichuan, China in May this year and the recent school collapse in Haiti in November which killed over 90 people and injured more than 150.

These tragic incidents remind us not to take the safety and security of our communities for granted. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is the principal policy-making and directing authority responsible for civil emergency preparedness and disaster management in Singapore.

Under its command, the Singapore Civil Defense Force, or SCDF, coordinates plans and oversees all operations in partnership with other agencies and the community in mitigating major disasters.

The SCDF is also statutorily responsible for providing emergency ambulance services and fighting fires, and is the regulatory authority for fire safety issues.

We believe that an effective response to disaster and emergencies require development of 2 key capabilities: First, a well-trained civil defense force committed to building capabilities in disaster prevention and response; and second, a society that is trained to cooperate effectively with the civil defense force.

In January 2008, the SCDF Operation Lionheart contingent became the first team in Asia, and the seventh in the world, to be certified by the International Search and Rescue Advisory, or INSARAG, as a Heavy Urban Search and Rescue team.

This endorsement is the highest level of recognition accorded to such teams by the level of recognition accorded to such teams by the United Nations. Let me now share a few examples of how SCDF has positioned itself in the context of our needs.

Enhancing Fire-fighting and Consequence Management Capabilities

In recent years, land-scarce Singapore has seen the construction of super high-rise residential buildings which are at least 40 storeys.

This has added to the logistical difficulties of fire-fighting, evacuation and consequence management. It is important to make sure that such capabilities are tested through rigorous exercises so that there is a level of confidence in the capabilities.

I will say a few words about the exercises that we conduct, later.

Responding to Water-Based Contingencies

As part of the plans to make Singapore an interesting place to work and play in, water-based recreational activities in many parts of Singapore's inland water bodies such as the reservoirs and the Marina Barrage have been lined up.

This has also heightened the possibility of water-based contingencies.

The SCDF has been proactively partnering stakeholder to incorporate the requisite safety features at the planning and design stage. The SCDF Special Rescue Battalion is equipped to perform evacuation and radiological decontamination for victims.

Since April last year, the SCDF has deployed new technology to track and manage the movement of all vehicles transporting large amounts of Hazardous Materials or in short, HazMat.

All such HazMat vehicles are licensed and allowed to travel only on pre-designated routes, out of Singapore's busy central business district.

They are also installed with a Global Positioning System, or GPS, tracking cum immobilizer device that is able to detect any violation.

When necessary, the SCDF is able to remotely stop the HazMat vehicle to prevent it from crashing into any key installation or densely populated area. Apart from the SCDF and the police, the Singapore Armed Forces also provides humanitarian assistance to other countries.

Since 1990, the contingent has been deployed to ten disaster-stricken areas around the region, the most recent being to assist the Sichuan province in the aftermath of the earthquake.

Extensive Community Emergency Preparedness Community

Disaster prevention and mitigation solely based on a well-trained and committed civil defense force is not sufficient.

It has to work in a community that is able to play its role in civil defense.

That requires partnering and effectively mobilizing our community during times of crisis.

Let me now share with you how we have sought to create such an environment in our society.

The SCDF conducts various emergency preparedness initiatives targeting different community sectors to enable them to pick up emergency preparedness skills at their convenience.

Since its introduction in 2003, more than 330,000 Singaporeans have since been trained and response has been encouraging.

Emergency Preparedness Days

To encourage community self-help, SCDF also works with the grassroots organizations to host Emergency Preparedness Days.

These are held in residential clusters in partnership with a variety of community organizations.

This not only enables our people to learn valuable emergency preparedness skills but also fosters community cohesion and harmony amongst local grassroots leaders and residents.

National Exercises

Having equipped our people with the necessary skills, we put their skills to practice through national level exercises, teaching them to work together.

This also dovetails community emergency plans with the modus operandi of the emergency services and relevant industry partners involved in disaster management.

An exercise codenamed Northstar is held biennially.

Scenarios are typically civil defense-related crises or disasters, which include air crash incidents, fires at petro-chemical factories and chemical agent attacks at high-risk installations.

Medical Crises

We are also prepared for any medical crises occurring within the community.

In the instance of a flu pandemic, our Ministry of Health together with the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority, National Environment Agency, as well as the SCDF would activate a pandemic response plan.

Infection control measures like contact tracing, public advisories on personal hygiene and administering of anti-virals would be put in place to minimize the effects of the outbreak to the general populace.

Earlier Conferences

The 1st Conference on Disaster Reduction was held in 2005 in China, Beijing to facilitate the implementation of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) outcome which is the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disaster. The 2nd Conference was held in 2007 in India, New Delhi to enhance regional understanding and cooperation in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015.

The strategic goal of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 are to (a) integrate disaster risk reduction into policies, plans and programmes of sustainable development and poverty reduction; (b) recognize risk reduction as both a humanitarian and development issues in the context of sustainable development; and most importantly, (c) focus on national implementation, with bilateral, multilateral, regional and international cooperation.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

The priorities for action are:

- a. Governance: ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and local priority with strong institutional basis for implementation;
- b. Risk identification: identify, assess and monitor disaster risk and enhance early warning;
- c. Knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels;
- d. Reducing the underlying risk factors; and
- e. Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response.

**HONORABLE MR. LOTY YATES,
DIRECTOR NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT OFFICE,
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, SOLOMON ISLAND**

Honorable Mr. Chairman, Ministers from various countries,
The Excellencies,
Distinguished guests and delegates,
Representatives from the ISDR and various conference partners,
Representatives from various media agencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to convey my Minister his sincere apologize for not coming to this very importance conference. We have a parliament session on currently for this time that I should be reading his statement on his behalf.

Mr. Chairman,

It is my great honor and privilege to address this very important forum – the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Management, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank to Malaysian Government for their kind and warm hospitality and congratulate them on the efficient and splendid arrangements they have put in place. This is the 1st time Solomon Island participated on Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. Solomon Island is truly honored to be part of this conference, which is the best of this region in the field of disaster risk reduction management. We intend to learn from you all and as well as share our experiences with you.

Mr. Chairman,

Solomon Island has had their natural disasters in a recent time. We have tropical cyclone, passing through our shore over this year. In April 2nd 2007, we had experienced a massive underwater earthquake which generated of Tsunami. Although the Tsunami hit 2 out of 10 our provinces, the cost of police and recovery both estimated to be around 80% of total Solomon Island budget. That is the cost of such disasters and there are peoples still living in tent.

Mr. Chairman,

Because of time limitations, I just give you one example of the current activity that the Solomon Island Government restoring currently. With the previous major disaster events, the Solomon Island Government directed a National Disaster Council to develop a comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Plan for Solomon Island, which was enacted by the Parliament. I would like to thank the supports of South-Pacific Geoscience Supplied Commission for the support to the Solomon Island in developed this Disaster Risk Management Plan, and the supporting legislations. That is the role of the Solomon Island Government to provide disaster risk management through local sector and national planning to support of community. But disaster risk management is about supporting community to understand, manage hazards, and disasters to save the life and livelihoods.

Disaster Risk Management is everybody business and hold of country approach. With all agencies and communities has their own job to tackle this. It all about everyone know their responsibility and accountable. Good governance consists of accountability, efficiency, transparency, and best practice.



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

We are hoping this management plan will not having problems in encountered the responsibility and recovering from disaster, in terms of disaster impacts.

Mr. Chairman,

To close my statement, I would like to emphasize that the leadership has to come from government and supported by private sectors and everybody else. However, we need to establish our own Disaster Risk Management because if disasters occur, the cost to recovery for them will be very painful. Thank you very much.

**YEON-SOO PARK
DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR
THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies, Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. First of all, I would like to express my sincere thank to the government of Malaysia to host this wonderful conference and your efforts to strengthen international cooperation.
2. We are all aware of that one of the most challenging global issues is about climate change. We have to focus on the phenomena of the "change", which has great impacts but coming gradually and we can hardly recognize the seriousness. We tend to accept the phenomena as natural process and that's why we sometimes forget to handle the problems. Korea has experienced during last 10 years of climate change and the effect of the change. When we hear about the climate change, we naturally think about the temperature change. The average temperature rise in the last century in six metropolitan cities in Korea has recorded one point five degrees, which is two times more than that of global average.
3. This kind of "change" can reveal itself in a shape of temperature rise, sea level rise, and sea surface temperature rise, which cause concentrated rainfall, unpredictable "guerilla" type very strong rainfall in certain areas that causes damages like bomb explosion, and trigger disastrous typhoon, resulting in big floods and causing natural-balance breaking.
4. Korean government recognize this phenomena is very dangerous and serious, and have gotten into prepare. The direction of strategy has two aspects. First, not fight against nature but cope with nature using available technologies. Second is to invest before hand to make land constitution resilient to disasters.
5. To cope with these new emerging risks, the government of Korea is implementing nine key strategies. The first one is to establish disaster risk prediction system according to local characteristics and types of disasters. Since climate change response is to respond to future phenomena, the assessment system needs to include various aspects such as future social, industrial, and land structures, meteorological factors, and disaster functions.
6. The next strategy is to link disaster policies to the land development plan. In urban area, low income houses are usually located in flood-prone areas, and therefore, it is desired to re-locate these areas or to re-develop, for better living environment with proper budget investment. The third strategy is to establish nature-friendly or close-to-nature disaster prevention environment. We need to restore hazardous urban water cycle system towards a more sustainable system, reflecting natural system, not only for flood control but also for environment protection. When we have higher levees, it means that we have higher flood risks.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. The fourth strategy is to reset the design codes of disaster related facilities such as levees, dams, and pumping stations. These facilities are currently designed based on the previous climate records. However, we need to strengthen the design criteria and be prepared for the extreme events caused by climate change. Unless we cope with these emerging risks, we will suffer from redundant disasters.
8. The next strategy is about development of disaster and safety management system using information technology (IT). Korea has developed the National Disaster Management System (NDMS), a comprehensive information system connecting 71 relevant public organizations and agencies, and the database is physically constructed with 28 important authorities. The next information technology is the Cell Broadcast Service for disaster information dissemination. This system is to provide necessary emergency information to the people in disaster or hazardous site. We can select a specific target area and then, send short messages to the people who carry mobile phones in that area.
9. Another IT system is automated rainfall warning system. This system enables early warning to the people in downstream after measuring real-time rainfall in upstream. This warning system is based on the real-time rainfall measurement, excluding potential errors from forecast. The next IT system is automated disaster damage survey system. Using remote sensing technologies, spatial analyses are performed to identify and measure damaged area rapidly. We have also prepared earthquake response system. This system can predict damages in houses and lifelines and potential casualties based on the simulated earthquake intensity. We still need to refine this system for more accurate simulation in the future.
10. The sixth strategy is to promote insurance programs. For substantial aids for the victims, the Korean government introduced natural disaster insurance program since 2006. In the beginning, only limited objects were insured and we are expanding the number of objects and coverage. The National and Emergency Management Agency manages overall system and private insurance companies operate premium.
11. The seventh government's response is to strengthen current emergency rescue and relief systems, preparing for climate change. NEMA has a central rescue service and it can be dispatched anytime, anywhere in domestic and international disaster sites. The next strategy is to be prepared for temperature rise and heat wave disaster. We have many elderly people and we need to be prepared for possible tropical epidemics. Ministry of health is one of the key partners for this matter.

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

12. The final strategy is to promote voluntary participation of civil society. Complex disaster can not be managed by the government alone. We need to vitalize active participation of local voluntary organizations, providing and facilitating various programs. There was one disaster caused by massive oil spill incident in December 2007. At that time, the Korean people showed amazing power to participate voluntarily and clean the spilled oil in such a short time.
13. In summary, global warming and climate change is one of the key disaster issues that we are all facing now. It is our problem, not theirs, and we have to do something about it. Natural disasters due to climate change are increasing. The Korean government is trying to, firstly, reset the design code for various disaster prevention facilities, and secondly, strengthen land constitution by changing way of thinking. For the realization of disaster-free society against climate change, these two objectives can be implemented based on the concept of by nature-friendly disaster prevention and can be empowered by the application of cutting-edge technologies.
14. If we collect our wisdoms and willingness, we can provide more beautiful earth with fewer disasters to our next generation. It is time to discuss about the best system that enables us to effectively share the climate information and the result of technical development on disaster response system. The regional share and cooperation system can include education and training programs and even, mutual aids agreement international and regional level.
15. Finally, I thank again the government of Malaysia for hosting this important conference. I am looking forward to have another opportunity that we can discuss with more outcomes and recommendations in the next 4th meeting, maybe, in Korea, 2010. Thank you for your attention.

Thank you.



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

HON. MAHINDA SAMARASINGHE MINISTER OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Malaysia and the organizers of this conference for inviting Sri Lanka to participate in this 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to discuss the challenges and opportunities for improving disaster risk management in Asia.

Asia was the region hardest hit and most affected by natural disasters in 2007. Indeed 37% of the year's reported disasters occurred in Asia, accounting for 90% of all the reported victims and 46% of the economic damage due to natural disasters in the world. I am pleased that 3 years into the formulation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), this Ministerial Conference is focussing on its implementation and assessment of disaster risk reduction achievements in the region.

In Sri Lanka, our efforts at holistic disaster management in line with the HFA are yielding significant benefits. The Government of Sri Lanka after its catastrophic experience of the Asian Tsunami enacted the Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act No 13 of 2005 with consequential establishment of The National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM) as the apex body on disaster management in the country chaired by H.E. the President. It provides direction for DRM activities in the country. The Disaster Management Centre (DMC) was established as its implementing agency. In December 2005, the Ministry for Disaster Management was established to which the human rights portfolio was added subsequently. The NCDM and Ministry of Disaster Management & Human Rights (MDM&HR) have the authority to mobilize and deploy necessary government resources and to direct disaster operations through all Ministries, line agencies, sub-national government levels and civil administration structure of the country. They also have the authority to request for mobilization of resources through International donor agencies, International and national NGOs, private sector etc.

The DMC coordinates with ministries, line agencies and other stakeholders in DRR activities. It provides technical assistance to Provincial Councils, District Secretaries, Divisional Secretaries, Local Authorities, and Grama Niladari committees to develop and implement disaster management plans at the respective levels. It has established a mechanism for the devolution of disaster management activities through instituting District Disaster Management Coordinating units affiliated to the District Secretariats. Further, Disaster Management Committees has been established at District, Divisional and Village levels and identified capacity building activities conducted for relevant stakeholders.

The MDM&HR in rolling out its vision of disaster management formulated a fifteen-year Road Map for Disaster Risk Management (2005 – 2015) and drafted a National Disaster Management Policy and a National Disaster Management Plan. In 2008, the Ministry commenced stakeholder consultations to review existing legislation for necessary amendments to enable a platform for better and effective disaster risk reduction.

Under the directions of MDM&HR, stakeholder institutions in the country have forged collaborations with regional and global institutions such as the Pacific Tsunami Early Warning Centre and Japan Meteorological Agency to receive early warning. Through negotiated donor funded projects, the capacity of these stakeholder institutions for early warning is currently being upgraded. Concurrently, with UNDP assistance, a risk profile for the country is being compiled. At community level, considerable efforts have been made to achieve participatory hazard mapping.

The Ministry has also endeavoured to put in place multi hazard warning towers across the country and fifty such towers would be installed by end of 2009. We have also built redundancy into our early warning capacity at community levels using a number of methods including traditional methods in practice within these communities.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Need analysis for capacity building of stakeholders has been carried out and various capacity building measures have already been implemented. These include provision of physical resources to local government institutions, providing know-how, enabling institutional networking and compiling information databases.

We have also initiated preparation of School Preparedness Plans and conduct of mock-drills to face future eventualities. Hospital centred simulations of Emergency Mass Casualty Transfer is being carried out to instil a culture of emergency preparedness at these critical facilities. We have also kept abreast of global and regional developments during these past years. Sri Lanka is a regular participant in all Regional Initiatives such as the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) and SAARC disaster management initiatives.

In an effort to further disaster awareness in the country, 26th December has been declared as the National Safety Day. Since 2006 intense public awareness campaigns have been conducted during the 3 months preceding this event, using TV, Radio, newspapers, school competitions, posters, leaflets etc. Awards for excellence of media disaster reporting have been instituted alongside the Safety Day commemoration to encourage more responsible media reporting of disasters.

MDM&HR has in collaboration with other stakeholders begun initiatives to ensure reduction of underlying risk factors. In order to prevent generation of new risk through new development projects, the Ministry is exploring the possibility of incorporating Disaster Impact Assessment (DIA) within the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure for development projects. The country now has a National Land use Policy approved by the Cabinet of Ministers and soon its integration with hazard mapping would provide zonation of sensitive areas providing a tool for development planning. A technical committee under the DMC has revised building Codes for construction in hazard prone areas.

The DMC is currently involved in the compilation of Preparedness and Response Plans at District, Division and GN Divisions (Village Level). Some have been completed already. The completion of the remainder is being pursued vigorously.

A National Disaster Management Coordination Committee (NDMCC) has been set up as the national platform to monitor and evaluate the HFA implementation in the country. Government and non-government stakeholders for disaster management constitute it. NDMCC convened a consultation on 'Strengthening Understanding and Cooperation on Disaster Management for a Disaster Free Sri Lanka and South Asia' on 8th July 2008. One activity was to assess the disaster management achievements in Sri Lanka against the HFA.

Thank you.

MR. ANUCHA MOKKHAVESA
DIRECTOR-GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF DISASTER PREVENTION AND MITIGATION,
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, THAILAND

Mr. Chairman/Madam Chairperson;
Excellencies;
Distinguished Delegates;
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Royal Thai Government, I would like to convey my sincere thanks to the host country, the Government of Malaysia, and the organizers for inviting Thailand's delegates to attend this annual conference on disaster reduction and for the hospitality extended since our arrival to Malaysia. May I congratulate the host for the success in bringing together top decisions makers in this region of the world, making concerted efforts to make the world safe from disasters.

Mr. Chairman, allow me to repeat what my colleagues have already expressed that in our Asian Region there are so many disasters happening and there are tremendous damage and loss to the property and lives of our people. It is no different in Thailand. Yes, we share the same destiny with other Asian countries. Every year,



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

more and more lives have been lost from floods, tropical storms landslides and from other kinds of disaster. As a national institution responsible for disaster reduction, we have performed our utmost in attempting to bring safety to our people. Sometimes, we succeeded and at times we failed.

Mr. Chairman, for the benefits of this gathering, I would like to share some good practices in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in national policies and programs based on experiences we have gained in Thailand. These good practices are: (1) The Strategic National Action Plan (SNAP) on Disaster Risk Reduction for Thailand 2008-2017; (2) The new Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Act 2007; (3) The Integrated Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Action Plan; And (4) ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX-08).

Thailand's SNAP 2008-2017

Thailand was among the 168 countries that adopted the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 *Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disaster* at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan in January 2005. Since then we have brought the Hyogo Framework for Action into our national agenda. In May 2006, we established a sub-committee on "Strategic National Action Plan (SNAP) on Disaster Risk Reduction", comprising 39 members from all relevant ministries and departments, and working under the umbrella of the National Civil Defense Committee. The sub-committee on SNAP was tasked to draft the Thailand's SNAP in collaboration with UN/ISDR and ADPC. We also completed the final draft of the SNAP in the national workshop, held on March 5, 2008 and we are now in the implementation of this project. The primary objective of the plan is to provide direction of the country in undertaking disaster risk reduction over the next decade in line with the context of the Hyogo Framework for Action. The vision of the plan is "Thailand has the integrated disaster risk reduction action plan in place in order that agencies and organization at all level and the citizen can follow up and that the country meets the international safety standard within the year 2017". Major issues addressed in the plan include the strategies on: 1) Prevention and Mitigation 2) Preparedness 3) Crisis management 4) Reconstruction and recovery. The plan also covers the implementation, success indicators, monitoring and evaluation and review and improvement of the SNAP.

The Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Act 2007

Thailand's another learning case on *mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in national policies and programmes* can be found in the change of our disaster management legal system. The new 2007 Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Act have replaced the old 1979 Civil Defense Act which had been in use for nearly three decades (1979-2007). The new Act has made works on disaster risk reduction or disaster management to be under the Prime Minister responsibilities instead of Ministry of Interior like before. The change is intended to fill the gaps in the inter-ministry coordination happened over the years. The structure of the National Civil Defense Committee is also expanded to ensure that all relevant parties are involved in national disaster risk reduction effort. What is also changed substantially is the National Master Plan for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation as the Act demands more effectiveness and wider scope of stakeholders.

The Integrated Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Action Plan

According to National Disaster Preparedness Policy, The Royal Thai Government has entrusted Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) which is the main responsible agency for disaster management in Thailand, in collaboration with relevant ministerial agencies to devise the Integrated Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Act 2007 and Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Plan 2005. This new integrated plans is projected to be an effective guideline on Thailand disaster management by participation of all involved agencies at provincial and ministerial level, private and government sectors, foundation and Ngo's. In line with the National Disaster Preparedness Policy as well as the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Act 2007, DDPM has been developing the Emergency Response Team (ERT) for each type of disasters. The establishment of national ERT consists of 18 teams: one team work in Headquarters and each one of the other 17 teams work at DDPM Regional Center. The ERT will be becoming not only the newly proactive mechanism of DDPM's disaster management but also instead of DDPM Search and Rescue team at the local level known as "OTOS – One Tambon One Search and Rescue", and even "Mr. Disaster Warning" who act as the disaster watching villagers. However, both OTOS and Mr. Disaster warning project has still been promoted and continually implemented as the important disaster risk reduction activities at local level. Up to now DDPM has successfully formed One Tambon One Search and Rescue Team in 5,428 local areas (55,111 persons) throughout the country, and has completely trained 7,814 Mr. Disaster Warning in 2,021 landslide prone villages.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Disaster Preparedness Activities: ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX-08)

In August 2008, Thailand hosted the ASEAN Regional Exercise Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX-08), one of the major activities of ASEAN in terms of disaster management. The objective of the ARDEX-08 were to practice, evaluate and review the ASEAN Standby Arrangement and Standard Operating Procedure (SASOP) in facilitating a close and effective collaboration amongst the member countries and relevant United Nations and international organizations in tackling a massive national disaster. As reflected in ARDEX-08 Exercise Meeting conducted after the exercise, we have learnt and gathered lessons, good practices and gaps that can be utilized for a better organization of future exercise.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would like to express once again our thanks to the host country as well as the organizers in providing the opportunity to share our experience on disaster reduction works we have undertaken in our country. I believe this is a platform that gives us great chance to exchange our good practices and promote our cooperation in disaster risk reduction into national policies and programs as it requires the involvement of a huge number of line ministries, government agencies, private sectors and civil society, and it demands a great deal of resources and manpower. But I believe that this is the only way to ensure the sustainability of disaster reduction practice.

Thanks you for your attention

**H.E MR. JOSE' LUIZ GUTERRES,
VICE-PRIME MINISTER DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE**

Honorable Mr. Chairman, Excellencies Ministers, Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of Government of Timor-Leste, allow me first of all to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Malaysia for inviting Timor-Leste to attend this very important Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Kuala Lumpur.

Similar to many Asian Countries, Timor-Leste is located in an area that is highly vulnerable to natural disasters. Timor-Leste is vulnerable to earthquake and associated hazard such as tsunami due to its geographical location north of the subduction zone between the Eurasian and Australian plates. It experiences the El Niño/ Southern Oscillation (ENSO) related weather anomalies associated with droughts in this region occurring in cycles every couple of years. Timor-Leste is prone to floods, landslides and erosion resulting from the combination of heavy monsoonal rain, steep topography and widespread deforestation.

In addition to El Niño, the La Niña weather phenomena also has had a significant impact on Timor-Leste communities, both positive, in terms of improving agricultural production and water security, and negative in terms of increased flooding, landslides and erosion. Although Timor has no active volcanoes, Timor-Leste could be affected by the Holocene volcanic groups on neighboring Indonesian Island to the West and East. To date, cyclones have a low frequency of occurrence. In the future, however, this is likely to change. Climatologist are predicting that, due to climate change, Timor-Leste is likely to become increasingly vulnerable to cyclone, tropical storms, flood, landslides and vector born diseases like Malaria, Dengue and other emerging infectious diseases. Radical climate adaptation measure will be required.

Trans-boundary hazards are also significant threats to Timor-Leste's human and national security. Timor-Leste is within a major migratory bird pathway between Australia and Asia, a vehicle for the possible transmission of animal to human disease with pandemic potential, notably the highly pathogenic Avian Influenza. Agricultural pests such as locust are a major threat to a country already vulnerable to food in-security. Timor-Leste also sits within major flight paths for Australasian and Asia aviation, shipping and submarine traffic channels but has limited capacity to respond to an emergency in these areas.

Timor-Leste's human and national security, recovery and development have recently been challenged by a significant crisis of internal conflict. Chronic, protracted and worsening human and national security vulnerabilities over recent years require the Government, communities and partners to strengthen integrated community resilience to both disasters and conflict crisis. Whilst oil and gas revenue offers of positive economic outlook for recovery, the poor state of the environment and the continued dramatic rate of degradation and the forecasted impact of climate change, Timor-Leste has to invest more in disaster preparedness, mitigation and prevention initiative.

Excellencies,

The Timorese Government attaches great importance to disaster risk reduction and incorporate it into the national development plan. Although the country is facing economic and social development challenges, the government pays great attention to disaster risk reduction. We are aware that natural disasters are common challenges faced by all, that disaster risk reduction call for joint efforts and close cooperation of international community. Since the restoration of its independence in 2002, Timor-Leste has developed and adopted policies and strategies in disaster risk reduction that can be summarized as the followings:

1. Incorporate Disaster risk Reduction into National Development Plan

In 2007, The Timorese Government has formulated and adopted the "National Disaster Risk Management Policy" setting strategic goals for national disaster risk reduction. The policy covers: a necessary shift in managing disaster from a traditional manner – emergency assistance or crisis management – to disaster, conflict and climate change risk reduction strategies; the general framework and activities of disaster risk management; integration and mainstreaming of disaster, conflict, climate change and adaptability across all sectors through economic, social and environmental national recovery and development; a focus on strengthening community capacities and reduction vulnerabilities; integration of a gender perspectives; and the need for attention to be given to children and youth in disaster risk management. Guided by the National Disaster Risk Management Policy, government at all levels has to incorporate disaster risk reduction into their overall development plan, with an aim to striking a balance between the development of mankind and nature development blueprints. The Timorese Government also promulgated and implemented the National Reintegration and Early recovery Policies.

2. Establish Emergency Relief and Recovery Network for Disaster

In an effort to strengthen leadership in disaster risk reduction, the Government of Timor-Leste set up the National Disaster Management Committee comprised of all relevant ministers, and further improved its disaster risk management system featuring guidance and coordination by the Government, division of labour and responsibilities among departments, civil society organizations and local communities. To cope with natural disaster and human-induced disaster, we have developed various contingency plans namely National Contingency Plans for Drought, National Contingency Plans for Conflict Situations and National Contingency Plan for flood situations to ensure the effective implementation of emergency response. We regularly organize consultation with all actors and communities and strengthen our coordination mechanisms in disaster response preparedness. When disaster occurs, relevant government department, civil society organization and international aid organization will share information, consult each other and take coordinated actions. We have prepared necessary infrastructure such as warehouses, disaster relief materials and food items to respond to the needs if disaster occurs. Our military and police forces play important role in disaster response situation. We have also established contingency funds and emergency materials distribution mechanism to make sure that relief funds allocated by the government be available and materials distribution to the disaster affected areas in timely manner.

3. Public Awareness Raising in Disaster Risk Reduction

Through various forms of public awareness raising education at the community level, we disseminate disaster risk reduction knowledge, conduct training on community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) and raise the awareness and risk management level for disaster risk reduction among government staff and community members. We give great attention to guiding and mobilizing public participation in disaster risk reduction through self-help and mutual assistance, implement partnership assistance measure between government departments and victimized areas, and facilitate civil society organization to play their role. In close coordination between the National Disaster Management Office and NGO's, a community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) working group coordinates all disaster risk activities at the field level. By doing so, we can optimize disaster risk reduction and relief resources allocation and fostered a pattern of engaging the society in disaster risk reduction.

4. Promote and Strengthen International Cooperation

Timor-Lester is highly prone to disaster and cannot afford to tackle all problems caused by disasters alone without external assistance. It is important that the Government of Timor-Leste establish cooperation

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

and exchange with other countries disaster risk reduction. Since the restoration of independence in 2002, the Government of Timor-Leste has cooperated closely with other countries, international organization and civil society organization disaster emergency response and in early recovery period. Cooperation also extends to institutional capacity building such as personal exchanges and training, as well as in disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness. We have built good cooperative relations with relevant organization and their staff. We collectively work for improving disaster risk reduction through exchanges, cooperation, joint studies and experience sharing.

5. Early Warning

Early warning systems can be extremely effective in saving lives and property and protecting the vulnerable when natural hazards threaten. However, Timor-Leste does not have early warning systems in place, warning systems too often fail at times of crisis. Severe weather warnings and routine weather forecast for Timor-Leste are available temporarily through Regional Forecasting Centre in Darwin. Currently, a *Tsunami Watch Information* for the Indian Ocean is available to Timor-Leste through the Japan Meteorological Agency in coordination with the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre, the information is available to National Disaster Management Directorate and other Ministries. The National Disaster Management Directorate is supporting the Government of Timor-Leste to respond to the needs of the development of emergency meteorology and long-term, to be available for government, NGO's and communities. Meteorology is a vital scientific aspect for monitoring and early warnings, particularly in conditions of complex topography and climatology such as exist in Timor-Leste.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Within its development process, Timor-Leste is facing enormous challenges ahead in disaster risk reduction. In the years to come we shall fully implement the principles and the priority actions as set out in the Hyogo framework of Action 2005-2015, enhance our nation's comprehensive capacity in disaster risk reduction, strive to foster harmonious and safe social environment, and to facilitate the healthy development of the economy. Toward this end, we shall make effort in the following aspects:

1. Incorporate Disaster Risk Reduction into our Five Years Development Plan

We shall actively push forward drafting of disaster risk reduction plans by relevant government departments at the central and local levels, strengthen capacity building at all level of the government, and take various measures in incorporating disaster risk reduction sustainable development of the society. We shall also carry out nationwide survey on disaster risk reduction capacity, bring into perspective the current status of local disaster risk reduction capacity in different districts, identifying the shortfall of needs, with a view to provide solid basis for decision making local government and relevant government department in initiating and implementing economic and social development plans and policies.

2. Strengthen Capacity Building in Disaster Risk Reduction

We shall improve and strengthen the capacity of our disaster operation centers at national and local levels to monitor and to gather information on disaster situation across the country. We shall set up our contingency assistance system for disasters to fully enhance comprehensive coordination in disaster prevention and response and further, we shall set up a disaster contingency response system back by comprehensive coordination, information sharing and technological support to raise the overall disaster handling capacity and the level of management. We shall strengthen the capacity of disaster management structure at all levels including community structure in disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness.

3. Push Further Disaster Risk Reduction at Community Level

We shall continue to carry out disaster risk reduction awareness raising education campaign programs at the community level, focusing on disaster risk reduction and the community, disaster risk reduction in class rooms, and disaster risk reduction in the rural areas. We shall disseminate knowledge, strengthen training for disaster coordinators and staff, build pool of volunteers, and to improve overall knowledge base of the general public for disaster prevention in an effort to set up a disaster prevention and disaster reduction network engaging the whole society.

4. Continuing to Strengthen International Exchanges and Cooperation in Disaster Reduction

The Timorese Government will continue to strengthen cooperation and exchanges in disaster risk reduction with other countries, international and regional agencies and NGO's. We are ready to cooperate with all parties concerned in disaster risk reduction information exchanges and work toward reducing disasters.



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Asia is a vast country with very large population and complex climatic, geological and geographical conditions. Frequent natural disaster often results in great human and material losses. It is a common aspiration of all government and people to enhance the ability to cope with disaster risk and lessen disaster losses. Let us join hands to further strengthen exchanges and cooperation and make new contributions to effectively mitigating disaster and achieving economic and social development.

Thank You.

HONORABLE MR. HYONO KAO MO PAO, DIRECTOR, MINISTRY OF WORK ON NATIONAL DISASTER ACTIVITIES, TONGA.

Honorable Mr. Chairman, Ministers from various countries,
The Excellencies,
Distinguished guests and delegates,
Representatives from the ISDR and various conference partners,
Representatives from various media agencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to convey my Minister his sincere apologize for not coming to this very importance conference. Therefore, I should be reading his statement on his behalf.

Mr. Chairman,

It is my great honor and privilege to address this very important forum – the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Management, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. First of all, on behalf of Government of Tonga, I would like to take this opportunity to thank to Malaysian Government for their kind and warm hospitality and congratulate them on the efficient and splendid arrangements they have put in place.

Mr. Chairman,

Tonga is a small island and has various natural disasters. Those natural disasters such as tropical cyclone, earthquake, tsunami, volcanic eruption, drought etc. Those disasters will give massive impacts on peoples, infrastructures, and economy will be devastated. The rise of sea level will flood all the small island and countries near shoreline. Those effects on impact of climate change on disaster risk.

Mr. Chairman,

The importance of cooperation within various sectors from government, private sectors, NGOs, and community to successful of disaster risk reduction. Due to time limitation, lastly we look forward for the successful conference to all of you.

Thank you so much.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION WORKS & TURKEY'S EXPERIENCE

FARUK NAFIZ ÖZAK
MINISTER
R.T. MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SETTLEMENT

DISASTER POTENTIAL OF TURKEY

As it is well known, Turkey serving as a bridge between Europe and Asia and situated in a very strategic location at the intersection of these two continents. Turkey's crucial geographical location makes Turkey a key point for the region defined by the Middle East, Balkan's and Caucasus.

Turkey is frequently subjected various types of natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, landslide which cause great losses of human life and property. Turkey is the one of the first countries in the world which often faced major natural disasters that caused great economic and human losses due to it's geological and topographical condition.

Main natural disasters according to their importance are: Earthquake, Landslide, Floods, and Rock falls, Fires, Snow Avalanches and Storm. Taking into consideration of structural damage statistics; Percentage of losses caused by different types of disaster are as follows for the last 60 years:

1. % 61 from Earthquake
2. % 15 from Landslides
3. % 14 from Floods
4. % 5 from Rock Falls
5. % 4 from Fires
6. % 1 from Snow avalanches and etc.

In the last hundred years nearly 100,000 citizens lost their lives because of different disaster. In the last years, global warming is occupying world agenda more and more and it's forecasted that, more extreme heat waves, fires, droughts and cyclones will happen. Sea level rises will cause inundation of shores; food production disordereness will be experienced. So disaster risk reduction has close relation with climate change issue.

Floods - 1950-2008

2.924 settlement area
4.067 flood incident
29.020 houses relocated by MPWS

Landslides – 1950-2008

5.472 settlement area
13.494 landslide incident
65.759 houses relocated by MPWS

Rock Falls – 1965-2008

1703 settlement area, 2.956 rocks falls
20.836 houses relocated by MPWS
6128 houses in 280 settlements secured from rock falling disaster by of way rock cleaning project

Fires – 1960-2008

992 settlement area
1175 fire incident
11.309 houses relocated to safer places by MPWS

Snow avalanches – 1942-2008

884 snow avalanches incident
6.308 houses relocated by MPWS

Earthquakes – 1900-2008

182 damaging earthquake
More than 100.000 people died
More than 600.000 dwelling units collapsed or heavy damaged



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

This figure shows us that:

In our country every year in average: One big earthquake that kills 965 people, damage 5944 houses. 1939 Erzincan Earthquake that killed 43.319 people and the 1999 Marmara Earthquake that killed 18.253 people were the two biggest two catastrophes we have experienced. So when we consider about disaster, we always remember earthquake.

Earthquake zoning map shows us that % 96 our land areas are located on different scaled earthquake hazard and % 70 of our population live in 1st and 2nd degree hazard zones.

1999 MARMARA EARTHQUAKE

Marmara earthquake – 17 August 1999

Search and Rescue Activities.

Debris removal.

As it's well known we experienced two big earthquakes in 1999 which was accepted one of the most catastrophic events of last century's. In August 17, 1999 and November 12, 1999 Earthquakes, more than 18.000 people lost their lives. The economic losses were almost 15 Billion USD, GDP (Gross Domestic Product) has been dropped % 6,1 after 17 August 1999 and 12 November 1999 Earthquakes. % 97 of natural disasters human and economic losses comes from earthquakes in Turkey, for only economic losses point of view, natural disasters causes % 1 decrease on GDP and % 8 of this decrease are result of earthquakes.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE?

Marmara Earthquake was an occasion to review the capacity of Turkey's Disaster Management System and mitigation capacity and after this earthquake all disaster related institutions accelerated their works on risk reduction. Our Ministry (MPWS) organized National Earthquake Convention in 2004 with the multi-stakeholder participation of experts. The Convention was insisted on the importance of mitigation activities. Instead of expensive disaster response works; risk reduction and risk management approaches were adopted, *Instead of "Healing the wounds" strategy, "No wounds" policy were adopted.*

NATIONAL DISASTER CONVENTION MOST COMPREHENSIVE WORK ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

National disaster convention was our most comprehensive work on disaster risk reduction. After this convention:

- Institutional Restructuring*
- Legislation*
- Disaster Information System*
- Building Supervision and Inspection of Existing Buildings*
- Construction Materials*
- Provide Resources and Insurance system*
- Education Commission Report*
- Public Awareness*
- Coordination and cooperation between public institutions and professional groups*
- Preparing Emergency Situation Plans*
- Be ready to disaster by way of organizing and training of search and Rescue Activities were discussed and evaluation*

SOME RESULTS AFTER CONVENTION ON RISK REDUCTION AND PREPARATION ACTIVITIES;

Some results after convention on risk reduction and preparation activities are;

New arrangements on legal system, with the help of new Building Code, strengthening of important buildings (schools, hospitals, stadiums, mosques, dormitories) and other private buildings initiated. Two new Codes for infrastructure: Code for Roads, bridges and viaducts and Code for natural gas, water and sewage system. Before preparing every scale development plan microzonation works which determines natural disaster hazards and risk became obligatory.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE?

For rehabilitation of natural, historical and cultural environment and strengthening all high-risk buildings against earthquakes:

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

We prepare and send a draft law to Grand National Assembly of Turkey. We intend to adoption of draft law immediately.

For Disaster Insurance System;

Legislative arrangements for disaster insurance, which will cover all types of disaster instead of insurance only against earthquakes.

Now we are implementing High Tech R&D Projects and special works on Disaster Risk reduction, improvement of National Seismic Network with monitoring space.

Research and development on earthquake prediction; active tectonic projects on three importance active faults of Turkey. With the help of GIS method, for early damage assessments following an earthquake; a special network set up in the northern part of Turkey and we are trying to develop this system all over the Turkey. Early warning systems established on mitigating earthquake and flood disaster losses. Educational activities for improving public resilience culture and awareness, National Information and National Archive System set up for information and knowledge sharing which could accessible to researchers and decision makers from home and abroad. For a new contemporary, effective and integrated Disaster Management System we prepare a draft law which is on Grand National Assembly of Turkey. For protecting cultural heritages from disaster we are implementing special project.

LESSONS LEARNED

For developing disaster resilient society, we need more:

- Development and strengthening of our institutions
- Knowledge sharing and cooperation
- Education and training activities
- Improving the capacity of awareness to build resilience
- Risk reduction projects
- More Research and Development Projects
- Integration of risk reduction to sustainable development projects

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

**FOR THE HOSPITALITY AND SUCCESFULL MEETING ORGANIZATION
I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDES TO
GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA**



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

PROF. DR. DAO XUAN HOC
VICE PERMANENT CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE
FOR FLOOD AND STORM CONTROL
VICE MINISTER OF THE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY

Your Excellency Chairman of the Third ASIAN Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.
Your Excellency Distinguished representative of the United Nations.
Distinguished representative of the Government of Malaysia.
Your Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Missions.
Distinguished Delegates Ladies and Gentlemen.

May I on behalf of the Chairman of the Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, take this opportunity to extend to you Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates, very warm regard and best wishes from Mr. Chairman and people of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for the success of this historic meeting.

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to extend to you Mr. Chairman our sincere gratitude for the very warm welcome and the splendid facilities that we have enjoyed since our arrival in Kuala Lumpur, this beautiful City of Malaysia.

May I also extend our sincere gratitude to our many international friends, including the various organisations of the United Nations System for the assistance in reducing the different types of disaster in Vietnam.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Since the last few years, occurrences of natural disaster have been more severe over the world, which caused heavy damages to human life. Natural disasters had claimed thousands of people and affected millions of human beings. Recently, in 2008, that was certain violent disaster occurring in the region and the world. For instance, the Avian Flue has affected over the Asian countries, the huge damaged Cyclone Nargis hit Myanmar and the Earthquake seriously happened in Wenchuan province of China, etcetera.

Vietnam is warned one of five countries that are most impacted by climate change and its effects by experts, national and international organizations. Practically, since the last few years, Vietnam has been affected by disaster; floods and storms occurred abnormally, sea water level is higher. As of today, there were 10 Tropical Storms attacked our country, in which there were 4 big tropical storms caused a huge damage to human life and property.

We are facing increasing challenges of disaster, which are both urgent and long time. Disasters are avoidable; it needs our full endeavors in order to limit the risks and impacts of disaster, multi-sector approach and drastic directions of State together with community participation. Living harmoniously with nature would contribute significantly to disaster risk reduction.

In order to effectively manage the different aspect of disaster, the Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control and Vietnam Search and Rescue Committee have been established. However, this approach in Vietnam is needed to be further strengthened in order to meet the disaster response and reduction requirements in the 21st century.

Having committed to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action in Kobe, Japan in 2005, Prime Minister had approved the "National strategy for disaster risk prevention, response and mitigation to 2020" with its goal "Mobilize all resources to effective implement disaster prevention, response and mitigation in order to minimise the loses of human life and properties, the destruction of natural resources and cultural heritages and the degradation of the environment, which are contributing significantly to sustainable development of the country". Following up the Strategy implementation, the National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction has been building up based on the single action plan of various ministries and provinces. This comprehensive National Action Plan consists of a serious programme, such as inter-alia environmental programme, water resources management, agriculture and land use planning, health issues, development planning, poverty alleviation and especially the community based disaster risk management, etc.

Furthermore, the National Target Programme on Climate Change has also been building up, which is closely integrated to the National Action Plan.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

In conclusion Mr. Chairman, may I once again congratulate your Committee and all the organizations of the important Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction which I hope will come out with clear and doable actions for the successful continuation of the Hyogo Framework for Action implementation in the Asian Region

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

Mr Chairman, your Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) I would like to take this opportunity to thank the government of Malaysia and the organizers of this meeting for inviting us to participate in this 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to discuss the challenges and opportunities for improving disaster risk management in Asia.

In this region, every year disasters caused by natural hazards lead to significant loss of life and cause significant disruption to development. From 1980 to 2005, weather-, water- and climate-related extremes such as floods, tropical cyclones, severe storms, droughts and extreme temperatures accounted for 90% of the total number of disasters caused by natural hazards, 70% of the casualties and over 65% of total economic losses. We all have fresh memories of the devastating impacts of the recent tropical cyclone Nargis, in Myanmar in May 2008. The risks associated with hydrometeorological hazards appear to be on the rise, as a consequence of climate change. However, we observe that on the global scale the economic losses associated with weather-, climate- and water-related hazards have increased by nearly 50-fold over the 1956-2005 period, while the reported loss of life has decreased 10-fold. This is a clear demonstration that investing in early warning systems, emergency preparedness and response planning significantly contributes to saving lives. With increasing risks of meteorological, hydrological and climate-related hazards associated with climate variability and change, it is critical that we adopt better strategies to improve disaster risk reduction and build institutional capacities and cooperation to prepare better to deal with future risks and impacts.

Disaster risk reduction is at the core of the mission of the World Meteorological Organization, and the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of its 188 Members. WMO, through its scientific and technical programmes, its network of Global Meteorological Centres and Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres, and the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, provides scientific and technical services. This includes observing, detecting, monitoring, predicting and early warning of a wide range of weather-, climate- and water-related hazards. With a deep commitment to saving lives and livelihoods, WMO established in 2003 its Disaster Risk Reduction Programme to strengthen contributions of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services to disaster risk reduction. WMO's Strategic Goals in Disaster Risk Reduction are underpinned by the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, which was adopted by 168 countries, in Hyogo, Kobe, Japan in January 2005. These Strategic Goals are focused on strengthening national capacities in:

- (i) operational early warning systems with a multi-hazard approach;
- (ii) provision of hazard information to support risk assessment and risk management projects;
- (iii) delivery of warnings and specialized forecasts that could be effectively utilized in emergency preparedness and response;
- (iv) strengthening organizational cooperation and partnerships at national to local level with disaster risk management agencies;
- (v) public outreach campaigns on the impacts of hydrometeorological hazards

In other words, our primary goal is to facilitate availability and effective use of hydrometeorological information and services to support decision-making processes related to disaster risk reduction at all levels.

In Asia, WMO has facilitated a number of Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres (RSMCs) being operated by National Meteorological and Hydrological Services such as the Tropical Cyclone Centres in New Delhi and Tokyo and the centres for Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies in Beijing and Tokyo. WMO network also includes Regional Meteorological Training Centres (RMTCs) that assist with technical development of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in Baghdad, Beijing, Nanjing, New Delhi, and Pune Tashkent and Teheran.



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

WMO strategic priorities in Disaster Risk Reduction are implemented through regional and national projects building on strong international to national institutional partnerships. These projects support technical capacity development of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services to equip them with the tools for development of hazard data and forecasting of severe weather, flash and riverine floods, sand and dust storms, tropical cyclones, storm surge and droughts.

WMO has initiated the first multi-hazard Early Warning System demonstration project with China in city of Shanghai, to demonstrate the benefits of such an approach, and is documenting with other UN-ISDR partners good practices in Early Warning Systems, in Shanghai, Bangladesh, France and Cuba. It is also initiating cooperation projects engaging National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and disaster risk management agencies and other key stakeholders in risk assessment and early warning systems in Central Asia and the Caucasus, south and Southeast Asia with the goal to strengthen the institutional capacities and cooperation in this area. These projects are coordinated with many international and regional partners such as ISDR, UNDP, IFRC and the World Bank to deliver comprehensive support for development of these capacities in the countries.

Furthermore, WMO is supporting the development of tsunami early warning systems by ensuring that tsunami related data and information is available to all countries through the WMO Global Telecommunication System (GTS), which connects all the national meteorological services. Since the tragic tsunami in 2004, through the coordination of WMO, the GTS in eight countries of the Indian Ocean rim has been upgraded to ensure timely access to tsunami watch and related information.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The challenge imposed by the changing climate and the increasing demographic and urban developments, indeed, requires strengthened institutional cooperation at all levels, from the international to local levels. Dedicated support of governments for strengthening their institutions, such as the national meteorological and hydrological services, which play key roles in disaster risk reduction, is strongly needed. In this regard National Meteorological and Hydrological Services should be considered a key partner in disaster risk management at the national level, whose information, expertise and knowledge can support risk assessment and management strategies built upon improved planning in at-risk sectors, early warning systems and development of catastrophe insurance mechanisms for managing risks associated with hydrometeorological and climate related hazards.

So, let us take this opportunity to renew our vows for a new level of cooperation and partnerships and contribute towards safety of lives and livelihoods.

Thank you

**HONORABLE DR. ALI AHMED SARYAH,
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF RESCUE AND EMERGENCIES,
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND POPULATIONS, YEMEN.**

Honorable Mr. Chairman, Ministers from various countries,
The Excellencies,
Distinguished guests and delegates,
Representatives from the ISDR and various conference partners,
Representatives from various media agencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, it is honored to be standing in front all of you, to represent the Government of Yemen, in 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. I want to give my deepest gratitude from my heart to the Government of Malaysia for warm welcome and warm hospitality. I also take this opportunity to the Malaysia National Security Council and ISDR congratulation for their organization of this conference. I hope that we all be able to achieve all the objectives that we have set.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur



Mr. Chairman,

Yemen has populations estimated about 20,000 millions of people and located at Peninsular of Arabia. In terms of geological, Yemen has exposed vulnerable to flood, earthquake, drought, and also landslides. We are also aim to help on reduce the intensity of those disasters.

Mr. Chairman,

We have taken many steps on planning of Disaster Risk Management. For example, forum and counseling on Disaster Risk Reduction. We are also had done planning and practical procedures. We also have done some improvements on procedures we have taken such collaboration in providing relief and aid to the peoples who needed, who affected by the impacts of disasters. We need to mobilize the peoples and community to avoid the loss of life and economy devastation. We need to do reconstructions and therefore, we need to bring together a different mechanism available in our policy regarding on Disaster Risk Reduction.

Mr. Chairman,

Risk reduction of disasters has a very importance prioritize in the government policy, and so we able to cope with disasters and climate change. Therefore, it was to come from the main prioritize for the government especially on development of human resources, provision of foods, and also other materials needed to our livelihood for our peoples to recovery from disasters. We also have an additional programme at every level of educations.

Finally, I would like to thank to the Government of Malaysia and people of Malaysia for their warm welcome and warm hospitality.

Thank you so much.

Appendix 6 : Terminology: Basic Terms of Disaster Risk Reduction

Source: UNISDR, 2009

UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction (2009)

The UNISDR Terminology aims to promote common understanding and common usage of disaster risk reduction concepts and to assist the disaster risk reduction efforts of authorities, practitioners and the public. The previous version "Terminology: Basic terms of disaster risk reduction" was published in "Living with risk: a global review of disaster risk reduction initiatives" in 2004. The following year, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 requested the UNISDR secretariat to "update and widely disseminate international standard terminology related to disaster risk reduction, at least in all official United Nations languages, for use in programme and institutions development, operations, research, training curricula and public information programmes".

The 2009 version is the result of a process of ongoing review by the UNISDR and consultations with a broad range of experts and practitioners in various international venues, regional discussions and national settings. The terms are now defined by a single sentence. The comments paragraph associated with each term is not part of the definition, but is provided to give additional context, qualification and explanation. It should be noted that the terms are not necessarily mutually exclusive, and in some cases may have overlapping meanings.

The Terminology has been revised to include words that are central to the contemporary understanding and evolving practice of disaster risk reduction but exclude words that have a common dictionary usage. Also included are a number of emerging new concepts that are not in widespread use but are of growing professional relevance; these terms are marked with a star (*) and their definition may evolve in future. The English version of the 2009 Terminology provides the basis for the preparation of other language versions. Comments and suggestions for future revisions are welcome and should be directed to the ISDR Secretariat isdri@un.org.

Acceptable risk The level of potential losses that a society or community considers acceptable given existing social, economic, political, cultural, technical and environmental conditions.
Comment: *In engineering terms, acceptable risk is also used to assess and define the structural and non-structural measures that are needed in order to reduce possible harm to people, property, services and systems to a chosen tolerated level, according to codes or "accepted practice" which are based on known probabilities of hazards and other factors.*

Adaptation The adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.
Comment: *This definition addresses the concerns of climate change and is sourced from the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The broader concept of adaptation also applies to non-climatic factors such as soil erosion or surface subsidence. Adaptation can occur in autonomous fashion, for example through market changes, or as a result of intentional adaptation policies and plans. Many disaster risk reduction measures can directly contribute to better adaptation.*

Biological hazard Process or phenomenon of organic origin or conveyed by biological vectors, including exposure to pathogenic micro-organisms, toxins and bioactive substances that may cause loss of life, injury, illness or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage.
Comment: *Examples of biological hazards include outbreaks of epidemic diseases, plant or animal contagion, insect or other animal plagues and infestations.*

- Building code** A set of ordinances or regulations and associated standards intended to control aspects of the design, construction, materials, alteration and occupancy of structures that are necessary to ensure human safety and welfare, including resistance to collapse and damage.
Comment: Building codes can include both technical and functional standards. They should incorporate the lessons of international experience and should be tailored to national and local circumstances. A systematic regime of enforcement is a critical supporting requirement for effective implementation of building codes.
- Capacity** The combination of all the strengths, attributes and resources available within a community, society or organization that can be used to achieve agreed goals.
Comment: Capacity may include infrastructure and physical means, institutions, societal coping abilities, as well as human knowledge, skills and collective attributes such as social relationships, leadership and management. Capacity also may be described as capability. Capacity assessment is a term for the process by which the capacity of a group is reviewed against desired goals, and the capacity gaps are identified for further action.
- Capacity Development** The process by which people, organizations and society systematically stimulate and develop their capacities over time to achieve social and economic goals, including through improvement of knowledge, skills, systems, and institutions.
Comment: Capacity development is a concept that extends the term of capacity building to encompass all aspects of creating and sustaining capacity growth over time. It involves learning and various types of training, but also continuous efforts to develop institutions, political awareness, financial resources, technology systems, and the wider social and cultural enabling environment.
- Climate change** (a) The Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) defines climate change as: "a change in the state of the climate that can be identified (e.g., by using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties, and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer. Climate change may be due to natural internal processes or external forcings, or to persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land use".
(b) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) defines climate change as "a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods".
Comment: For disaster risk reduction purposes, either of these definitions may be suitable, depending on the particular context. The UNFCCC definition is the more restricted one as it excludes climate changes attributable to natural causes. The IPCC definition can be paraphrased for popular communications as "A change in the climate that persists for decades or longer, arising from either natural causes or human activity."
- Contingency planning** A management process that analyses specific potential events or emerging situations that might threaten society or the environment and establishes arrangements in advance to enable timely, effective and appropriate responses to such events and situations.
Comment: Contingency planning results in organized and coordinated courses of action with clearly-identified institutional roles and resources, information processes, and operational arrangements for specific actors at times of need. Based on scenarios of possible emergency conditions or disaster events, it allows key actors to envision, anticipate and solve problems that can arise during crises. Contingency planning is an important part of overall preparedness. Contingency plans need to be regularly updated and exercised.
- Coping capacity** The ability of people, organizations and systems, using available skills and resources, to face and manage adverse conditions, emergencies or disasters.
Comment: The capacity to cope requires continuing awareness, resources and good management, both in normal times as well as during crises or adverse conditions. Coping capacities contribute to the reduction of disaster risks.



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

- Corrective disaster risk management*** Management activities that address and seek to correct or reduce disaster risks which are already present.
Comment: *This concept aims to distinguish between the risks that are already present, and which need to be managed and reduced now, and the prospective risks that may develop in future if risk reduction policies are not put in place. See also Prospective risk management.*
- Critical facilities** The primary physical structures, technical facilities and systems which are socially, economically or operationally essential to the functioning of a society or community, both in routine circumstances and in the extreme circumstances of an emergency.
Comment: *Critical facilities are elements of the infrastructure that support essential services in a society. They include such things as transport systems, air and sea ports, electricity, water and communications systems, hospitals and health clinics, and centres for fire, police and public administration services.*
- Disaster** A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources.
Comment: *Disasters are often described as a result of the combination of: the exposure to a hazard; the conditions of vulnerability that are present; and insufficient capacity or measures to reduce or cope with the potential negative consequences. Disaster impacts may include loss of life, injury, disease and other negative effects on human physical, mental and social well-being, together with damage to property, destruction of assets, loss of services, social and economic disruption and environmental degradation.*
- Disaster risk** The potential disaster losses, in lives, health status, livelihoods, assets and services, which could occur to a particular community or a society over some specified future time period.
Comment: *The definition of disaster risk reflects the concept of disasters as the outcome of continuously present conditions of risk. Disaster risk comprises different types of potential losses which are often difficult to quantify. Nevertheless, with knowledge of the prevailing hazards and the patterns of population and socio-economic development, disaster risks can be assessed and mapped, in broad terms at least.*
- Disaster risk management** The systematic process of using administrative directives, organizations, and operational skills and capacities to implement strategies, policies and improved coping capacities in order to lessen the adverse impacts of hazards and the possibility of disaster.
Comment: *This term is an extension of the more general term "risk management" to address the specific issue of disaster risks. Disaster risk management aims to avoid, lessen or transfer the adverse effects of hazards through activities and measures for prevention, mitigation and preparedness.*
- Disaster risk reduction** The concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyse and manage the causal factors of disasters, including through reduced exposure to hazards, lessened vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events.
Comment: *A comprehensive approach to reduce disaster risks is set out in the United Nations-endorsed Hyogo Framework for Action, adopted in 2005, whose expected outcome is "The substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives and the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries." The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) system provides a vehicle for cooperation among Governments, organisations and civil society actors to assist in the implementation of the Framework. Note that while the term "disaster reduction" is sometimes used, the term "disaster risk reduction" provides a better recognition of the ongoing nature of disaster risks and the ongoing potential to reduce these risks.*
- Disaster risk reduction plan*** A document prepared by an authority, sector, organization or enterprise that sets out goals and specific objectives for reducing disaster risks together with related actions to accomplish these objectives.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Comment: Disaster risk reduction plans should be guided by the Hyogo Framework and considered and coordinated within relevant development plans, resource allocations and programme activities. National level plans needs to be specific to each level of administrative responsibility and adapted to the different social and geographical circumstances that are present. The time frame and responsibilities for implementation and the sources of funding should be specified in the plan. Linkages to climate change adaptation plans should be made where possible.

Early warning system

The set of capacities needed to generate and disseminate timely and meaningful warning information to enable individuals, communities and organizations threatened by a hazard to prepare and to act appropriately and in sufficient time to reduce the possibility of harm or loss.

Comment: This definition encompasses the range of factors necessary to achieve effective responses to warnings. A people-centred early warning system necessarily comprises four key elements: knowledge of the risks; monitoring, analysis and forecasting of the hazards; communication or dissemination of alerts and warnings; and local capabilities to respond to the warnings received. The expression "end-to-end warning system" is also used to emphasize that warning systems need to span all steps from hazard detection through to community response.

Ecosystem services The benefits that people and communities obtain from ecosystems.

Comment: This definition is drawn from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. The benefits that ecosystems can provide include "regulating services" such as regulation of floods, drought, land degradation and disease, along with "provisioning services" such as food and water, "supporting services" such as soil formation and nutrient cycling, and "cultural services" such as recreational, spiritual, religious and other non-material benefits. Integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use provide the basis for maintaining ecosystem services, including those that contribute to reduced disaster risks.

El Niño-Southern Oscillation phenomenon

A complex interaction of the tropical Pacific Ocean and the global atmosphere that results in irregularly occurring episodes of changed ocean and weather patterns in many parts of the world, often with significant impacts over many months, such as altered marine habitats, rainfall changes, floods, droughts, and changes in storm patterns.

Comment: The El Niño part of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon refers to the well-above-average ocean temperatures that occur along the coasts of Ecuador, Peru and northern Chile and across the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, while La Niña part refers to the opposite circumstances when well-below-average ocean temperatures occur. The Southern Oscillation refers to the accompanying changes in the global air pressure patterns that are associated with the changed weather patterns experienced in different parts of the world.

Emergency management

The organization and management of resources and responsibilities for addressing all aspects of emergencies, in particular preparedness, response and initial recovery steps.

Comment: A crisis or emergency is a threatening condition that requires urgent action. Effective emergency action can avoid the escalation of an event into a disaster. Emergency management involves plans and institutional arrangements to engage and guide the efforts of government, non-government, voluntary and private agencies in comprehensive and coordinated ways to respond to the entire spectrum of emergency needs. The expression "disaster management" is sometimes used instead of emergency management.

Emergency services

The set of specialized agencies that have specific responsibilities and objectives in serving and protecting people and property in emergency situations.

Comment: Emergency services include agencies such as civil protection authorities, police, fire, ambulance, paramedic and emergency medicine services, Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, and specialized emergency units of electricity, transportation, communications and other related services organizations.



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

- Environmental degradation** The reduction of the capacity of the environment to meet social and ecological objectives and needs.
Comment: Degradation of the environment can alter the frequency and intensity of natural hazards and increase the vulnerability of communities. The types of human-induced degradation are varied and include land misuse, soil erosion and loss, desertification, wildland fires, loss of biodiversity, deforestation, mangrove destruction, land, water and air pollution, climate change, sea level rise and ozone depletion.
- Environmental impact assessment** Process by which the environmental consequences of a proposed project or programme are evaluated, undertaken as an integral part of planning and decision making processes with a view to limiting or reducing the adverse impacts of the project or programme.
Comment: Environmental impact assessment is a policy tool that provides evidence and analysis of environmental impacts of activities from conception to decision-making. It is utilized extensively in national programming and project approval processes and for international development assistance projects. Environmental impact assessments should include detailed risk assessments and provide alternatives, solutions or options to deal with identified problems.
- Exposure** People, property, systems, or other elements present in hazard zones that are thereby subject to potential losses.
Comment: Measures of exposure can include the number of people or types of assets in an area. These can be combined with the specific vulnerability of the exposed elements to any particular hazard to estimate the quantitative risks associated with that hazard in the area of interest.
- Extensive risk *** The widespread risk associated with the exposure of dispersed populations to repeated or persistent hazard conditions of low or moderate intensity, often of a highly localized nature, which can lead to debilitating cumulative disaster impacts.
Comment: Extensive risk is mainly a characteristic of rural areas and urban margins where communities are exposed to, and vulnerable to, recurring localised floods, landslides storms or drought. Extensive risk is often associated with poverty, urbanization and environmental degradation. See also "Intensive risk".
- Forecast** Definite statement or statistical estimate of the likely occurrence of a future event or conditions for a specific area.
Comment: In meteorology a forecast refers to a future condition, whereas a warning refers to a potentially dangerous future condition.
- Geological hazard** Geological process or phenomenon that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage.
Comment: Geological hazards include internal earth processes, such as earthquakes, volcanic activity and emissions, and related geophysical processes such as mass movements, landslides, rockslides, surface collapses, and debris or mud flows. Hydrometeorological factors are important contributors to some of these processes. Tsunamis are difficult to categorize; although they are triggered by undersea earthquakes and other geological events, they are essentially an oceanic process that is manifested as a coastal water-related hazard.
- Greenhouse gases** Gaseous constituents of the atmosphere, both natural and anthropogenic, that absorb and emit radiation of thermal infrared radiation emitted by the Earth's surface, the atmosphere itself, and by clouds.
Comment: This is the definition of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The main greenhouse gases (GHG) are water vapour, carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, methane and ozone.

| | |
|--|--|
| Hazard | <p>A dangerous phenomenon, substance, human activity or condition that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage.</p> <p>Comment: <i>The hazards of concern to disaster risk reduction as stated in footnote 3 of the Hyogo Framework are "... hazards of natural origin and related environmental and technological hazards and risks." Such hazards arise from a variety of geological, meteorological, hydrological, oceanic, biological, and technological sources, sometimes acting in combination. In technical settings, hazards are described quantitatively by the likely frequency of occurrence of different intensities for different areas, as determined from historical data or scientific analysis.</i></p> <p><i>See other hazard-related terms in the Terminology: Biological hazard; Geological hazard; Hydrometeorological hazard; Natural hazard; Socio-natural hazard; Technological hazard.</i></p> |
| Hydrometeorological hazard | <p>Process or phenomenon of atmospheric, hydrological or oceanographic nature that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage.</p> <p>Comment: <i>Hydrometeorological hazards include tropical cyclones (also known as typhoons and hurricanes), thunderstorms, hailstorms, tornados, blizzards, heavy snowfall, avalanches, coastal storm surges, floods including flash floods, drought, heatwaves and cold spells. Hydrometeorological conditions also can be a factor in other hazards such as landslides, wildland fires, locust plagues, epidemics, and in the transport and dispersal of toxic substances and volcanic eruption material.</i></p> |
| Intensive risk * | <p>The risk associated with the exposure of large concentrations of people and economic activities to intense hazard events, which can lead to potentially catastrophic disaster impacts involving high mortality and asset loss.</p> <p>Comment: <i>Intensive risk is mainly a characteristic of large cities or densely populated areas that are not only exposed to intense hazards such as strong earthquakes, active volcanoes, heavy floods, tsunamis, or major storms but also have high levels of vulnerability to these hazards. See also "Extensive risk."</i></p> |
| Land-use planning | <p>The process undertaken by public authorities to identify, evaluate and decide on different options for the use of land, including consideration of long term economic, social and environmental objectives and the implications for different communities and interest groups, and the subsequent formulation and promulgation of plans that describe the permitted or acceptable uses.</p> <p>Comment: <i>Land-use planning is an important contributor to sustainable development. It involves studies and mapping; analysis of economic, environmental and hazard data; formulation of alternative land-use decisions; and design of long-range plans for different geographical and administrative scales. Land-use planning can help to mitigate disasters and reduce risks by discouraging settlements and construction of key installations in hazard-prone areas, including consideration of service routes for transport, power, water, sewage and other critical facilities.</i></p> |
| Mitigation | <p>The lessening or limitation of the adverse impacts of hazards and related disasters.</p> <p>Comment: <i>The adverse impacts of hazards often cannot be prevented fully, but their scale or severity can be substantially lessened by various strategies and actions. Mitigation measures encompass engineering techniques and hazard-resistant construction as well as improved environmental policies and public awareness. It should be noted that in climate change policy, "mitigation" is defined differently, being the term used for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions that are the source of climate change.</i></p> |
| National platform for disaster risk reduction | <p>A generic term for national mechanisms for coordination and policy guidance on disaster risk reduction that are multi-sectoral and inter-disciplinary in nature, with public, private and civil society participation involving all concerned entities within a country.</p> |



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Comment: This definition is derived from footnote 10 of the Hyogo Framework. Disaster risk reduction requires the knowledge, capacities and inputs of a wide range of sectors and organisations, including United Nations agencies present at the national level, as appropriate. Most sectors are affected directly or indirectly by disasters and many have specific responsibilities that impinge upon disaster risks. National platforms provide a means to enhance national action to reduce disaster risks, and they represent the national mechanism for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

Natural hazard

Natural process or phenomenon that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage.

Comment: Natural hazards are a sub-set of all hazards. The term is used to describe actual hazard events as well as the latent hazard conditions that may give rise to future events. Natural hazard events can be characterized by their magnitude or intensity, speed of onset, duration, and area of extent. For example, earthquakes have short durations and usually affect a relatively small region, whereas droughts are slow to develop and fade away and often affect large regions. In some cases hazards may be coupled, as in the flood caused by a hurricane or the tsunami that is created by an earthquake.

Preparedness

The knowledge and capacities developed by governments, professional response and recovery organizations, communities and individuals to effectively anticipate, respond to, and recover from, the impacts of likely, imminent or current hazard events or conditions.

Comment: Preparedness action is carried out within the context of disaster risk management and aims to build the capacities needed to efficiently manage all types of emergencies and achieve orderly transitions from response through to sustained recovery. Preparedness is based on a sound analysis of disaster risks and good linkages with early warning systems, and includes such activities as contingency planning, stockpiling of equipment and supplies, the development of arrangements for coordination, evacuation and public information, and associated training and field exercises. These must be supported by formal institutional, legal and budgetary capacities. The related term "readiness" describes the ability to quickly and appropriately respond when required.

Prevention

The outright avoidance of adverse impacts of hazards and related disasters.

Comment: Prevention (i.e. disaster prevention) expresses the concept and intention to completely avoid potential adverse impacts through action taken in advance. Examples include dams or embankments that eliminate flood risks, land-use regulations that do not permit any settlement in high risk zones, and seismic engineering designs that ensure the survival and function of a critical building in any likely earthquake. Very often the complete avoidance of losses is not feasible and the task transforms to that of mitigation. Partly for this reason, the terms prevention and mitigation are sometimes used interchangeably in casual use.

Prospective

disaster risk management *

Management activities that address and seek to avoid the development of new or increased disaster risks.

Comment: This concept focuses on addressing risks that may develop in future if risk reduction policies are not put in place, rather than on the risks that are already present and which can be managed and reduced now. See also Corrective disaster risk management.

Public awareness

The extent of common knowledge about disaster risks, the factors that lead to disasters and the actions that can be taken individually and collectively to reduce exposure and vulnerability to hazards.

Comment: Public awareness is a key factor in effective disaster risk reduction. Its development is pursued, for example, through the development and dissemination of information through media and educational channels, the establishment of information centres, networks, and community or participation actions, and advocacy by senior public officials and community leaders.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

- Recovery** The restoration, and improvement where appropriate, of facilities, livelihoods and living conditions of disaster-affected communities, including efforts to reduce disaster risk factors.
Comment: *The recovery task of rehabilitation and reconstruction begins soon after the emergency phase has ended, and should be based on pre-existing strategies and policies that facilitate clear institutional responsibilities for recovery action and enable public participation. Recovery programmes, coupled with the heightened public awareness and engagement after a disaster, afford a valuable opportunity to develop and implement disaster risk reduction measures and to apply the “build back better” principle.*
- Residual risk** The risk that remains in unmanaged form, even when effective disaster risk reduction measures are in place, and for which emergency response and recovery capacities must be maintained.
Comment: *The presence of residual risk implies a continuing need to develop and support effective capacities for emergency services, preparedness, response and recovery together with socio-economic policies such as safety nets and risk transfer mechanisms.*
- Resilience** The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate to and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions.
Comment: *Resilience means the ability to “resile from” or “spring back from” a shock. The resilience of a community in respect to potential hazard events is determined by the degree to which the community has the necessary resources and is capable of organizing itself both prior to and during times of need.*
- Response** The provision of emergency services and public assistance during or immediately after a disaster in order to save lives, reduce health impacts, ensure public safety and meet the basic subsistence needs of the people affected.
Comment: *Disaster response is predominantly focused on immediate and short-term needs and is sometimes called “disaster relief”. The division between this response stage and the subsequent recovery stage is not clear-cut. Some response actions, such as the supply of temporary housing and water supplies, may extend well into the recovery stage.*
- Retrofitting** Reinforcement or upgrading of existing structures to become more resistant and resilient to the damaging effects of hazards.
Comment: *Retrofitting requires consideration of the design and function of the structure, the stresses that the structure may be subject to from particular hazards or hazard scenarios, and the practicality and costs of different retrofitting options. Examples of retrofitting include adding bracing to stiffen walls, reinforcing pillars, adding steel ties between walls and roofs, installing shutters on windows, and improving the protection of important facilities and equipment.*
- Risk** The combination of the probability of an event and its negative consequences.
Comment: *This definition closely follows the definition of the ISO/IEC Guide 73. The word “risk” has two distinctive connotations: in popular usage the emphasis is usually placed on the concept of chance or possibility, such as in “the risk of an accident”; whereas in technical settings the emphasis is usually placed on the consequences, in terms of “potential losses” for some particular cause, place and period. It can be noted that people do not necessarily share the same perceptions of the significance and underlying causes of different risks.*
See other risk-related terms in the Terminology: Acceptable risk; Corrective disaster risk management; Disaster risk; Disaster risk management; Disaster risk reduction; Disaster risk reduction plans; Extensive risk; Intensive risk; Prospective disaster risk management; Residual risk; Risk assessment; Risk management; Risk transfer.



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

- Risk assessment** A methodology to determine the nature and extent of risk by analysing potential hazards and evaluating existing conditions of vulnerability that together could potentially harm exposed people, property, services, livelihoods and the environment on which they depend.
Comment: Risk assessments (and associated risk mapping) include: a review of the technical characteristics of hazards such as their location, intensity, frequency and probability; the analysis of exposure and vulnerability including the physical social, health, economic and environmental dimensions; and the evaluation of the effectiveness of prevailing and alternative coping capacities in respect to likely risk scenarios. This series of activities is sometimes known as a risk analysis process.
- Risk management** The systematic approach and practice of managing uncertainty to minimize potential harm and loss.
Comment: Risk management comprises risk assessment and analysis, and the implementation of strategies and specific actions to control, reduce and transfer risks. It is widely practiced by organizations to minimise risk in investment decisions and to address operational risks such as those of business disruption, production failure, environmental damage, social impacts and damage from fire and natural hazards. Risk management is a core issue for sectors such as water supply, energy and agriculture whose production is directly affected by extremes of weather and climate.
- Risk transfer** The process of formally or informally shifting the financial consequences of particular risks from one party to another whereby a household, community, enterprise or state authority will obtain resources from the other party after a disaster occurs, in exchange for ongoing or compensatory social or financial benefits provided to that other party.
Comment: Insurance is a well-known form of risk transfer, where coverage of a risk is obtained from an insurer in exchange for ongoing premiums paid to the insurer. Risk transfer can occur informally within family and community networks where there are reciprocal expectations of mutual aid by means of gifts or credit, as well as formally where governments, insurers, multi-lateral banks and other large risk-bearing entities establish mechanisms to help cope with losses in major events. Such mechanisms include insurance and re-insurance contracts, catastrophe bonds, contingent credit facilities and reserve funds, where the costs are covered by premiums, investor contributions, interest rates and past savings, respectively.
- Socio-natural hazard *** The phenomenon of increased occurrence of certain geophysical and hydrometeorological hazard events, such as landslides, flooding, land subsidence and drought, that arise from the interaction of natural hazards with overexploited or degraded land and environmental resources.
Comment: This term is used for the circumstances where human activity is increasing the occurrence of certain hazards beyond their natural probabilities. Evidence points to a growing disaster burden from such hazards. Socio-natural hazards can be reduced and avoided through wise management of land and environmental resources.
- Structural and non-structural measures** **Structural measures:** Any physical construction to reduce or avoid possible impacts of hazards, or application of engineering techniques to achieve hazard-resistance and resilience in structures or systems;
Non-structural measures: Any measure not involving physical construction that uses knowledge, practice or agreement to reduce risks and impacts, in particular through policies and laws, public awareness raising, training and education.
Comment: Common structural measures for disaster risk reduction include dams, flood levies, ocean wave barriers, earthquake-resistant construction, and evacuation shelters. Common non-structural measures include building codes, land use planning laws and their enforcement, research and assessment, information resources, and public awareness programmes. Note that in civil and structural engineering, the term "structural" is used in a more restricted sense to mean just the load-bearing structure, with other parts such as wall cladding and interior fittings being termed non-structural.
- Sustainable development** Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Comment: This definition coined by the 1987 Brundtland Commission is very succinct but it leaves unanswered many questions regarding the meaning of the word development and the social, economic and environmental processes involved. Disaster risk is associated with unsustainable elements of development such as environmental degradation, while conversely disaster risk reduction can contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, through reduced losses and improved development practices.

Technological hazard

A hazard originating from technological or industrial conditions, including accidents, dangerous procedures, infrastructure failures or specific human activities, that may cause loss of life, injury, illness or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage.

Comment: Examples of technological hazards include industrial pollution, nuclear radiation, toxic wastes, dam failures, transport accidents, factory explosions, fires, and chemical spills. Technological hazards also may arise directly as a result of the impacts of a natural hazard event.

Vulnerability

The characteristics and circumstances of a community, system or asset that make it susceptible to the damaging effects of a hazard.

Comment: There are many aspects of vulnerability, arising from various physical, social, economic, and environmental factors. Examples may include poor design and construction of buildings, inadequate protection of assets, lack of public information and awareness, limited official recognition of risks and preparedness measures, and disregard for wise environmental management. Vulnerability varies significantly within a community and over time. This definition identifies vulnerability as a characteristic of the element of interest (community, system or asset) which is independent of its exposure. However, in common use the word is often used more broadly to include the element's exposure

- * Emerging new concepts that are not in widespread use but are of growing professional relevance; the definition of these terms remain to be widely consulted upon and may change in future.

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Appendix 7 : Programme of the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

| | Monday 1 December | Tuesday 2 December | Wednesday 3 December | Thursday 4 December |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS | | | 09:00-18:30 OPEN PUBLIC FORUM Exhibition (Foyer, Level 2) Press Related Activities (Room No. 1, Level 2) Media Training (ABU) (Room No. 9, Level 3) | |
| 1. ASEAN Senior Officials meeting (ASEAN) [Room No. 4, Level 4, 08:30-13:00] | 09:00-10:00 PLENARY - Inaugural Ceremony (Hall 1, Level 2) Opening Remarks Keynote Address | 09:00 - 13:30 PLENARY Ministerial Statements (cont.) (Room 14, Level 3) | 9:00-11:00 TECHNICAL SEGMENTS 1 AND 2 (parallel) Technical Session 1: Public Private Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction (ABU) Discussion (Hall 1, Level 2) Technical Session 2: Hi-tech & Scientific Application to Disaster Risk Reduction (ITU) Discussion (Hall 2, Level 2) | 9:00-11:00 TECHNICAL SEGMENTS 5 AND 6 (parallel) Technical Session 5: Media Involvement in Disaster Risk Reduction (ABU) Discussion (Hall 1, Level 2) Technical Session 6: Public Awareness & Education for Disaster Risk Reduction Discussion (Hall 2, Level 2) |
| 2. Disaster Risk Reduction in South Asia (SAARCS/DMC) [Room No. 5, Level 2, 15:00-18:00] | 10:30-12:45 PLENARY (Hall 1, Level 2) Panel Discussion with Conference Partners "Disaster Trends in Asia Pacific" (ASEAN, APEC, SOPAC) Launch of Good Practices on PPP for DRR Announcement of "Regional DRR Champion" | 11:30-13:00 HIGH LEVEL ROUND TABLE 1 AND 2 (parallel) HLRT 1: Risk Financing, National Policies and Tools (Hall 1, Level 2) HLRT 2: Innovative Partnership (Hall 2, Level 2) | 11:00-11:30 Coffee Break | 11:30-13:00 HIGH LEVEL ROUND TABLE 5 AND 6 (parallel) HLRT 5: Forging Partnerships, Policies to Engage Media (Hall 1, Level 2) HLRT 6: Advocacy Tools and Communication Strategy for Decision-Makers (Hall 2, Level 2) |
| 3. Engagement of the Private Sector in Disaster Risk Reduction (GoW/Mercy) [Room No. 15, Level 3, 09:00 -12:00] | 10:00-10:30 Coffee Break | 13:00-14:00 Lunch (Mawar Room, Level 2) 13:00-14:30 SIDE EVENTS: A (cont.), E, F and G (Conference Venue, Level 2) | 11:00-11:30 Coffee Break | 13:00-14:00 Lunch (Mawar Room, Level 2) 13:30-15:00 SIDE EVENTS: H, I and J (Conference Venue, Level 2) |
| 4. Climate Change, Disaster Risk Governance and Emergency Management (Northumbria) [Room No. 6, Level 2, 09:00-17:00] | A: ADPC (Room No. 4) B: KU (Room No. 5) C: OCHA (Room No. 6) D: Northumbria (Room No. 7) | A: ADPC (cont.) (Room No. 4) E: RCG/ADPC (Room No. 5) F: IRC (Room No. 6) G: SEADRR/ITU (Room No. 7) | 13:00-14:00 TECHNICAL SEGMENTS 3 AND 4 (parallel) Technical Session 3: Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (ADPC) Discussion (Hall 1, Level 2) | H: ADPC (Room 4) I: WHO (Room 5) J: WB-ISDR (Room 6) |
| 5. Regional Task Force on Urban Risks (RTF) [Room No. 7, Level 2, 11:00-12:30] | 14:00-17:30 SPECIAL SESSIONS 14:00-15:30 Special Session 1: Accelerating Progress in Implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) in Asia and Pacific (Hall 2, Level 2) 15:30-16:00 Coffee Break 16:30-17:30 DRAFTING COMMITTEE Discussions on the Draft Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction Mechanisms for Multi-Stakeholder and Multi-Sectoral Engagement (Hall 2, Level 2) | 14:30-16:30 TECHNICAL SEGMENTS 3 AND 4 (parallel) Technical Session 3: Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (ADPC) Discussion (Hall 1, Level 2) | 15:00-16:30 PLENARY - CLOSING (Hall 1, Level 2) Chair's Summary Adoption of Kuala Lumpur Declaration Acceptance speech by host of the 4th AMC Closing Remarks <i>(Coffee break will be served outside the plenary throughout the session)</i> | 15:00-16:30 PLENARY - CLOSING (Hall 1, Level 2) Chair's Summary Adoption of Kuala Lumpur Declaration Acceptance speech by host of the 4th AMC Closing Remarks <i>(Coffee break will be served outside the plenary throughout the session)</i> |
| 6. The Role of ICTs in Disaster Management (Implementing Disaster Risk Reduction) (ITU) [Room No. 15, Level 3, 13:00-18:00] | 13:30-18:00 PLENARY Ministerial Statements <i>(Coffee break will be served outside the plenary/hall throughout the session)</i> | 17:00-18:30 HIGH LEVEL ROUND TABLE 3 AND 4 (parallel) HLRT 3: How to Facilitate Allocating Budgetary Resources for Disaster Risk Reduction (Hall 1, Level 2) | 17:00-18:30 HIGH LEVEL ROUND TABLE 3 AND 4 (parallel) HLRT 4: Parliamentarians Forum - Allocating Budgetary Resources for Disaster Risk Reduction (Hall 2, Level 2) | |
| 7. Enhancing Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Preparedness Capacities of Central Asian Countries (ADPC) [Room No. 14, Level 3, 13:30-16:00] | 14:00-15:30 SPECIAL SESSIONS 14:00-15:30 Special Session 1: Accelerating Progress in Implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) in Asia and Pacific (Hall 2, Level 2) 15:30-16:00 Coffee Break 16:30-17:30 DRAFTING COMMITTEE Discussions on the Draft Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction Mechanisms for Multi-Stakeholder and Multi-Sectoral Engagement (Hall 2, Level 2) | 16:30-17:30 DRAFTING COMMITTEE Discussions on the Draft Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction Mechanisms for Multi-Stakeholder and Multi-Sectoral Engagement (Hall 2, Level 2) | 16:30-17:00 Coffee Break | |
| 8. IAP Meeting (ISDR) by invitation only [Room No. 7, Level 2, 13:30-16:00] | 13:30-18:00 PLENARY Ministerial Statements <i>(Coffee break will be served outside the plenary/hall throughout the session)</i> | 17:00-18:30 HIGH LEVEL ROUND TABLE 3 AND 4 (parallel) HLRT 3: How to Facilitate Allocating Budgetary Resources for Disaster Risk Reduction (Hall 1, Level 2) | 17:00-18:30 HIGH LEVEL ROUND TABLE 3 AND 4 (parallel) HLRT 4: Parliamentarians Forum - Allocating Budgetary Resources for Disaster Risk Reduction (Hall 2, Level 2) | |
| 9. Drafting Committee: Discussions on the Draft Kuala Lumpur Declaration by invitation only (GoW & Conference Partners) [Room No. 4, Level 2, 15:30-16:30] | 15:30-16:30 DINNER (Merdeka Ballroom, Level 4) | | | |

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Appendix 8 : List of Participants at the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. COUNTRY DELEGATES

Afghanistan

1. Dr. Abdul Matin Adrak, General Director, Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA)
2. Mr. Habibullah Habib, Director of Foreign Relation and Technical Advisor, Policy and Coordination, Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA)

Australia

1. Mr. Tony Pearce, Director General of Emergency Management
2. Mr. Phillippe Allen, Minister Counsellor, AusAID

Azerbaijan

1. H.E. Kamaladdin Heydarov, Minister of Emergency Situations
2. Mr. Rafail Mirzayev, Deputy Minister of Emergency Situations
3. Mr. Arguj Kalantarli, Chief of International Activity Department
4. Mr. Gudrat Abdullayev, Chief of Operational Department

Bangladesh

1. Mr. KH Masud Siddiqui, Director General, Disaster Management Bureau, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management
2. Mr. A.K.M. Abdul Awal Mazumder, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management
3. Mr. Munir Chowdhury, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management
4. Mr. A. S. M. Maksud Kamal, National Expert: Earthquake and Tsunami Preparedness, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) Disaster Management and Relief Bhaban

Bhutan

1. Hon. Lyonpo Minjur Dorji, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs
2. Mrs. Karma Tshering, Senior Program Officer, Disaster Management Department, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs

3. Dr. Ugyen Tshewang, Chief District Administrative Officer, Trashiyangtse District Administration, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs
4. Mr. Dawala, Chief District Administrator, Punakha District Administration, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs
5. Mr. Kesang Dorji, Chief Sub-District Administrator, Wamrong Sub-District, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs

Brunei

1. Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Haji Mohd. Yusof, Minister of Home Affairs
2. Dato' Paduka Serbini b. Haji Ali, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs
3. Ms. Dayang Jaimah b. Tuah, Personal Assistant to Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs
4. Mr. Awang Nor Farizal Othman, Personal Assistant to Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs
5. Mr. Awang Yahya Haji Abd Rahman, Director of National Disaster Management Centre, Ministry of Home Affairs

Cambodia

1. Mr. Peou Samy, Secretary General, the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM)

China

1. Luo Pingfei, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Civil Affairs
2. Mr. Wang Jianjun, Director General, Department of Policy and Law, Ministry of Civil Affairs

European Commission

1. H.E. Vincent Pickett, Head of European Commission Delegation to Malaysia

Fiji Islands

1. Mr. Manasa R. Vaniqi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Provincial Development and Multi Ethnic Affairs
2. Mr. Joweli Ratulevu Cawaki, Director, National Disaster Management Office, Ministry of Defense



Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

India

1. H.E. Mrs. Radhika V. Selvi, Minister of State for Home Affairs
2. Mr. Rama Moorthy Selvam, Private Secretary to the Minister

Indonesia

1. Dr. Syamsul Ma'arif, Chief of National Agency for Disaster Management
2. Mr. Donny Nasution, Directorate for International Relation, Director General of Post and Telecommunication
3. Mr. Basuki Yusuf Iskandar, Director General of Post and Telecommunication

Iran

1. H.E. Seyed Fatemi Aghda, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
2. Mr. Hasan Azadeh, Senior Executive of Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), Ministry of Interior
3. Mr. Hossein Bagheri Aziz Abaad, General Director, State Organization for Disaster Management, Ministry of Interior
4. Mr. Mohammad Hossein Shiri Nayyeri, Deputy Director, State Organization for Disaster Management, Ministry of Interior

Iraq

1. Mr. Adnan Hadi Al-Asadi, Senior Undersecretary, Ministry of Interior of Iraq

Japan

1. Mr. Naoto Tajiri, Director of Disaster Preparedness, Public Relations, and International Cooperation, Cabinet Office
2. Shingo Kochi (Mr.), Deputy Director, International Office for Disaster Management

Jordan

1. H.E. Mohammad Ali Al-Fayez, Governor, Ministry of Interior
2. Colonel Basam Sulaiman Ali Al-Jawarneh, Director of Civil Defense, Public Civil Defense Directorate

Kazakhstan

1. H.E. Mr. Vladimir Bozhko, Minister of Emergency Situations
2. Mr. Alexandr Nechiporenko, Assistant Minister, Ministry for Emergency Situations

Kyrgyzstan

1. Mr. Bakir Jolchiev, Deputy Minister of Emergency Situations
2. Mr. Kenderbaev Urmatbek, Head of Department

Lao PDR

1. H.E. Dr. Ty Phommasack, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry

2. Mr. Vilayphong Sisomvang, Technical Senior Official, National Disaster Management Office, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare

Malaysia

1. Hon. Dato' Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Deputy Prime Minister
2. Hon. Dato' Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz, Minister in The Prime Minister's Department

Maldives

1. Hon. Minister Ameen Faisal, Minister of Defense and National Security
2. Mr. Murthala Mohamed Didi, Director, National Disaster Management Centre, Ministry Of Defence and National Security

Mongolia

1. High Commissioner Amgalanbayar Tsevegmed, Chief, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)

Myanmar

1. H.E Brig. General Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
2. Mr. Than Oo, Director General, Relief and Resettlement Department, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
3. Dr. Tun Lwin, Director General, Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, Ministry of Transport, Department of Meteorology and Hydrology

Nepal

1. H.E Ram Chandra Jha, Minister of Local Development
2. Mr. Yagya Prasad Gautam, Secretary, Ministry of Local Development
3. Mr. Narayan Thapa, Under Secretary, Local Government, Ministry of Local Development
4. Mr. Nusharaj Shrestha, Secretary, Risk & Resilience Committee, Dhankuta Municipality

Oman

1. H.E Colonel Suleiman Al Busaidy, Superintendent General of Pollution Control, Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs

Pakistan

1. Mr. Khan Farooq Ahmad, Chairman, National Disaster Management Authority

Palau

1. H.E Mr. Elias Camsek Chin, Vice President & Minister of Justice
2. Mr. Samuel Sakai Ngrichokebai, Hazard Mitigation Officer, National Emergency Management Office

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction

From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Philippines

1. Hon. Ernesto G. Carolina, Head of Delegation, Undersecretary for Civil, Veterans Civil, Veterans and Reserve Affairs, Department of National Defence, National Disaster Coordination Council

Republic of Korea

1. Dr. Park Yeon Soo, Deputy Administrator, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)
2. Dr. Dugkeun Park, Senior Analyst, National Institute for Disaster Prevention (NIDP)
3. Dr. Ji Bum Chung, Associate Research Fellow, Innovation & Organization Research Center, Korea Institute of Public Administration
4. Mr. Seung Joon Back, Deputy Director, Climate Change Response Division, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)

Russia

1. Mr. Sergey Molchanov, Deputy Head, Department for Emergency Prevention, Science and Technique, Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defense and Emergencies (EMERCOM of Russia)
2. Ms. Svetlana Bandurkina, Senior Expert, Department for International Cooperation, Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defence and Emergencies (EMERCOM of Russia)

Saudi Arabia

1. Dr. Yahya Alghamdi, Preparatory Committee Chairman of the International Symposium on Disaster Management, Civilian Protection, Civil Defense, Ministry of Interior
2. Dr. Madhi Alotaibi, Director of Planning Department, Ministry of Interior
3. Dr. Ibrahim Al-Mutaz, Professor of Chemical Engineering, College of Engineering, King Saud University

Samoa

1. H.E Liuga Faumuina, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment
2. Ms. Filomena Nelson, Principal Disaster Management Officer, Disaster Management Office, Meteorology Division, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
3. H.E. Safuneituuga Paaga Neri, Minister of Communications & Information Technology, Office of the Minister, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
4. Mr. Tuaimalo Asamu, CEO, Office of the CEO, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

Singapore

1. Mr. K. Shanmugam, Minister for Law and Second Minister for Home Affairs

2. Mr Peter Lim Sin Pang, Deputy Commissioner of Singapore Civil Defence Force
3. Mr. Tai Wei Shyong, Senior Director, Ministry of Home Affairs
4. Ms. Viola Sow, Senior Assistant Director, Ministry of Home Affairs
5. Ms. Terri Ng, Executive, Ministry of Home Affairs
6. Cpt. Tan Dong Neng, Singapore Civil Defence Force
7. Mr. Francis Joseph, Personal Security Officer of the Minister

Solomon Island

1. Mr. Loti Yates, Director, National Disaster Management Office, Ministry of Home Affairs

Sri Lanka

1. Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights
2. Mr. Seneviratna Malhamige Kapuru Banda Nandarathna, Director- Training, Public Awareness & Education, Training Division, Disaster Management Centre, Ministry of Disaster Management & Human Rights

Tajikistan

1. Mr. Khaybullo Abdulloevi Latipov, Minister
2. Dr. Begmurod Makhmodaliev, Director, State Administration on Hydrometeorology, Committee for Environmental Protection

Thailand

1. Mr. Anucha Mookhavesa, Director-General, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Ministry of Interior
2. Mr. Adthaporn Singhawichai, Director, Research and International Cooperation Bureau, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation
3. Ms. Sirikom Kitiwong, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Foreign Relations Sub-Bureau, Ministry of Interior

Timor-Leste

1. H.E Mr. Jose' Luiz Guterres, Vice-Prime Minister
2. H.E Jacinto Rigoberto, Secretary of State, Secretary of State for Social Assistance and Disaster Management, Ministry of Social Solidarity
3. Mr. Fancisco Fanco M. Do Rosario, Director, National Disaster Management Directorate, Ministry of Social Solidarity

Tonga

1. Hon. Mr. Hyono Kao Mo Pao, Director, Ministry of Work on National Disaster Activities
2. Mr Sione Taumoepvau, Director, Ministry of Works and National Disaster Activities

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Turkey

1. Faruk Nafiz ÖZAK, Minister, R.T. Ministry of Public Works and Settlement
2. Mr. Zeki Adli, Deputy under Secretary
3. Mr. Mustafa Taymaz, General Director, General Directorate of Disaster Affairs
4. Mr. Arif Korkmaz, Deputy under Secretary
5. Dr. Nehir Varol (Madam), Director, European Natural Disaster Training Center

United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.)

1. Major Gen. Salim Mohammad Al-Mazrui, Chief of Special Squad Force
2. Lieutenant Colonel Abdallah Ibrahim bin Nassar, Police Research Centre
3. Lieutenant Colonel Abdel Aziz Abdul Rahman Faris, Border Security
4. Lieutenant Colonel Yousuf Ahmad Juma'Al-Husini, Special Task Force
5. Lieutenant Colonel Abdallah Saeed Al-Zahiri, Border Security
6. Lieutenant Colonel Saeed Hassan Al-Khajja, Media and Public Relation
7. Lieutenant Colonel Abdul Wahab Ibrahim Al-Husini, Metropolitan Police
8. Major Ahmad Salim Al-Niyadi, Media and Public Relation

Uzbekistan

1. Mr. Turagalov Tayjan, the First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Emergency Situations
2. Mr. Komilov Abbos, the Head of Department, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Emergency Situations

Vietnam

1. Prof. Dr. Dao Xuan Hoc, Vice Minister, Permanent Vice Chairman of the Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control, Minister of the Agriculture and Rural Development Ministry
2. Mr. Nguyen Huy Dzung, Deputy Director of the Disaster Management Center, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
3. Dr. Nguyen Quoc Khanh, Director, Center Environmental and Natural Resources Monitoring, National Remote Sensing Center - Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

Yemen

1. Hon. Dr. Ali Ahmed Saryah, Director General of the Department of Rescue and Emergencies, Ministry of Public Health and Populations
2. Mr. Hussein Al-Hadad, Director General, Minister of Public Health and Population

B. UN & INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

UN-ISDR

1. Mr. Salvano Briceno
2. Mr. German Velasquez
3. Ms. Rakhi Bhavnani
4. Mr. Abdul Karim Nayani
5. Mr. Surachai Srisa-Ard
6. Mrs. Gulsora Pulatova
7. Ms. Angelika Planitz
8. Ms. Anita Dwyer
9. Ms. Benchawan Pongurgorn
10. Ms. Brigitte Leoni
11. Ms. Madhavi Ariyabandu
12. Ms. Noralene Uy
13. Ms. Yuki Matsuoka
14. Ms. Helena Molin Valdes
15. Mr. Lars Bernd

UN-APCICT

1. Dr. Hyeun-suk Rhee

UNCRD

1. Dr. Shoichi Ando

UNDP

1. Mr. Sampurna Nanda Mahapatra
2. Mr. Eyad Sheikh Qatana
3. Mr. Mohammed Fadi Jannan
4. Ms. Regina Rahadi

UN-ESCAP

1. Mr. Charles Davies
2. Mr. E. René Bastiaans
3. Mr. Nokeo Ratanavong
4. Mr. Wu Guoxiang
5. Mr. Xuan Zengpei
6. Professor Phillip Hall

UNEP

1. Mr. Chan Hee LEE

UNESCO

1. Dr. Peter Koltermann
2. Mr. Sardar Umar Alam

UNICEF

1. Mr. Antony Spalton
2. Mr. Mohammad Youssouf Oomar

UNDP

1. Mr. Sampurna Nanda Mahapatra
2. Mr. Eyad Sheikh Qatana
3. Mr. Mohammed Fadi Jannan

UN-FAO

1. Dr. Changchui He
2. Dr. Zhijun Chen

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction

From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

1. Mr. Henrik Nordentoft

UNOCHA

1. Dr. Rajan Gengaje
2. Mr. Gerhard Putman-Cramer
3. Mr. Terje Skavdal
4. Ms. Gabriella Waaijman
5. Ms. Charlotta Benedek

European Commission DG for Humanitarian Aid

1. Ms. Cecile Pichon, Technical Assistant, Disaster Preparedness Programme (DIPECHO)

Outer Space Affairs United Nations

1. Dr. Mazlan Othman

The World Bank

1. Dr. Olivier Mahul
2. Dr. Shyam KC
3. Dr. Vladimir Tsirkunov
4. Mr. Christoph Pusch
5. Mr. Saroj Kumar Jha

WHO

1. Dr. Arun Mallik
2. Dr. Arturo Pesigan

Asian Development Bank

1. Dr. Neil Britton, Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist

International Committee of the Red Cross

1. Mr. Craig Strathern, Regional Cooperation Delegate
2. Ms. Leena Gosh

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

1. Mr Gregory Vickery, Chairman Of Australia Red Cross
2. Mr. Alistair Henley, Head of Zone, Asia Pacific Zone
3. Mr. Bhupinder Tomar, Senior Officer, Disaster Preparedness
4. Mr. Daniel Wood, PMER Officer, Asia Pacific Zone Resource Mobilisation and PMER (Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting) Unit
5. Mr. Jeong Park, Disaster Management Coordinator, Jakarta Delegation
6. Mr. Michael Annear, Disaster Management Coordinator
7. Mr. Michael Zeleke, Disaster Management Delegate, Bangladesh Delegation
8. Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Kafley, Disaster Management Delegate
9. Mr. Sharil Dewa, Zone PMER Officer
10. Mrs. Iswana Ishak, Zone Administration Manager

11. Mrs. Jagan Chapagain, Deputy Head of Zone, Asia Pacific Zone
12. Mrs. Penny Elghady, Resource Mobilisation & PMER Coordinator, Asia Pacific Zone Resource Mobilisation and PMER (Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting) Unit
13. Ms. Aishah Mohd Amin, Officer, International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL) Asia Pacific Zone
14. Ms. Eilia Jafar, Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Officer, Disaster Management
15. Ms. Helena Loh, Zone PMER Officer, Asia Pacific Zone Resource Mobilisation and PMER (Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting) Unit
16. Ms. Kathleena Thambyraja, Secretary, Asia Pacific Zone
17. Ms. Nor Hezlen Mohd Sali, Administrator Assistant, Asia Pacific Zone
18. Ms. Poh Mei Lai, Executive Assistant, Asia Pacific Zone
19. Ms. Rebecca McNaught, Senior Programme Officer, Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre
20. Ms. Victoria Bannon, Coordinator, IDRL Asia Pacific Programme
21. Ms. Yin Peng Loh, Zone PMER Officer
22. Ms. Zaireen Zainuddin, Resource Mobilisation Support Officer
23. Dr. Aurelio Guterres, Board, East Timor Red Cross
24. Dr. Jintana Tumkosit, Head of Relief Section, Relief and Community Health Bureau
25. Mr. Tao Van Dang, Programme Manager, Vietnam Country Delegation
26. Mrs. Nelson Castano, Regional Disaster Management Coordinator, Disaster Management
27. Ms. Atiwan Kunaphinun, Disaster Management Programme Officer, Regional Disaster Management Unit

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

1. Mr. Alfredo Lazarte-Hoyle, Director, Crisis Response and Reconstruction Programme
2. Mr. Chris Donnges, Senior Specialist (Infrastructure & Jobs), Regional Office Asia Pacific

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

1. Dr. Cosmas Zavazava, Head, Programme for Least Developed Countries (LDCS), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and Emergency Telecommunications
2. Dr. Eun-Ju Kim, Head, ITU Regional Office for Asia and Pacific
3. Mr. Wisit Atipayakoon, Telecommunication/ICT Specialist
4. Mrs. Amie Ratu Siti Aminah Budiarto, Assistant, ITU Area Office Jakarta
5. Mrs. Aurora Adecer, Head, ITU Area Office for South East Asia

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

C. REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

ASEAN

1. H.E. Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, ASEAN Secretary General
2. Ms. Adelina Kamal, Assistant Director, Disaster Management/Bureau of Resources Development
3. Ms. Wipsar Aswi Dina Tri Andari, Technical Officer, Disaster/Bureau for Resources and Development

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)

1. Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, Executive Director
2. H.E N.M.S.I. Arambepola, Director of UDRM and Program Manager, PROMISE, Urban Disaster Risk Management
3. Mr Aloysius Jayant Rego, Disaster Management Systems
4. Mr. Arghya Sinha Roy, Project Manager, Research and MDRD, Disaster Management Systems (DMS)
5. Mr. Aslam Perwaiz, Project Manager, Disaster Management Systems (DMS)
6. Mr. Sisira Kumara, Program Coordinator, Disaster Management Systems (DMS)
7. H.E Dr. Melgabal Capistrano, Program Manager, Disaster Management Systems (DMS)

Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)

1. Mr. Koji Suzuki, Executive Director
2. Dr. Noburu Uchiyama, Senior Researcher
3. Ms. Etsuko Tsunozaki, Senior Researcher
4. Ms. Yumi Shiomi, Researcher

Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union

1. Mr. Tatsuya Nakamura, Director

APEC Secretariat

1. Mr. Jing-Yen Liu, Program Director

Asian Seismic Risk Reduction Center (ASRC)

1. Mr. Mohammad Reza Mirmohammadi, Head of Center
2. Dr. S.M.R. Emami, Deputy Head of Center

South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

1. Dr. P.G.Dhar Chakrabarti, Director, SAARC Disaster Management Centre, New Delhi

International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

1. Mr. Deo Raj Gurung, GIS Analyst, Mountain Environment Natural Resource Information System (MENRIS)
2. Ms. Julie Dekens, Institutional Specialist/researcher, Integrated Water and Hazards Management

D. EXPERTS

Asian Institute of Technology

1. Prof. Said Irandoust, President, Office of the President

Asia-Pacific Satellite Communications Council (APSCC)

1. Ms. Nongluck Phinainitsart, President

Babcock University

1. Ms. Oluwasegun Toheeb Oladosu, Student, Babcock University

Bangladesh Development Partnership Centre

1. Mr. Sharif Kafi, CEO & Director Disaster Program

Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre

1. Mr. Muhammad Saidur Rahman, Director General

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

1. Mr. Alam Shafiu, Secretary General

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)

1. Mr. Gopal Das, Director(HRD), Member of BSNL Board
2. Mr. Chhakchhuak Lalhmachhuana, Deputy General Manager, O/o General Manager, Mizoram SSA

BRAC University

1. Professor Dr. Fuad Mallick, Director, Post Graduate Programs in Disaster Management

CAFOD – Caritas

1. Ms. Jessica Mercer, DRR Advisor, Humanitarian Support Department

Corporate Network for Disaster Response

1. Mr. Alberto Lim, Chairman, Executive Office

Dongguk University

1. Mr. Yong Jae Lee, Master's Course Student, Management Information System
2. Professor Dr. Young Jai Lee, Management Information System (MIS)

Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority

1. Mr. Irfanullah Tunio, Environmental Expert

Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative Inc.

1. Atty. Violeta Seva, General Secretary and Treasurer, Secretariat

King Saud University

1. Dr. Saad Alshehri

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction

From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Kyoto University

1. Dr. Bam Haja Nirina Razafindrabe, International Environment and Disaster Management, Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies
2. Dr. Yukiko Takeuchi (Madam), Lecturer, Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies
3. Mr. Shiroshita Hideyuki, Research Center for Disaster Reduction Systems, Disaster Prevention Research Institution
4. Ms. Jennifer Baumwoll, Consultant, Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies
5. Ms. Miwa Imura, PhD Student, Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies
6. Professor Dr. Rajib Shaw, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies

National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal

1. Mr. Amod Mani Dixit, Executive Director

Northumbria University

1. Dr. Andrew Collins, Disaster and Development Centre
2. Dr. Komal Raj Aryal, Research Associate
3. Professor Dr. Julie Mennell, Dean, School of Applied Sciences
4. Dr. Sam Jones, Senior Lecturer, School of Applied Sciences
5. Ms. Julie Edgar, Associate Dean, School of Applied Sciences
6. Ms. Zaina Gadema
7. Professor Dr. Phil O'Keefe

Preston University Islamabad Pakistan

1. Dr. Allah Wadhayo Baloch, Professor, Faculty Applied, Pure and Environmental Sciences / Registrar, Administration Division
2. Engr. Muhammad Umar Nadeem Qureshi, Project Manager, Research Institute
3. Engr. Najib Ahmad, Research Scholar/ Engineer, Research Institute
4. Mr. Ghulam Abbas, Field Project Manager, Disaster Research Institute.

Rural Area Development Programme (RADP)

1. Mr. Rajendra Bahadur Adhikari, Chairman/ Programme Coordinator
2. Ms. Sweety K.C., Programme Development Officer

United Nations University

1. Mr. Akhilesh Kumar Surjan, Program Associate

University of Western Australia

1. Ms. Lisa Guppy, PhD Candidate, School of Earth Science and Geography

University of Peradeniya

1. Prof. Shantha K. Hennayake, Director, Center for Environmental Studies

Sustainable Development Policy Institute

1. Mr. Amjed Pervaiz, Head, Disaster Risk Management Unit

South-East Asia Disaster Prevention Institute (SEADPRI-UKM), Malaysia

1. Prof. Dato' Dr. Ibrahim Komoo, Director
2. Prof. Dr. Joy Jacqueline Pereira, Deputy Director

Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI-UKM), Malaysia

1. Dr. Rawshan Ara Begum, Fellow
2. Dr. Er Ah Choy, Researcher/Lecturer
3. Datin Dr. Sharifah Munirah Syed Hussein Alatas
4. Pn. Sarah Aziz bt. Abdul Ghani Aziz, Fellow
5. Tan Ching Tiong, Graduate Research Assistant, PhD Candidate
6. Mr. Md. Abdullah Abraham Hossain, Graduate Research Assistant
7. Mohd Khairul Zain bin Ismail, Research Assistant
8. Mohd Shahrman bin Shamsudin, Research Assistant

United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC)

1. Dr. Rudolf Hauter, Associate to the Secretary General

E. NON GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS

Aga Khan Development Network

1. Mr. Gulam Juma, Focus International Coordinator
2. Mr. Najmuddin Kanji Chandani, Special Programmes – AKDN

AGC Flat Glass (Thailand) PLC

1. Mr. Toichi Nakazawa, AGC Flat Glass (Thailand) PLC

AGC Flat Glass Suzhou Co., Ltd.

1. Mr. Masahiro Takeda, President, AGC Flat Glass Company China

Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund

1. Mr. Wahyu Sulastomo, Programme Liaison, DRR Education, Outreach and Information Section
2. Ms. Sae Kani, Programme Manager, DRR Education, Outreach and Information Section

Christian Aid

1. Ms. Daphne Villanueva Candelaria, Country Representative, Philippine Country Office

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

2. Ms. Jessica Dator-Bercilla, Program Officer, Philippine Field Office

Deltares

1. Dr. Rien Dam, Deltares Institute, Subsurface and Groundwater Systems

Doaba Foundation

1. Dr. Sarfraz Hussain Ansari, Managing Trustee, Doaba Foundation

Duryog Nivaran

1. Mr. Amjad Bhatti, Policy Advisor, Rural Development Policy Institute

East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve

1. Dr. Mulyo Sidik, General Manager, Head Office

Focus Humanitarian Assistance

1. Mr. Ghulam Mohammed Panjwani, Country Director, Country Office

Forum Bangun Aceh (FBA)

1. Mr. Azwar Hasan, Chairperson
2. Ms. Naomi Stenning, Micro-Credit Officer, Livelihoods Program

Friends Service Council Nepal

1. Ms. Madhavee Pradhan, Secretary General

Hope Worldwide-Pakistan

1. Dr. Khurram Shahid Malik, President & Executive Director, Disaster Response and Recovery
2. Mr. Amir Niamat, Coordinator, NGO (Disaster Reduction and Response Recovery)
3. Mr. Amir Yasin, Coordinator CBDRM Project
4. Mr. Khawaja Behzad Ahmed, Coordinator, Disaster Response and Recovery
5. Mr. Raja Imran Aslam

Incheon Center for International Cooperation & Exchange

1. Mr. Young Choul Kwon, Executive Director, International Cooperation & Exchange
2. Mr. Eon-joo Noh, Program Officer, International Cooperation Team

Incheon City Hall

1. Mr. Byung Jin Khang, Project Manager, International Cooperation Division
2. Mr. Jeong Jin Park, Chief of UN Relations Team, International Cooperation Division

Incheon Free Economic Zone / Incheon Metropolitan City

1. Mr. Park Hun-Cher, Public Relation Office

Incheon Tourism Organization

1. Ms. Younghee Song, Assistant Manager, Convention Team

Investment Consultancy JSC AHT

1. Mrs. Vu Thi Thu Thuy, Director

Islamic Relief Malaysia

1. Mrs. Mariyah Suhaimi, Trustee, Board of Trustees

Japan Aerospace Agency

1. Mr. Chu Watanabe

Kamana Prakasan Samuha P. Ltd.

1. Mr. Surendra Paudel, Reporter, Nepal Samacharpatra

Linx Corporation

1. Dr. Dosunmu Olabode Yusu, Research Management/Developing

Manila Observatory

1. Mrs. Ma. Antonia Loyzaga, Executive Director
2. Dr. Rosa Perez, Climate Expert, Regional Climate Systems Program

Malaysian Medical Relief Society (MERCY Malaysia)

1. Datuk Dr. Jemilah Mahmood, President, Office of the President
2. Mr. Azeem Patterson, Programme Officer, Disaster Risk Reduction Department
3. Mr. Mohamed Ashaari Rahmat, Research and Programme Assistant, Disaster Risk Reduction
4. Ms. Puteri Rohayu Megat Mohamed Yusof, Programme Officer, Disaster Risk Reduction
5. Ms. Siti Nashrah Nur A. Malek, Assistant Programme Officer, Disaster Risk Reduction Department
6. Ms. Takako Izumi, Head of Disaster Risk Reduction, Disaster Risk Reduction

Mingalar Myanmar Foundation

1. Dr. Phone Win, Executive Director, Disaster Risk Management
2. Ms. Yuza Htoon, Director, Disaster Risk Management

Muslim Aid

1. Mr. Fadlullah Wilmot, Country Director, Bangladesh Field Office

Myanmar Engineering Society

1. Mr. U Than Myint, President, Head Office

Nippon Hoso Kyokai (NHK)

1. Mr. Hidekazu Minamizaki, Director, News Engineering Division, Engineering Administration Department

Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2 - 4 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur

Pakistan Community Peace Foundation

1. Mr. Salamat Bhatti, Chairman, Head Office
2. Mr. Pervaiz Masih, Press Secretary, Head Office
3. Mr. Shoukat Bhatti, Manager Field Work, Head Office

Palang Merah Indonesia

1. Mr. Arifin Mohammed Hadi, Head of Relief, National Office
2. Ms. Bevita Dwi M, Community-Based Disaster Preparedness Programme Coordinator, National Office

Plan International

1. Mr. Avianto Amri, Disaster Management Advisor for Indonesia, Plan International Indonesia
2. Mr. Suresh Pokharel, Water and Environmental Sanitation Emergency Advisor, Plan Timor-Leste

Practical Action

1. Ms. Vishaka Hidellage, Regional Director
2. Mr. Buddhadasa Weerasinghe, Regional Coordinator

Save the Children Sweden Regional Office for South and Central Asia

1. Mr. Jeganathan Thatparan, Regional Thematic Manager Emergencies, South and Central Asia

SEEDS

1. Dr. Manu Gupta, Executive Director, Head Quarters
2. Dr. Anshu Sharma, Board Member, Board of Governors
3. Ms. Eriko Kobayashi, Programme Manager, SEEDS Asia

Swiss Reinsurance Company

1. Mr. Andreas Bollmann

Tokio Marine & Nichido Risk Consulting

1. Mr. Hiroyuki Watabe, Group Leader, Development Group

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services

1. Mr. Trevor Tague, Senior Fire Officer, Head, North Tyneside Fire Station

Regional Development and Local Autonomy, National Development Planning Agency

1. Dr. Ir Suprayoga Hadi MSP, Director for Regional II

F. MEDIA

NTV 7 Malaysia

1. Mr. Charles Mohan M. Muthiah, Assistant Assignment Editor, NTV News Room, NTV 7 Malaysia

RTM Malaysia

1. Mr. Anthony Samy Innasi, News Editor, RTM Malaysia

Bangladesh Film Censor Board

1. Dr. Bijan Lal, Vice Chairman, Bangladesh Film Censor Board, Ministry of Information

Pakistan Television

1. Mr. Muhammad Shakeel, News Reporter/Producer

Vietnam Television

1. Linh Tran Thi Huong, Reporter & Editor, News & Current Affairs Department

TEMPO Magazine

1. Yuli Ismarto, Executive Editor

Bhutan Broadcasting Service

1. Mr. Tenzin Wangda, Bhutan Broadcasting Service

Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corp.

1. Mohammad Irfan Mohammad Sultan, TV Journalist, Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corp.

Media Corp Singapore

1. Pearl Maria Forss, Senior Reporter, Mediacorp News, Channel News Asia

RPN TV Channel 9

1. Orlando S. Mercado, President/CEO, RPN TV Channel 9

News Division

1. Mr. Suthep Tawalee, Reporter/Director & Chief of News Division

Nepal TV

1. Mr. Nirajan Khanal, News Editor

China National Radio

1. Mr. Wang Jian, Editor, China National Radio