

Seventh Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management

Theme: **Rights based Community led
Disaster Risk Management**
with special session on implementation of
the **Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA)** in Asia

Colombo, Sri Lanka
8-10 May 2008



In Collaboration with the
Government of Sri Lanka

Supported by
The Government of Australia



Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights
Government of Sri Lanka



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AusAID

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MESSAGE FROM CHAIR OF RCC

I am honoured to present to you the proceedings of the 7th Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC 7) held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 8-10 May 2008 on the theme Rights-based Community-led Disaster Risk Management. As the host country of the meeting, it was a great pleasure for us to have the opportunity of hosting you all at this important gathering.

This publication captures the rich discussions at the meeting and the outcome in the context of strengthening the RCC mechanism, mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development, developing national programs on Community led disaster risk management and improving Regional Coordination in support of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

Important regional mechanisms such as the RCC give us a great opportunity to come together and share our respective experiences and reinforce our cooperation on all fronts, which will help to reduce disaster risk in Asia and make communities resilient.

As the Chair of RCC, I would like to congratulate all of you on making the 7th Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management a success. We look forward to meeting again at RCC 8, which will be held in the Philippines.

Prof. Rajiva Wijesinha

Secretary,

Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights and

Chair, RCC

Republic of Sri Lanka

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to present the report of the 7th Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC 7) organized in collaboration with the Government of Sri Lanka in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 08-10 May 2008. The meeting was attended by 28 delegates from 19 RCC Member Countries and 16 observers from regional organizations, UN Agencies, bilateral and multilateral funding agencies, and ADPC partners.

The meeting was inaugurated by the Honorable Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights, H.E. Mahinda Samarasinghe, who emphasized the linkage between human rights and disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities, as rightly reflected in the theme of the meeting: Rights-based Community-led Disaster Risk Management.

The rich presentations by the host country on ongoing initiatives on DRR were a great learning experience for all of us. The sharing of experience among the countries on mainstreaming DRR into development helped identify some of the programmatic challenges of mainstreaming and the need to partner more with sectoral agencies and national agencies for planning and finance. The meeting affirmed the programmatic dimension of the RCC; reflecting on significant work done by the RCC – Program on Mainstreaming DRR into Development in the 4 years since its launch in the Dhaka RCC-4 Meeting; and endorsed Phase II of the Program renamed as “Partnerships for Safe Development and Good Governance” for implementation during 2008-2012.

The theme session on Rights-based Community-led Disaster Risk Management had rich discussions among the member countries to find solutions to upscale community based disaster risk management (CBDRM) initiatives and undertake national CBDRM programs. The outputs of the session and the RCC member country papers on community based DRR formed the base for developing the RCC Working Paper; *‘Implementing national programs on community-based disaster risk reduction in high risk communities: lessons learned, challenges and way ahead’*, which was presented at the High Level Round Table on CBDRM at the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Kuala Lumpur in December 2008.

The meeting had rich discussions on a range of issues including the need to strengthen linkages between Climate Change Adaptation and DRR. The recent experience with Cyclone Nargis reminded participants that early warning systems must be continually made accessible to the community themselves in a language they can comprehend.

RCC-7 welcomed the increased dialogue and coordination between UN/ISDR, ADPC and ADRC and regional offices of UN agencies in support of HFA implementation. It agreed on greater integration of RCC into the global and regional system through linkages with the sessions of the Global Platform and Asian Ministerial Conferences. The meeting recognized the valuable role of RCC as a forum for senior officials dialogue in preparing for and following up ministerial commitments. The Kuala Lumpur Declaration called for regional forums to support Ministerial Conferences and the RCC has already endorsed this role. In line with this direction ADPC, as the RCC Secretariat, supported the developments of the Kuala Lumpur Regional Action Plan.

I am glad to inform you that the Government of Philippines has confirmed its invitation to host the 8th RCC Meeting in Manila in December 2009 and the rich discussion on Community led DRR initiated at the RCC 7 Meeting would be continued at the RCC 8 Meeting in Manila. I look forward to meeting you in Manila.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Government of Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights for hosting the meeting and to extend my appreciation to the Government of Australia for their continued support in supporting the purposeful dialogues and programs of this mechanism.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bhichit Rattakul
Executive Director
Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The Seventh Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC 7) was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 08-10 May 2008, in collaboration with the Government of Sri Lanka. The meeting was attended by 28 delegates from 19 RCC Member Countries, comprising heads of National Disaster Management Offices or their representatives, and sectoral Ministries of National Governments from: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Maldives, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. Of these, 10 were representatives from Ministries of Planning and Sectoral Ministries from 6 RCC Member Countries—Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Philippines and Sri Lanka.

In addition 16 observers from regional organizations, UN Agencies, bilateral and multilateral funding agencies and partner NGOs namely: Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) Bangladesh, Center for Disaster Preparedness (CDP), Practical Action, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) and United States Agency for International Development, The Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) attended the meeting.

OPENING CEREMONY

The meeting was inaugurated by the Honorable Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights of the Government of Sri Lanka, H.E. Mr. Mahinda Samarasinghe. In his inaugural address, the Honorable Minister emphasized the importance of human rights as being an integral part of the plan of action of disaster risk reduction (DRR); especially in the context of Sri Lanka, where human-made disasters in the shape of conflict add to the natural disasters, and set back the development curve of the country. The Honorable Minister highlighted the huge impact of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, which brought consensus within the Government and all stakeholders in Sri Lanka to work together to prevent, mitigate and respond better to the multitude of natural and man made disasters, leading to a series of major initiatives in the last three years. He emphasized the adopted approach of decentralization, multi-stakeholder involvement and promoting a culture of volunteerism for effectively reducing risk. The Honorable Minister expressed great pride and satisfaction of the Government in co-hosting the RCC 7 meeting which provided a venue to learn more about similar initiatives on DRR from other countries of the region.

The Opening Ceremony was addressed by Mr. P.D. Amarasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Government of Sri Lanka; H.E. Prof Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, Chairman, ADPC Board of Trustees; and Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, Executive Director, ADPC.

The opening ceremony was attended by over a hundred senior officials from various Ministries of the Government of Sri Lanka, representatives from Embassies of RCC member countries in Sri Lanka, delegates from RCC member countries, senior officials from UN Agencies, representatives from other international organizations and agencies, development and donor agencies, the national media and other relevant agencies, government departments and NGOs.

OBJECTIVES OF RCC 7 MEETING

The objectives of the 7th RCC Meeting was to:

- Learn from DRR experience of host country, Sri Lanka;
- Advance RCC Program on Mainstreaming DRR into development in Asia;
- Take stock of Community led Disaster Risk Management in RCC member countries; and
- Review Implementation of Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) in Asia.

RCC 7 MEETING SESSIONS

The meeting consisted of four substantive sessions, as well as the opening ceremony, sessions covering meeting overview, RCC action planning for the coming years, and the closing ceremony. All the participants paused for a minute of silence to remember those who have perished and suffered in the Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar.

1. The first session on DRR activities in Sri Lanka included presentations on completed, ongoing and future initiatives by the Disaster Management Center, the current status of the Early Warning Systems by the Department of Meteorology, trend in slope failures by National Building Research Organization, and Strategies in disaster response by the Ministry of Resettlement and Disaster Relief.
2. The session on 'Mainstreaming DRR into development' covered three sub themes; mainstreaming DRR into national development processes, sector development, and progress made under the RCC program on 'Mainstreaming DRR into development' (RCC MDRD).

Experiences of mainstreaming DRR into national development processes were presented by China, Indonesia, Cambodia, Pakistan and Nepal; and on sector development, by the Philippines and Lao PDR. A briefing presentation was made by UN/ISDR on the ongoing Global Campaign on Safe Hospitals.

The progress made under RCC MDRD program was reported and the meeting reviewed the RCC Guidelines on Mainstreaming DRR into Education and Road Sectors and progress made under Priority Implementation Partnerships on Mainstreaming DRR in Cambodia, Lao PDR and the Philippines on Education Sector; in the Philippines on Road Sector and Sri Lanka on Local Governance. The Program document on Phase II of the RCC Mainstreaming program; Partnerships for Safe Development and Good Governance covering the period of 2008 to 2012; prepared under guidance of the RCC MDRD Advisory Panel was reviewed and endorsed.

3. The theme session of the meeting, 'Rights based Community Led Disaster Risk Management' included the theme presentation by the Government of Sri Lanka and an ADPC presentation on 'Overview of the Country papers and meeting the Challenges for community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM)'.

National experiences were shared by India, Philippines, Bangladesh, Thailand and Vietnam. Presentations were made by ADPC on Tools for CBDRM such as the Critical Guidelines on CBDRM and Coastal Community Resilience. The evolving perspective of civil society organizations and their regional networks on CBDRM was presented by the representatives from Practical Action and Duryog Nivaran.

Group Discussions among RCC member countries identified actions that they needed to take, in meeting the challenges of institutionalising and up scaling CBDRM.

4. The session on 'Implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) in Asia' was co-organized by ADPC, ADRC and UN/ISDR. The session had two sub themes; the HFA Progress review process 2007 to 2009, which looked into the regional and national HFA progress review framework for Asia and the Pacific, the online reporting tool 'HFA

Monitor' and Preparations for the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR to be held in Kuala Lumpur in December 2008.

CLOSING CEREMONY

The closing ceremony of the meeting was addressed by Mr. P.D. Amarasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Government of Sri Lanka; H.E. Prof Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, Chairman, ADPC Board of Trustees and Ms. Helena Molin Valdes, Deputy Director, UN/ISDR, with Mr. Shaukat Nawaz Tahir of Pakistan presenting feedback from the RCC Member Countries. A message AusAID was read at the meeting which emphasized its satisfaction at the progress made by the RCC.

KEY OUTCOMES OF THE MEETING

1. STRENGTHENING OF THE RCC MECHANISM

- Continued ministerial participation and presence in the meeting, reflected the political will and commitment from the high levels of government to prioritize DRR programs.
- High level representatives from national agencies of planning and sectoral ministries, and representatives from local government's active participation in the meeting and commitment to support DRR initiatives in their respective sectors.
- Increased commitment from Member Countries reflected in generous contributions by the host country and cost sharing by several members.
- As decided at the RCC 6 Meeting, Sri Lanka assumed the chairmanship of the RCC till the next meeting.
- Interest and willingness of The Philippines, Iran, Nepal, and Mongolia to host future RCC meetings, reflecting support from Member Countries to the mechanism.

2. MAINSTREAMING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION INTO DEVELOPMENT POLICY, PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION IN ASIA

- RCC 7 affirmed the programmatic dimension of the RCC mechanism, with implementation of an active program on mainstreaming DRR into development over the last four years and endorsed Phase II of the program; '*Partnerships for safe development and good governance*' for implementation during 2008-2012 as directed in the Kunming, Road Map.

3. NATIONAL PROGRAMS ON COMMUNITY-LED DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

- RCC 7 reflected the evolving perspective of CBDRM with move towards community leadership for DRR.
- Called for greater engagement, partnership and integration with local government mechanisms for DRR and development including local disaster management and local development plans.
- Affirmed the commitment of RCC members to take up national programs on CBDRM in all high risk communities.
 - Establish clear policy framework for support by national governments and partnership between local government and CBOs.
 - Took stock of solution for up scaling CBDRM as used by various RCC member countries.
 - Affirmed the need for enhanced resources from national and local government.
 - Prioritized implementation of CBDRM focusing on high risk provinces and districts in each member country.
- Called for sustained public awareness programs in countries.

- Regular input from national governments and scientific institutions on hazard and risk maps to local government and community based organizations for use in local participatory planning.
- Establishing scheme for recognition of good practice in CBDRM and utilizing experiences of CBDRM award scheme in member countries.
- Recognizing and building on local knowledge and traditional coping mechanisms.

The RCC and ADPC, as its Secretariat, offered to lead a Technical Session and High Level Round Table on CBDRM at the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference (AMC) on DRR, to be held in Kuala Lumpur. The Government of Malaysia welcomed the offer and would confirm after discussions in the AMC3 Organizing Committee.

4. COORDINATION BETWEEN UN/ISDR, ADRC AND ADPC ON SUPPORT TO HFA IMPLEMENTATION IN ASIA

Responding to the call from RCC members at the Sixth Meeting in Kunming, November 2006;

- The joint session organized by UN/ISDR, ADPC and ADRC at the RCC7 Meeting demonstrated continued and enhanced partnership between regional agencies with a full-time focus on DRR i.e. UN/ISDR, ADPC and ADRC.
- The RCC 7 welcomed this partnership and urged UN/ISDR, ADPC and ADRC to take joint activity in supporting HFA implementation by the National Disaster Management Offices of the member countries.
- RCC 7 agreed on endorsing greater integration of RCC into the regional and global system namely linkages with the Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR and Global Platform for DRR. The meeting recognized that intensive discussion among senior officials was needed and the RCC served as a welcome forum and mechanism to translate ministerial commitment, as reflected in AMC Declarations, into action.
- The RCC meeting encouraged UN/ISDR, ADRC and ADPC to continue their dialogue on how the RCC and ACDR meeting could serve in preparing for, and following up on, Regional and Global Platform meetings.

ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADPC	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
ADRC	Asian Disaster Reduction Center
ADRRN	Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network
AMCDRR	Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
AUDMP	Asian Urban Disaster Mitigation Program of ADPC
Aus AID	Australian Agency for International Development
BAPPENAS	National Development Planning Agency, Indonesia
BDRC	Building Disaster Resilient Communities
BoT	Board of Trustees of ADPC
CBDRM	Community Based Disaster Risk Management
CBDRR	Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCR	Coastal Community Resilience
CDCC	City Disaster Coordinating Council, the Philippines
CDMP	Comprehensive Disaster Management Program of Bangladesh
CDP	Center for Disaster Preparedness
CECI	Center for International Studies and Corporation
CNDR	Corporate Network for Disaster Response
CRA	Community Risk Assessment
CRRI	Central Road Research Institute, India
DDPM	Department for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Thailand
DILG	Department of Interior and Local Government
DMC	Disaster Management Center, Sri Lanka
DMWG	Disaster Management Working Group
DP-Net	Disaster Preparedness Network
DPWH	Department of Public Works and Highways, Philippines
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECHO	European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EWS	Early Warning System
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GLOF	Glacial Lake Outburst Floods
HFA	Hyogo Framework for Action
IAC	International Advisory Council
IAP	ISDR Asia Partnership
ICS	Incident Command System
IDNDR	International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
LDRRF	Local Disaster Risk Reduction Funding Guidelines
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MDRD	Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development
MoFDM	Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, Bangladesh
NBRO	National Building Research Organisation, Sri Lanka
NCDM	National Committee for Disaster Management, Cambodia
NCDR	National Commission for Disaster Reduction, China
NDCC	National Disaster Coordinating Council, the Philippines

NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority, Pakistan
NDMO	National Disaster Management Office
NEDA	National Economic Development Authority
NEMA	National Emergency Management Agency, Mongolia
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSET	National Society for Earthquake Technology
OFDA	Office of the US Foreign Disaster Assistance of USAID
OTOP	One Tambon One Search and Rescue Program, Thailand
PDRSEA	Partnerships for Disaster Reduction South east Asia
PIP	Priority Implementation Partnership
PMI	Palang Merah Indonesia
PROMISE	Program for hydro-meteorological disaster mitigation in secondary cities in Asia
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
RCC	Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management
REDAS	Rapid Earthquake Damage Assessment System
RRAP	Risk Reduction Action Plan
SCP	Safe Commune Planning
SEEDS	Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society, India
SNAP	Strategic National Action Plan for DRR
UDRM	Urban Disaster Risk Management Team at ADPC
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UN-ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for the Asia-Pacific
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Program
UN-ISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
UN OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VDC	Village Development Committee
WCDR	World Conference for Disaster Reduction
WHO	World Health Organization

I. INTRODUCTION

CONTEXT

The Seventh Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC 7) was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 08-10 May 2008, in collaboration with the Government of Sri Lanka. The meeting was attended by 28 delegates from 19 RCC Member Countries comprising heads of National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) or their representatives and sectoral Ministries of National Governments from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Maldives, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. Of these, ten were representatives from Ministries of Planning and Sectoral Ministries from six RCC member countries—Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Philippines and Sri Lanka. In addition 16 observers from regional organizations, UN Agencies, bilateral and multilateral funding agencies and NGOs namely Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) Bangladesh, Center for Disaster Preparedness (CDP), Practical Action, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) and United States Agency for International Development Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) attended the meeting (**ANNEX A**).

THE RCC

ADPC is an independent, non-profit regional organization, established in 1986, promoting risk reduction and capacity building in disaster risk management (DRM) in the Asia and the Pacific regions. The ADPC Board of Trustees (BoT), the International Advisory Council (IAC) and the RCC form a three-tiered governance structure of ADPC. In 2005 nine countries namely Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand and Sri Lanka signed a charter establishing ADPC as an intergovernmental organization. Seven of these countries have ratified the Charter.

The RCC was established in March 2000 and comprises of senior officials working in key government positions in national disaster management systems of countries throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Membership is by invitation of the Chairman of the BoT, with the 30 present members (**ANNEX B**) representing 26 countries and territories. The RCC has a specific mandate under the 2005 Charter.

The first six meetings of the RCC were held in November 2000 and October 2001 in Bangkok; in October 2002 in New Delhi, in collaboration with the Government of India; in March 2004 in Dhaka, in collaboration with the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh; in May 2005 in Hanoi, in collaboration with the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; and in November 2006 in Kunming, China, in collaboration with Ministry of Civil Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of China.

The role of the RCC as set at its first meeting is to provide an on-going non-binding mechanism for:

- Development of action strategies for disaster reduction in Asia and the Pacific;
- Promoting cooperative programs on a regional and sub-regional basis; and
- Providing guidance to ADPC on its future works and strategies.

OBJECTIVES OF RCC - 7

The objectives of the 7th RCC Meeting was to:

- Learn from DRR experience of host country, Sri Lanka;
- Advance RCC Program on Mainstreaming DRR into development in Asia;
- Take stock of Community led Disaster Risk Management in RCC member countries; and
- Review Implementation of Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) in Asia.

The detailed meeting program is given in **ANNEX C** of this report.

II. THE OPENING CEREMONY

The Opening ceremony of the RCC 7 Meeting was held on the morning of 8th May at the Crystal Room of the Taj Samudra Hotel in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The chief guest of the meeting was the Honorable Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights of Sri Lanka, H.E. Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe.

In his welcome address as host country representative, Mr. P.D. Amarasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights thanked all the guests and participants for attending the seventh meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management. He affirmed Sri Lanka's commitment to disaster management efforts in the region as exemplified by their hosting of the event. He lauded ADPC's consistent work and leadership in promoting DRM in the region. He wished everyone a pleasant stay in Sri Lanka and expressed his gratitude for everyone present for the commitment to help achieve the goals of the meeting.

In his welcome address on behalf of ADPC, Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, Executive Director, ADPC thanked the Hon. Minister Mr. Samarasinghe, the respected delegates, and participants of the meeting and invitees of the Opening Ceremony for their presence. He highlighted the importance of the RCC 7 meeting whose outputs are expected to contribute critically to the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR (AMCDRR) in Kuala Lumpur on December 2008. The RCC, a regional consultative mechanism of heads of NDMOs of 26 Asian countries, is recognized as an important regional mechanism to take forward the agenda of DRR and facilitate the implementation of the HFA in Asia. Dr. Bhichit expressed his deep gratitude to the Government of Australia and AusAID for supporting the RCC. He emphasized the active role that ADPC has been playing for more than twenty years as the regional focal point for disaster reduction in Asia in partnership with Governments, international, national and local partner agencies, and that it remains committed to meeting the expectation of the RCC member countries and other states.

With Rights-based Community-led Disaster Risk Management being the theme of the RCC 7 Meeting, Dr. Bhichit emphasized the importance ADPC attaches to Community based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) which has always been an integral part of ADPC programs and projects. Working with Governments and partners in implementing programs such as Partnerships for Disaster Reduction Southeast Asia (PDRSEA) and the Asian Urban Disaster Mitigation Program (AUDMP), ADPC has been involved in developing tools and guidelines, building capacities, and advocating for CBDRM and its institutionalization within the government planning processes. The recently developed, "Guide for Evaluating Coastal Community Resilience for Tsunami and other hazards for Indian Ocean Countries" as part of the Regional Program on End to End Early Warning demonstrates the importance of involving the communities in setting up a scientific and

technical system as early warning. Dr. Bhichit Rattakul invited all to actively participate in the discussions on CBDRM during the meeting and come up with concrete actions to address the existing issues and challenges which would be a valuable contribution to the 3rd AMCDRR in December 2008 where local level action for DRR is a key theme.

Dr. Bhichit extended a warm welcome to the representatives of national planning and sectoral agencies from six RCC member countries. He emphasized the importance of participation of these agencies in operationalizing the Hanoi RCC 5 Statement and implementing the RCC Program on Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development (MDRD). He expressed satisfaction that the meeting would also review the Phase II of the RCC MDRD program entitled, "Partnerships for Safe Development and Good Governance" which has been developed under the guidance of the RCC MDRD Advisory Panel following the direction of RCC 6 in Kunming, China in November 2006.

Dr. Bhichit expressed his sincere appreciation to UN/ISDR Regional Office and ADRC for co-organizing along with ADPC the joint session on Implementation of HFA in Asia which demonstrates the partnership among these three key regional entities in DRR.

In his opening address, H.E. Prof. Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, Chairman, ADPC, Board of Trustees, expressed his great pleasure in welcoming the Honorable Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Mr. Samarasinghe, Mr. P.D. Amarasinghe, Secretary of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, Executive Director, ADPC, Madam Corazon Alma G. De Leon, Vice Chairperson of the ADPC Board of Trustees, the RCC members and all participants to the RCC 7 Meeting. He extended his special appreciation to the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights for the preparations made to host this meeting and expressed eagerness in learning more during the meeting on the recent initiatives in Sri Lanka on DRR. With his participation in all the previous six meetings of the RCC and as a witness to the growth of the RCC as an effective regional mechanism for DRR, Prof. Krasae voiced his confidence on the validity of key directions set by the RCC in 2001, and their consistency with the HFA, whose implementation augured well for the future development of Asia. With every disaster being a local event requires the involvement of the communities in response as well as preparedness and risk reduction; Prof. Krasae felt the aptness of the meeting theme focusing on rights-based community led action, especially in the aftermath of the devastating cyclone NARGIS which affected hundreds of coastal communities in Myanmar. He emphasized the importance of linking community initiatives to the long-term development priorities of the government; in order to reduce the impact of disasters on development and attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). He valued the special session at RCC-7 jointly organized with UN/ISDR and ADRC on Implementation of HFA in Asia in meeting the challenges on DRR in the region through joint coordinated action by key players.

In delivering the inaugural address, Honorable Minister, Mr. Samarasinghe, extended his warm welcome to all the dignitaries on the dais, the participants from 19 RCC member countries, UN Agencies and partner organizations at the RCC 7 Meeting. The Honorable Minister emphasized the importance of human rights as an integral part of the plan of action for DRM and sustainable development especially in the context of Sri Lanka where human-made disasters in the shape of conflicts add to the natural disasters that set back the development curve of the country. Highlighting the huge impact of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami which brought consensus within the Government in Sri Lanka and all stakeholders in the country to work together on DRR, the Honorable Minister emphasized the range of initiatives which are being undertaken in the country with an approach towards decentralization, multi-stakeholder participation and a culture of volunteerism.

Madam Corazon Alma G. De Leon, Vice Chairperson of the ADPC Board of Trustees, proposed the vote of thanks.

A copy of each of the key speeches at the Opening Ceremony is provided in **Annex D** of this Report.

III. SESSION I: SHOWCASING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN SRI LANKA

The first session of the meeting was co-chaired by Mr. P.D. Amarasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Government of Sri Lanka, and Mr. Guo Xiao Han, Embassy of China in Sri Lanka, and facilitated by Mr. N.M.S.I Arambepola, Director of Urban Disaster Risk Management Team, ADPC. This session aimed to showcase the DRM experiences of Sri Lanka.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN SRI LANKA

The session commenced with a presentation on “Completed, Ongoing and Future Activities for Disaster Management in Sri Lanka,” by Major General Gamini Hettiarachchi, Director General, Disaster Management Center (DMC), Government of Sri Lanka. General Hettiarachchi in his presentation highlighted the completed and ongoing initiatives in the country which includes laying the legal and policy frameworks for disaster management. Special mention deserves the National Disaster Management Act in 2005 which apart from natural and man-made disasters also covers emergencies resulting from civil strife and has established national and sub-national DRM mechanisms with the operative principle of devolution of power. The establishment of the Disaster Management Center in 2005, the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, and the development of the Road Map towards a safer Sri Lanka were some of the major milestones highlighted in the presentation, towards advancing DRM in the country. Other initiatives includes activities related to capacity building, preparedness measures and response; risk awareness and knowledge building; hazard mapping and Lidar survey of coastal areas; formulating guidelines for construction and building in at-risk areas; early warning systems; and mitigation of floods, droughts, and establishment of natural barriers. In his presentation, General Hettiarachchi also mentioned the future priority activities which involved preparation and approval of DRM plans at various levels; construction of facilities for early warning; devolution of authority to provinces; and integrating DRR into development projects.

EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS IN SRI LANKA: CURRENT STATUS

Mr. Lalith Chandrapala from Department of Meteorology, Government of Sri Lanka, made a presentation on the recent developments of early warning systems in Sri Lanka. With the help of countries such as USA, Japan, Germany, among others, Sri Lanka has increased their capacity for Early Warning System (EWS) with the upgrading of the global telecommunications system, network of 38 automatic weather stations and rainfall stations with real time satellite communication facilities, increasing the number of seismic station to three located across the country regions, and tidal gauge network. The Department of Meteorology functions as the Tsunami Early Warning Centre for Sri Lanka.

SLOPE FAILURES IN SRI LANKA: CURRENT TREND

In his presentation on "Slope Failures in Sri Lanka: Current Trend," Mr. R.M.S Bandara from the National Building Research Organization (NBRO), Government of Sri Lanka, highlighted the landslide vulnerability of Sri Lanka with 20 percent of the country's total land area being vulnerable to landslide and the landslide density being estimated at one to two landslides per square kilometer. The presenter highlighted the economic, social, and environmental impacts of landslides and with rainfall being the major cause along with lack of planning, improper construction and use of land and other natural resources adding on to the risk. The presentation also highlighted the initiatives being undertaken in Sri Lanka to minimize the risk from landslides. These include undertaking hazard mapping to avoid the risk, surface and sub-surface drainage control and structural and non structural mitigation measures for stabilization and awareness raising among the community. In conclusion, the speaker highlighted the need for having multi-disciplinary knowledge and partnerships among stakeholders to predict and reduce the risk of landslide. Equally important is undertaking research to improve the accuracy of landslide prediction, risk assessment and execution of legal and regulatory functions during development process in landslide prone areas.

STRATEGIES IN DISASTER RESPONSE

Mr. J. Gunawardana, Ministry of Resettlement and Disaster Relief, Government of Sri Lanka, made a presentation highlighting the objectives of the Ministry and describing the disaster response strategies of the country. Identifying the strengths of DRM program, the presenter emphasized the demonstration of high political commitment as seen in the response to the 2003 floods and the 2004 tsunami, the functioning of a 24 hours Emergency Operation Centre in the Prime Minister's office, greater willingness to collaborate among various disaster responders and the importance of inter-sectoral and inter-agency coordination. However, certain areas remain challenging such as lack of disaster management plans and standard operating procedures, limited official data consolidated to inform choices during emergency situation, and uncoordinated distribution of relief services.

PLENARY DISCUSSION

There was a clarification from the floor about a presenter's observation about lack of coordination of relief efforts in Sri Lanka while another speaker lauded the institutionalization of the Incident Command System (ICS). The presenter responded by saying that there is reliable documentation of the coordination problems experienced during the tsunami in 2004. Part of the response to this problem is precisely the establishment of the ICS. Currently, 30 people have been trained abroad with the assistance of the US Forest Service and they, in turn, would train the district leaders who will act as the incident commanders. On the question of compensation criteria in building houses, the presenters clarified that the compensation is for natural disasters only. The fixed rate of 50,000 Sri Lankan Rupees given in three installments, while not sufficient, is provided to buy building materials and the house owner is expected to provide free labor. In relation to the building codes, the relationship between national and local government is crucial. Judicial power is not present to the local levels so there is a need for coordination. Sri Lanka is hoping to be able to build disaster resistant buildings. Books and models are available and implementation is going, albeit slowly.

There was a question on how to facilitate communication in case of an emergency situation since there was an experience of complete breakdown of the mobile network during the tsunami. The response was to create and strengthen other means of

communication and not depend on one means alone. TV and radio proved useful during the tsunami. But the key area is early warning so that whatever means of communication employed will actually make an impact in reaching the message to the community.

IV. SESSION II: INTRODUCTION, ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND OVERVIEW OF MEETING

This session was co-chaired by Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, Executive Director, ADPC, and Madam Corazon Alma G. De Leon, Vice Chairperson, Board of Trustees, ADPC and facilitated by Mr. A.R. Subbiah, Director and Team Leader, Climate Risk Management Team, ADPC.

In his opening remark, the Chair, Dr. Bhichit Rattakul emphasized that in the wake of the recent cyclone in Myanmar and the huge loss of life, disaster management professionals still have a lot of work ahead starting from the national and local government to the community level. The Sri Lankan post-tsunami experience is an important resource of learning for DM.

Mr. Subbiah introduced the presentation which focused on the role of RCC and the purpose of the current meeting.

Dr. Bhichit Rattakul briefly explained the role of the RCC as the means to provide an informal consultative mechanism for development of action strategies for disaster reduction in the region, promotion of cooperative programs on a regional and sub regional basis and providing guidance to ADPC for its future directions. The speaker highlighted in particular the objectives of the 7th RCC Meeting namely:

- Learn from DRR experience of host country, Sri Lanka;
- Advance RCC Program on Mainstreaming DRR into development in Asia;
- Take stock of Community led Disaster Risk Management in RCC member countries; and
- Review Implementation of Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) in Asia.

Upon the request of Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, each of the RCC delegates and observers introduced themselves to the Meeting and provided a brief description of the organizations they were representing. The Agenda of the RCC -7 Meeting, which had been circulated in advance, was approved without any amendments.

Mr. Aloysius Rego, Director and Team Leader, Disaster Management Systems, ADPC, explained that in line with the traditions of the earlier RCC meetings, it has been found useful to have a sub committee of the entire meeting which can put in extra work and meet at the end of the day to fine tune the feedback of the meetings and identify any improvements in process or outcomes that is expected to be achieved. This mechanism of sub-committee had in the past been serving as a bridge in between meetings and as guide to the implementation of the RCC MDRD Program. It was proposed that as in the past years, the member countries that acts as members of the RCC MDRD Advisory Panel can act as the steering committee of the meeting. The member countries proposed were Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Lao PDR, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. It was unanimously confirmed that the following RCC Members would sit on the Steering Committee for the 7th RCC Meeting:

- Bangladesh – Mr. A.K.M. Abdul Awal Mazumder, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management
- Cambodia – H.E. Mr. Hou Taing Eng, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Planning
- China – Mr. G.E. Chuanyou, Counselor, Embassy of the P.R. China in Sri Lanka

- India – Mr. Rajiv Kumar, Director (Disaster Management) Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India
- Lao PDR – Mr. Vilayphong Sisomvang, Senior Officer, National Disaster Management Office
- Pakistan – Mr. Shaukat Nawaz Tahir, Senior Member (Planning), National Disaster Management Authority
- Philippines – Ms. Susan Rachel G. Jose, Director, Regional Development Coordination Staff, National Economic Development Authority
- Thailand – Ms. Wachana Kulchanarat, Plan and Policy Analyst, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Ministry of Interior
- Vietnam – Mr. Dang Quang Minh, Deputy Chief of Administrative Division, Department of Dyke Management and Flood, Storm Control

The last item in Session II was the overview of RCC and follow-up activity. The presentation made by Mr. Rego had two parts to it—a quick overview of RCC as a mechanism and explanation on recommendation of previous meetings and what follow-up actions have been taken. Presenting a brief background of the RCC, Mr. Rego expressed satisfaction in the attendance of 19 member countries at the RCC 7 meeting out of a total membership of 26 countries. He introduced the RCC Brochure which has been developed and provides a brief narrative on the outcomes of the previous six meetings of the RCC and the two declarations; Bangkok RCC 2 Declaration of 2001 on future directions of regional cooperation and RCC and the Hanoi RCC 5 Statement on Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development.

Mr. Rego reported to the RCC on “Actions that ADPC as the RCC Secretariat has undertaken on recommendations from the previous six RCC Meetings”. He referred to the Meeting Document 16 that provided a consolidated list of all the major action agendas identified at the RCC Meetings and a detailed listing of all follow-up actions that have been undertaken (**ANNEX E**). This document is produced upon the request of the ADPC BoT, RCC Members and the supporting donors. The report seeks to serve as an honest record of the collective agenda of the RCC and its Members, as a mean to monitor and follow-up progress of actions that has been undertaken and to identify areas where further action was required. The RCC delegates and observers were requested to examine the document and to approach ADPC for further clarifications on any of the recommendations or follow-up actions that were reported, as well as raise issues of significant concern at appropriate junctures during the meeting.

Mr. Rego emphasized the importance of RCC which has established itself as a meaningful mechanism among the disaster management focal points of Asian Governments, a close-door opportunity to informally meet with peers and have a practical exchange and help identify new initiatives to be taken up at the national level being inspired by work done in other countries. It has catalyzed actions in existing sub regional mechanism and allowed for greater engagement of ADPC with such mechanism. It has provided an opportunity for UN agencies, technical institutes and donors to understand the perspectives, constraints, challenges and priorities of the national governments. Over the past years, there is an increased ownership of the RCC mechanism as reflected by the keenness to host meetings, and at the national level, this has an opportunity to bring in political leaders to demonstrate their support and increase visibility for DRR. In his presentation, Mr. Rego emphasized that though RCC had an ambitious agenda but it is not expected to be implemented only by the RCC mechanism at the regional level, and has helped inspire actions at national level as well. The meetings have provided an opportunity to take stock, catalyze and monitor HFA implementation and, as the AMCDRR is coming off age, the RCC is identified as key

components of the regional and global platform for DRR and an important mechanism of the senior officials from countries of the region.

PLENARY DISCUSSION

Dr. Bhichit Rattakul raised the possibility of the RCC mechanism serving as the senior officer's meeting for the preparation and follow up to the AMDCDR. Agreeing to Dr. Rattakul's proposal, Mr. Jerry Velasquez from UN/ISDR pointed to the last session on the agenda being jointly organized by ADPC, ADRC and UN/ISDR and which would provide an opportunity for everyone to comment and submit suggestions for linkages of the RCC with the AMCDRR.

V. SESSION III A: MAINSTREAMING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION INTO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Session III was divided into three sub-sessions. The first sub-session IIIA was co-chaired by Mr. Awal Mazumdar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, Government of Bangladesh, and Ms Karma Doma Tshering, Disaster Management Division, Bhutan and facilitated by Mr. Loy Rego, Director and Team Leader, Disaster Management Systems Team, ADPC.

NATIONAL PLAN FOR COMPREHENSIVE DISASTER REDUCTION OF THE P.R.CHINA

Mr. G.E. Chuanyou, Counselor of the Embassy of China in Sri Lanka, presented China's National Commission for Disaster Reduction (NCDR) which was established as a response to the 1989 International Framework of Action for the International Decade for National Disaster Reduction (IDNDR). The Commission recognizes the importance of DRR for achieving sustainable socio-economic development goals. The new National Plan for Comprehensive Disaster Reduction has been put in place in 2007. This plan has eight major tasks and eight key projects. The major tasks are focused on building capacity on various areas, namely, DRM and information sourcing; monitoring, early warning, and forecasting natural disasters; comprehensive natural disaster prevention and resistance; national capacity for natural disaster emergency response and relief; comprehensive response to catastrophic disasters; disaster reduction in urban and rural communities; technological support for disaster reduction; publicizing and educating the people about scientific disaster reduction knowledge. Eight key projects emanate from the major tasks: survey on comprehensive disaster risks and disaster reduction capacity in key areas across the country; constructing the project of a national four-grade system of command and control for disaster response and relief; establishment of a national reserve system for disaster relief supplies; application of satellite technology in disaster reduction; establishment of a regional research center on catastrophic disasters in Asia; a demonstration project of disaster reduction capacity building in communities; the scientific publicity program for disaster reduction education; and technological innovation and transfer of scientific achievements into disaster reduction. All these efforts are designed to ensure safety and security of both people and property and boost well-rounded, coordinated and sustainable socio-economic development.

EXPERIENCES OF INDONESIA IN INTEGRATING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION INTO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROCESS

Mr. Morris Nuaimi from National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS), Indonesia, made a presentation highlighting the experience of Indonesia in integrating DRR into the national development planning process. In his presentation Mr. Nuaimi, highlighted that while Indonesia is ranked seventh among countries recurrently hit by natural disasters in 2005, the issues were two folds; lack of management capacity for disaster response and lack of understanding of DRR. However, the recent years have seen new initiatives in the country including the passing of the Disaster Management Law and the development of the National Action Plan for DRR. The plan specifies platforms, priorities, actions and mechanisms pertaining to the implementation and institutionalization of disaster management; it provides guidelines and information for policy decisions and articulates the responsibilities of stakeholders in line with the HFA. The speaker went on to explain the implementing mechanism of the National Action Plan for DRR which includes the regulatory, institutional and funding arrangements. The regulatory arrangements include the development and implementation of medium term programmes, DRR annual plans and annual budget. Building networks and civil society involvement forms the crust of the institutional arrangements and the funding arrangements would include national and local budget as well as support from private sector, external donors and NGOs. Mr. Nuaimi also explained how the national development strategies such as the Medium-Term Development Plan and the Annual Work Plan integrate DRR. While the current Medium-Term Development Plan does not specifically address the issue of DRR, risk reduction is incorporated in areas related to social welfare, natural resources and the environment. However, programmes and activities related to DRR are developed in different sectors. Similarly, the Annual Work Plan of 2007-2008; which sets out all programmes for each sector on a calendar year basis, has disaster mitigation and management as one of the nine development priorities. An important target to be achieved in this area is strengthening of preparedness of institutions and communities in preventing and mitigating the risk of natural disasters.

STRATEGIC NATIONAL ACTION PLAN OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

The recent experience of the National Committee of Disaster Management (NCDM) and the Ministry of Planning, Cambodia in developing the Strategic National Action Plan (SNAP) for Disaster Risk Reduction of the Kingdom of Cambodia was shared by H.E. Hou Traing Eng, Under Secretary, Ministry of Planning, Kingdom of Cambodia.

The speaker explained that recognizing the impacts of the recurring disaster events on the social and economic development of the country, the Kingdom of Cambodia has formulated the SNAP for DRR with an objective to “to reduce vulnerability of Cambodian people, especially the poor, to the effects of natural, environmental and human-induced hazards.” The main strategies of the SNAP are to strengthen disaster management system in Cambodia and to incorporate a DRR perspective into the policies, strategies and plans of government in all sectors at all levels. The guiding principles for formulating the SNAP had been ‘government led initiative’, ‘participatory in nature’ and ‘linked to the overall national development objectives’. Explaining the process adopted to develop the SNAP, the speaker highlighted the formation of the Inter Institutional Task Force with a membership from 13 ministries and chaired by the NCDM and Ministry of Planning. The process also involved creation of five sub-groups to look into each priority of the HFA and to undertake a stocktaking exercise to identify initiatives undertaken in the country, gaps and potential action. Extensive consultation was also

undertaken with various groups of stakeholders such as the government agencies at sub-national level, NGOs, UN Agencies and donors. The final plan has prioritized six key areas as follows with specific list of activities under each of the areas:

- Ensure that DRR is a national and a local priority
- Strengthen sub-national and community-based DRM
- Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and early warning
- Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience
- Integration of DRR into development
- Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

The Plan has been endorsed through a National Workshop organized in April 2008 and would be launched in the coming months.

NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK OF PAKISTAN

A presentation on the National Disaster Management Framework of Pakistan was made by Mr. Shaukat N. Tahir of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) of Pakistan. In his presentation Mr. Tahir explained the consultative process followed for developing the framework, its vision and objectives, guiding principles, priorities identified and ongoing activities under implementation. The nine priorities identified by the framework include:

- Establish Disaster Management Authorities at the national, provincial and district levels and other related institutions such as the national Institute of Disaster Management
- Conduct National Risk Assessment to identify most vulnerable regions of the country, so that the national risk reduction policies could be developed and implemented in those zones
- Establish Emergency Operations System, through setting-up of Emergency Operations Centers, Search and Rescue Capacities, Response plans, capacity building of fire services,
- Training, Education and Awareness of officials of national and sub-national disaster management authorities, ministries, departments, media, private sector, civil society and communities
- Support Disaster Risk Management Planning by sub-national disaster management authorities, ministries, and departments with regards to their geographical and sectoral jurisdiction
- Implement Mitigation Programmes in 50 High Risk Districts on most important natural hazards such as droughts, floods, earthquakes, landslides, cyclones and other common local hazards
- Integrate DRR into development practice through working with federal ministries and provincial departments by assisting them in development of procedures, policies, guidelines and through implementation of pilot projects
- Strengthen a Multi-hazard Early Warning System in collaboration with Pakistan Meteorological Departments, particularly for droughts, flash floods, cyclones, tsunami, and Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) hazards. Involve all key stakeholders from national, provincial and local levels to ensure that risk information is communicated to all concerned including the communities
- Develop post disaster recovery capacity at national, provincial and local levels through development of recovery policies, guidelines, and training of potential recovery managers

The framework professes to move away from relief-oriented approaches and adopt a DRR perspective from local to federal government.

NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION STRATEGY OF NEPAL

A joint presentation was made by Mr. Bishow Prakash Pandit, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and Mr. Kishor Thapa, Secretary, Ministry of Physical Planning and Works, Government of Nepal.

The presentation explained the historical perspective of policy development in the country in regard to DRR. Before the advent of Natural Disaster Relief Act of 1982, there was no well-structured disaster management policy in Nepal. The Disaster Relief Act stipulated the provision for the formation of Central Natural Disaster Relief Committee and Provision of a Relief and Treatment Sub-Committee, District Natural Disaster Relief Committees and Local Natural Disaster Relief committees. However, in the recent years with a commitment to the HFA, the country has developed the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy of Nepal. Currently under finalization, the strategy identifies priority actions for DRM both for Sectoral strategies as well as cross-sectoral strategies. In parallel to the development of the strategy, Nepal has also integrated DRR in the 3 Year Interim Plan (2007-2010) with the vision to minimize the adverse social and economic impacts of disasters and is to enhance the safety of life and property from the natural disaster. Strategies adopted in 3 Year Interim Plan include undertaking disaster preparedness activities at the national and community levels; development of preparedness action plan including rescue and relief; and implementing programs on disaster mitigation.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Rego highlighted the importance of each of the presentation in developing a national framework/strategy to provide strategic direction in implementing initiatives on DRR in the country and emphasized the challenges which remained in implementing these frameworks.

VI. SUB-SESSION III B: MAINSTREAMING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION INTO SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Moving from mainstreaming DRR into national development planning, the session III B focused on initiatives in the RCC member countries on mainstreaming DRR into sectoral development planning and implementation. The session consisted of four presentations and was co-chaired by Mr. Kishor Thapa, Ministry of Physical Planning and Works, Government of Nepal and H.E. Hou Traing Eng, Ministry of Planning, Kingdom of Cambodia and facilitated by Mr. Sanjaya Bhatia, Programme Manager, ADPC.

EXPERIENCES OF THE PHILIPPINES IN INTEGRATING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION INTO LAND-USE PLANNING, INFRASTRUCTURE AND EDUCATION

Ms. Susan Jose from the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) made a presentation on integrating DRR into sub-national and national land use/physical framework planning of the Philippines. She emphasized the huge costs of damage and losses brought by disaster events as the main reason why DRR should be mainstreamed into development and land use planning. The issue gained greater significance in the Philippines after the series of disaster events in 2005-2006. The need for DRR mechanisms through institutionalization in land-use and development plan became more urgent. Currently, DRR is stipulated in some sub-national plans and sectoral initiatives such as the Department of Health's design for safe hospitals. Capacity building efforts among various stakeholders in DRR are ongoing. However, the recent years have witnessed adoption of a comprehensive DRR integrated planning approach where planning combines the assessment of hazards, vulnerability and risks from natural disasters. The speaker explained the integration of DRR in the Medium Term Philippines Development Plan in

specific chapters such as the one of Environment and Natural Resources (Chapter 23), responding to the basic needs of the poor (Chapter 12), peace and order (Chapter 15), science and technology (Chapter 18) and defense against threat to national security (Chapter 23). DRR has also been integrated in the National Framework for Physical Planning. The Regional Development Plans also emphasize DRR in aspects related to environment and physical planning. It is included as sub-section on Environmental Protection (e.g., Forest Management), Infrastructure Development (Flood control and drainage). In selected regions where disaster-related concerns are eminent such as Central Luzon, Bicol, or where DRR is treated as an issue of governance, such as Davao Region, Caraga, the respective plans contain separate sections on DRR.

The speaker went on to present the ongoing initiative in the country on mainstreaming DRR in the sub-national and physical planning process. She explained that though the focus of the initiative is at the provincial level, the application could be adapted for regional, municipality as well as interregional and special development areas. Recognising the fact that risk assessment forms the basis for integration of DRR in the land use planning, the initiative has superimposed the risk management framework on the national development planning framework. In this context the presentation also highlighted the necessity of hazard maps and the importance of the ongoing multi-agency project in the Philippines; READY project on developing multi-hazard maps. In concluding the presentation Ms. Jose highlighted some of the planning challenges in mainstreaming DRR which includes among others limited availability of data, technical capacity and the changing pattern of risk.

EXPERIENCE OF LAO PDR IN INTEGRATING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION INTO EDUCATION SECTOR

Mr. Vilaoyphong Sisomvang, National Disaster Management Office, Lao PDR started the presentation by briefly touching upon the country profile and highlighting the challenges faced by the country in the areas of social services, livelihood and income generation. To this is added the impacts of disasters which affect the socio-economic development and adds to the level of poverty in the country. This recognition has led to the initiation of mainstreaming DRR into development planning and programmes. One such sector in which mainstreaming DRR has been initiated is Education. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education and with technical support from ADPC and UNDP and financial support from ECHO, the initiative has adopted a two-prong approach of integrating DRR into school curriculum as well as ensuring safer school construction. The initiative over the past one year has developed DRR teaching module for lower secondary grade in school. However, this process of curriculum development has also helped identify some of the practical challenges of integration such as enhancing the knowledge of DRR among teachers by making it a part of the teachers training courses, required support from all levels of administration and schools for attaining such integration and the need for additional teaching aid and thus requires continued involvement.

INITIATIVES IN SRI LANKA IN INTEGRATING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. Basil Fernando from NBRO, Government of Sri Lanka made a presentation on recent initiative in Sri Lanka on integrating DRR into Local Government. With an objective to develop a strategy paper to mainstream DRR in the local government sector, the speaker explained the process which has been adopted to develop the strategy. A steering committee had been formed with multi-stakeholder representation to lead the process of development of the strategy. Inputs had been obtained from selected local authorities to reflect their concerns which includes among others unauthorized constructions and encroachments with political interferences, "Image of Local authority

as an institution to which any leftovers can be passed on” and bypassing of the local authorities in DRR initiatives. Accordingly the strategy paper has identified the following ten key essentials for mainstreaming DRR in the local government;

- Devolution and decentralization of power and authority to local authority level;
- Enforcement of planning and building regulations;
- Establishment of disaster management fund not for relief but for disaster mitigation;
- Promotion of good governance to sustain DRR and awareness
- Inclusion of DRR in urban planning and poverty reduction programmes
- Recognition as the key institution in the process
- Establishment of a transparent plan approval process
- Establishment of a transparent system to detect and take legal action on unauthorized constructions
- Capacity building of the community
- Training and Education for DRR

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN ON SAFE HOSPITALS

Ms. Angelika Planitz from UN/ISDR made a presentation on the Global Campaign on ‘Hospitals Safe from Disasters’. The speaker highlighted the purpose of introducing the campaign to inspire the participants to decide on mainstreaming DRR into the Health Sector. With the importance of mainstreaming DRR in the health sector being mentioned in the HFA Priority for Action 4 the campaign has three primary objectives including: protecting lives of patients and health workers by ensuring the structural resilience of health facilities; make sure health facilities and health services continue to function in the aftermath of disasters; and improve the disaster reduction capacity of health workers and institutions, including emergency management and contingency planning.

This multi-partner initiative coordinated by UN/ISDR and World Health Organization (WHO) is aimed at raising awareness and advocating with Governments to mainstream DRR into national health strategies, and to involve health experts in national coordination mechanisms for DRR. To keep the spotlight on the issue, national and local level consultations, roundtable discussions, compilation of best practices, exhibitions, competitions are being conducted.

The speaker highlighted the initiatives already undertaken by the campaign which includes development of information kits and posters and promotional materials on safe hospitals. The campaign was globally launched in Davos in January 2008 as part of World Economic Forum and regionally in Bangkok.

The main outcome of these activities was the establishment of the Regional Task Force on Safe Hospitals– jointly led by the South east Asia Regional Office and West Pacific Regional Office of WHO and UN/ISDR, with the involvement of WHO Thailand, ADPC, UNDP, UNOCHA, Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS), Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN), National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET), Aga Khan Foundation and ECHO. A Regional Framework on Safe Hospitals for Asia and the Pacific region has been developed and a mapping exercise of activities undertaken.

Ms. Planitz in her presentation also highlighted the various upcoming events which have been identified to increase the visibility of the campaign such as the WHO Ministerial Conference, and the 3rd AMCDRR. There are also a number of strategic priorities which needs to be addressed; strengthening the regional task force to promote the issue at the national and local level; mobilization of national action and commitment from

Governments, in coordination with national DRR coordination mechanisms; transforming the Regional Framework on Safe Hospitals into a comprehensive regional strategy with joint activities and clear distribution of roles and responsibilities; and organizing a meeting for donors to develop a resource mobilization strategy.

PLENARY DISCUSSION

In response to Dr. Bhichit Rattakul's clarification, Ms. Planitz explained that the focus of the campaign remains on hospital facilities and services and does not cover risk assessment and as such would entail looking at the larger aspects of hospital services including emergency management and contingency planning and not hospital buildings alone. Madam Corazon Alma De Leon added an important aspect of developing a check list or indicators for safe hospitals and building local capacity especially since in many countries hospitals are built and run by the government and this in the long run would help in getting national accreditation. The speaker further added that the resources available on the subject in Latin America could act as an important starting point in the region as well as the training programmes being organized by ADPC.

Mr. Loy Rego briefed the meeting on the ongoing programs of the Public Health and Emergencies team of the ADPC including the hospital emergency preparedness and response program. A part of the program is on assessment of structural and non structural vulnerability of hospitals and is used as a criterion for guiding hospital administrators. ADPC has also been working closely with the WHO and national Health Ministries in setting up a national level program for Public Health and Emergencies. These programs provide an important link for the RCC members to work closely with the National Health Ministries on emergency management.

The delegate from Iran shared the country's Safer Hospital Program. The Ministry of Health of Iran in partnership with UNDP has taken steps to implement the program which includes developing contingency and emergency preparedness plans and conducting trainings.

EARLY WARNING SYSTEM –NARGIS EXPERIENCE

Mr. A.R Subbiah, Director, Climate Risk Management Team, ADPC made a brief presentation on ADPC's program on regional multi-hazard Early Warning System (EWS), an organizational mandate from the member states that was stipulated in the Phuket Declaration affirmed by 29 Ministers and the Memorandum of Understanding signed by 23 countries. ADPC has installed a computing facility in October 2007 and scientists have been able to track cyclones in the last 5-6 months, including Sidr. The models worked well. Cyclone Nargis, with wind speed at 120km/hr and 200 mm of daily rainfall, tested the capacity of the model and existing facilities. There was regular sharing of information between ADPC and the Myanmar Government especially with the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology. The Myanmar government appreciated this prompt action by ADPC.

PLENARY DISCUSSION

Dr. Bhichit Rattakul added that the small scale of forecasting at nine sq km grid made it easier for ADPC to do an accurate forecast. He shared that with this forecast scale, damage to crops, fisheries, properties can be projected. This system of severe weather forecast is an available service to the 23 Asian countries. ADPC's focal points are the National Meteorological Departments and out of these 23 countries, 10 countries are

RCC members. ADPC is responsible for communicating these warnings to the National Meteorological Departments which in turn passes it down to the community.

Learning from her experience as the Chairperson of the Mt. Pinatubo Commission in 1993-1995, Madam Cora emphasized the importance of ensuring the warning reaches the communities in a language they understand so that they could process the information.

VII. SESSION III C: PROGRESS ON RCC PROGRAM ON MAINSTREAMING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION INTO DEVELOPMENT POLICY, PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION IN ASIA

The second day of the meeting started with a continuation of the earlier session on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development with particular focus on the progress made under the RCC Program on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development (MDRD). The session was chaired by the Ms. Susan Jose from NEDA, Philippines and Mr. Moosa Ali Kaleyfaan, National Disaster Management Center, Maldives.

PROGRESS OF RCC PROGRAM ON MAINSTREAMING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION INTO DEVELOPMENT AND PHASE II OF THE PROGRAM

Mr. Loy Rego from ADPC provided an update on the progress made under the RCC program on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development. Explaining the background of the program, Mr. Rego emphasized the programmatic direction the RCC adopted through this program since its launch in 2004, to undertake activities both at national and regional level and to deliver impact. Learning from the experiences gained over the years in RCC member countries such as Bangladesh, China, India, the Philippines and Vietnam, the program has adopted a two track approach to initiate mainstreaming, namely integrating DRR into national development process by promoting dialogue and strengthening partnership between RCC members and national agencies for Planning, Finance and Environment, and to integrate DRR into priority sectors such as Agriculture, Education, Health, Housing and Infrastructure. The programme promotes greater engagement of the NDMOs in the development priority-setting dialogues that take place between the development partner agencies and governments of the region, where investment in safer development are actually planned. The architecture of the programme and the commitments of the RCC members are reflected in the Hanoi RCC 5 Statement on Mainstreaming DRR into development.

In its first phase; 2004-2007 the program component looked into developing tools and guidelines on mainstreaming DRR, undertaking Priority Implementation Partnerships (PIP), advocacy and building awareness and knowledge management. Based on the expression of interest received by the RCC member countries, the program have implemented PIPs in the Philippines on Education and Road Sector and in Cambodia and Laos PDR on Education Sector and the Local Government in the Philippines and Sri Lanka. The implementation of the PIPs is lead by the respective RCC members in the country in partnership with the concerned sectoral agencies and engagement of various government stakeholders involved in the said sector. Learning from the experiences of the PIPs, and similar experiences in the region, the program has also developed the RCC Guideline on integrating DRR into School Curriculum and Integrating hazard risk assessment in the planning stage of new road construction. These Guidelines

focusing on the possible process to be followed for mainstreaming DRR in the said sector and have been peer reviewed by experts from the RCC member countries.

Based on the suggestions by the RCC members at its 6th Meeting in Kunming, November 2007, the second phase of the program has been developed for implementation over a period of 2008-2012. Recognizing the success of the program largely depends on the active partnership with the various development sectors, the second phase of the program is articulated in the context of safe development and good governance, thus contributing towards the implementation of the HFA and more importantly the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Thus it is titled 'Partnerships for safe development and good governance'. The programme has five components which acts as independent pillars of the programme yet closely linked to each other. The first component of the programme looks into mainstreaming DRR into the national development planning process such as national development plans, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and policies, plans and programs of Local Government. The second component focuses on programmes related to priority sectors such as Safer Education, Safer Health facilities, Safer Shelter, Secured Livelihoods, Safer Roads and Safer Water and Sanitation. For both the first and second components, the program would look into developing tools and guidelines as well as implementing PIPs in the RCC member countries. The third component includes Advocacy for building awareness, fourth on Knowledge Management Platform and the fifth on Capacity Building for mainstreaming DRR. Some of the activities planned under the component on Knowledge Management include the development of a specific website which would act as a knowledge management platform, case studies of all the PIPs and a consolidation of a regional compendium on good practices. The activities on advocacy include the production of an advocacy kit for parliamentarians, high level round table discussion on mainstreaming DRR into development in several member countries and presentations at various regional meetings where the elements of mainstreaming can be advocated. Under Capacity Building, regional and national training courses on mainstreaming DRR into development would be developed and delivered.

Highlighting the importance of the RCC program, Mr. Rego emphasized the program is developed and implemented by the RCC members in partnership with their sectoral agencies. Since the activities are chosen and implemented by the RCC members they are sustainable in the long run and match with the development priorities of the country. The PIPs though small in scale shows the path to initiate mainstreaming in the country and which could later be up scaled by the existing national DRR program or through sector development programs. Similarly, the RCC Guidelines are developed based on the inputs provided by national experts from the RCC member countries and shares experiences of the countries with the other members. Being an initiative of the government, the initiatives undertaken in the program complements the ongoing efforts on mainstreaming DRR by other development partners such as the UNDP and ProVention Consortium. The speaker requested the RCC members to review the Program Document of the Phase II of the RCC Program and to submit expression of interest on undertaking PIPs in the ongoing phase of the program.

PLENARY DISCUSSION

On responding to the query of Mr. Kishor Thapa, Mr. Rego explained that the Program Document of the phase II of the RCC MDRD program has been developed under the close guidance of the Advisory Panel of the program which comprises of eleven RCC member countries. In its most recent meeting of the Advisory Panel held a day before

the RCC 7 meeting, the panel had approved the Program Document and based on which the implementation would be initiated.

PROGRESS OF DEVELOPMENT OF RCC GUIDELINES FOR MAINSTREAMING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION INTO DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Sanjaya Bhatia, Program Manager and Mr. Arghya Sinha Roy, Project Manager, ADPC introduced the two RCC Guidelines on Mainstreaming DRR into Education and Road Sector. Mr. Bhatia started the presentation by introducing the RCC Guideline on integrating DRR into school curriculum. He explained the purpose of the Guideline which is to provide guidance on the process to be adopted to integrate DRR in the school curriculum. Examples of good practices from RCC member countries such as India, Cambodia, Lao PDR, the Philippines and Sri Lanka have been cited in the Guidelines to explain the processes. The Guideline lay down certain key approaches which are essential for integrating DRR into the national school curriculum and which includes, creation of awareness among policy makers on the importance of the initiative, to plan the initiative in synergy with the national curriculum review cycle, adopting a consultative process by involving all the stakeholders involved in Education and DRR. The guidelines provide a seven step process on how to initiate mainstreaming of DRR. The process includes initiating partnerships with relevant ministries and NGOs and development partners involved in the overall education sector to promote synergies with overall national education development agenda.

The speaker also explained the consultative process which has been undertaken in developing the guideline. The first draft guideline document was developed in 2006 and presented at the RCC 6th meeting in Kunming. The experiences learned in parallel during the implementation of the PIPs on the said theme in Cambodia, Lao PDR and the Philippines greatly enriched the Guideline. The Guideline was presented in the Regional Workshop on Education and DRR held in Bangkok, October 2007 and revised based on comments received from the technical experts gathered at the workshop. Experience has shown that these guidelines have been very helpful in implementing the PIP for they were used as a starting point of implementation after which they were continually revised along with lesson learned from its implementation.

Mr. Arghya Sinha Roy explained the process of development and content of the RCC Guideline on integrating hazard risk assessment into the planning stage of construction of new Roads. The Guideline had benefitted from the experience gained from the implementation of the PIP on the said theme by the RCC member and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in the Philippines, as well as past and ongoing of initiatives of technical institutes in other RCC member countries such as Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) of India. The speaker emphasized the regional character of the Guideline and that they were not meant to usurp the significance of the existing national Guidelines.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

In closing, Ms. Susan Jose wrapped up the session highlighting again the regional character of the guideline and with its focus on the process. She reminded everyone of the key approaches identified in the Guideline and to use their creativity in using these guidelines according to their context.

VIII. SESSION IV: RIGHTS-BASED COMMUNITY-LED DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

The introductory section of this theme session was chaired by Mr. Saukat Nawaz Tahir, National Disaster Management Authority, Pakistan and Mr. Tuvshin Badral, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Mongolia.

RIGHTS BASED APPROACHES TO COMMUNITY-LED DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

Mr. P.D. Amarasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Government of Sri Lanka, made a presentation on the rights based approaches to community led disaster risk management (CLDRM). In his presentation, Mr. Amarasinghe offered an alternative framework in understanding disaster management. He provided a brief background on the regional workshop on CBDRM in Sri Lanka in July 2007 which started this process of CLDRM. In CLDRM, disasters are treated as issues of development and government need to be made responsive, sensitive and accountable to the needs and rights of disaster prone communities. Disaster management policies are redirected towards poverty and vulnerability reduction and appropriate strategies need to be adopted such as enhancing the entitlements and negotiating power of vulnerable communities. This alternative framework looks at disaster management as a comprehensive and continuous activity, not as a periodic reaction to individual disaster events. Trained animators at the community level in a decentralized intervention arrangement are the core of this framework and takes DRM as a complementary effort of poverty alleviation. CLDRM demands that civil and political rights as well as economic, social and cultural rights are integral components of poverty and vulnerability reduction. Mr. Amarasinghe concluded that there is a need to evolve an alternate interaction where people are treated as subjects of change and development in disaster management and not as objects.

PLENARY DISCUSSION

Prof. Krasae Chanawongse shared his experience of a similar people-oriented approach in rural development in the Philippines. This approach says that “you go to the people, live with them, learn from them, plan with them and work with them and to start from what they know”. In every community, there are leaders who help and develop their communities.

On Mr. Thapa’s clarification on the importance of education to be an agent of change, Mr. Amarasinghe explained that education is essential but not necessarily formal education. The role of animators is to facilitate critical learning and capacity to think and analyze. When asked about Sri Lanka’s process of implementing CBDRM, Mr. Amarasinghe responded that as explained earlier a regional workshop on CBDRM was held in July 2007 and where practitioners from other countries participated and shared their common understanding of CBDRM. It is from this workshop that the CBDRM guideline was developed for Sri Lanka. Mr. Man Thapa from UNDP added that the workshop was also organised because while there were disaster management plans developed at various levels, there was confusion in implementation. A national level task force was formed after the workshop to help implement the plans at a larger scale. The task force is coming up with a guideline and a training manual.

OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY-BASED DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT BASED ON COUNTRY PAPERS FROM RCC MEMBERS AND MEETING THE CHALLENGES

Mr. Loy Rego from ADPC presented an overview of the Country Papers on Community based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) submitted by the RCC Members to the RCC 7 Meeting. This paper was submitted by members to facilitate the discussions during the theme session at the RCC 7 meeting. Mr. Rego emphasized that his presentation would provide a quick overview of some of the initiatives and challenges mentioned in the Country Papers and this would provide the stage for further discussion during the session. The Country Paper was submitted by 12 RCC members namely; Bangladesh, China, India, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The following paragraphs provide the key initiatives and challenges highlighted in the Country Papers under specific headings:

▪ CBDRR prioritized in the National Policies and Frameworks on Disaster Risk Reduction

India: The National Disaster Management Framework of India has mandated the preparation of community based mitigation, preparedness and response plans which entail:

- Enhancing community capacity in multi-hazard prone areas;
- Setting up and training of village/panchayat and wards/ municipal Disaster Management Committees;
- Prioritizing community and panchayat's mitigation plans under various rural development schemes; and
- Integrating in annual developmental plan of the local bodies.

Lao PDR: The National Strategic Plan for Disaster Management to 2020, 2010 and Action Plan 2005, developed in 2003 recognizes the importance of involving the community in dealing with disaster risk and the necessity to build their capacity.

Malaysia: The National Security Council Directive No. 20 (NSC No. 20) attaches priority to CBDRR through educational programmes and drill or exercises. The NSC No 20 also draws the clear outline about the role of district officer as a chairman in the Committee of Disaster Management and Relief at district level.

Mongolia: The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action 2006-2015 has been developed in line with Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and identifies CBDRM as a priority direction for supporting vulnerable population in hazard prone areas.

Nepal: The National Strategy on Disaster Risk Management in Nepal, developed in 2008, proposes the communities and Village Development Committees (VDC) to be lowest level of institution responsible for local level DRR and emergency response. The responsibilities include inventory of disaster events and impacts, local level hazard and risk assessment, disaster awareness, VDC level DRR planning including capacity building for DRR and emergency response, pre-positioning and management of emergency stores for relief and search and rescue.

Pakistan: Community and local level risk reduction programs have been identified as one of the nine priorities (Priority 6) of the National Disaster Management Framework of Pakistan. The Framework mandates the disaster management agencies at the national, provincial, and district levels to develop community level DRM programs for about 50 high risk districts out of the total 130 districts. The DRM program will include the following:

- Establishing and strengthening of local level organizations i.e. CBOs, Citizen Community Boards for DRM.
- Capacity building of CBOs, Citizen Community Boards, masons, teachers on DRR and preparedness
- Raising awareness of communities and local stakeholders on DRR and preparedness.
- Implementation of small structural mitigation schemes in most vulnerable villages and towns
- Institutional and technical capacity building of schools in vulnerable villages and towns for DRR and preparedness

Sri Lanka: The National Disaster Management Plan 2008-2012 and the Sri Lanka National Disaster Management Policy emphasize the importance of community engagement in disaster management.

Thailand: The Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) has set up CBDRR as its highlight policy. The Cabinet has approved the central budget for CBDRR in 2007 and for 367 communities as demonstration of their commitment. CBDRR approach has become one of the government's performance indicators. At the community level, the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Act 2007 mandates the village leader as commander during disaster and the village leader will have authority to request assistance from higher level, e.g. sub-district, district, as needed. The same Act stipulates that local disaster management plans are also aligned with local development plans.

▪ **National DRR Plans identify CBDRR as a priority component**

Bangladesh: The National Plan for Disaster Management (2007-2015) developed by the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management recognizes community empowerment which is operationalized by CBDRR as one of the six key result areas with the following elements:

- Capacity building of local disaster management committees.
- Development of community based early warning system.
- Community risk assessment at union level.
- Development of risk reduction action plan at union level.
- Development of contingency plan at union level.
- Bottom up mainstreaming of risk reduction action plans into local development plans.
- Local DRR funding mechanism for implementation of community risk reduction actions.

Indonesia: The National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (2006-2009), Indonesia, the product of joint planning and cooperation between the Office of the State Minister for National Development Planning/National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS) and National Coordinating Agency for Disaster Management (BAKORNAS) prioritizes implementation of CBDRR and integrating it with the local development master plan.

Sri Lanka: The Road Map for Safer Sri Lanka (2006-2015) prioritizes CBDRR as one of its seven program components. The aim of the component is to establish a sustained national program to build the resilience and capacity in at-risk communities for response and DRM. The program has identified targets for implementation in the next 10 years and priorities during the first two years. A key priority of the program is the identification of areas where CBDRR practices can be integrated into SAMURDI (national poverty alleviation) programme activities.

▪ **National Programs on CBDRR in RCC member countries**

China: The National Plan for Comprehensive Disaster Reduction during the “Eleventh Five-Year Plan” Period (2006-2010) of the People’s Republic of China gives attention to community-level mitigation and preparedness and in capacity building and education for community level action. The Ministry of Civil Affairs compiled the “Standard of Demonstration areas in Disaster Reduction” to strengthen community’s capabilities for disaster monitoring and early warning, created a team of disaster information liaison officers and volunteers, and constructed 1000 demonstration communities for comprehensive disaster reduction.

India: The ongoing Government of India Disaster Risk Management Programme; implemented from 2002-2008, focused on integration of community based disaster preparedness and mitigation strategies into the local government development plans, and in strengthening local capacities and institutions. The program was initiated in 25 districts in three States and expanded to 169 multi-hazard prone districts in 17 States based on the 1st edition of the Vulnerability Atlas of India. One of the key lessons learned from the implementation of the programme is that that national programmes designed for community level interventions, can be implemented effectively only with the involvement of states—either directly or through other developmental partners such as NGOs.

Mongolia: The National Emergency Management Agency of Mongolia has been implementing CBDRR initiatives since 2005. The future plans include introducing CBDRR initiatives in eight soums (districts) of four aimags (province/state) to each of 332 soums of 21 aimags of Mongolia and to train young herders on traditional methods on recognizing climatic hazardous phenomena through regional experience and sharing of lessons learned.

Nepal: The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Nepal has launched the community level flood management program and the community level earthquake preparedness program. The Ministry of Physical Planning and Works, Government of Nepal has initiated mason training program all over the country and more than 5200 masons have already been trained.

Sri Lanka: The Program Component 6 of the Road Map for Safer Sri Lanka aims to establish a sustained national program on CBDRM to build the resilience and capacity in at-risk communities for response and DRM. This is planned to be achieved in a phased manner over next 10 years by establishing:

- Community DRM teams in 20,000 villages over 2500 Grama Niladari divisions;
- An effective national network of local level volunteers for DRM;
- Effective coordination mechanisms between Government and NGOs at all levels;
- CBDRR resource centers in 25 districts;
- Shared methodologies for CBDRR implementation and training; and
- Small grants programme for community teams to support community level DRM projects

Thailand: Over the past years DDPM had up scaled the implementation of CBDRR initiatives from 51 communities in 2004 to 391 communities in 2005.

▪ **Integration of CBDRR in National and Local Development Planning and Programs**

Cambodia: The Strategic National Action Plan on DRR (2008-2013), Cambodia developed in 2008 by National Committee for Disaster Management in cooperation with Ministry of Planning, emphasizes strengthening of sub-national capacities, particularly at the community level, to fully support the government priority of poverty reduction as elaborated in national development plans and policies. It identifies strengthening sub-national and CBDRM as a First Level Priority for implementation. Strengthening DRM capacities at provincial, district and especially commune levels is one of the cornerstones of the Action Plan. The implementation plan of the first two years includes:

- Strengthening local government capacities for DRR;
- Updating the national CBDRR strategy;
- Providing training to the most disaster-prone provinces and communities; and
- Integrating DRR into the commune development planning process.

To achieve these targets, the following sub-components are identified:

- Decentralize responsibilities and resources for DRR
- Promote implementation of CBDRR programs

Maldives: In the Maldives, CBDRR activities are led by the Island Development Committees. Local authorities are members of the Island development committees and they act as the link between the regional head office and the Ministry of Atolls Development and the National Disaster Management Center.

Mongolia: The CBDRR initiatives being implemented in the country are in line with local development policy and local government plan of action reflecting poverty alleviation, unemployment reduction and disaster prevention issues.

The Philippines: The Philippines have integrated CBDRM into national and sub-national development plans such as the Philippine Medium Term Development Plan. CBDRR concerns are also embedded in the Regional Development Plans in the areas of environment, physical planning of hospitals, schools, roads, and other public infrastructure. The Chapter 12 and 15 of the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan provides reference to CBDRM as follows:

Chapter 12; "Responding to the Basic Needs of the Poor" stipulates the following:

- Institutionalization of CBDRR
- Advocates for the passage of the DRM bill; "An Act Strengthening the Philippine Disaster Risk Management Capability, Appropriating Funds There of and for Other Purposes."

Chapter 15 on "Peace and Order" includes:

- Organization of community-based institutions, which include Disaster Coordinating Councils, in the Local Government Units which are instrumental in better maintenance of peace and order and public safety in the communities.

▪ **National Tools on CBDRR in RCC member countries**

Bangladesh: The Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (MoFDM), Bangladesh has developed a tool to assist partners in conducting Community Risk Assessments (CRA) and in developing a Risk Reduction Action Plans (RRAP). The tool adopts a holistic perspective, involving the full interaction of a top down policy, planning and institutional reform, and with bottom up community driven risk analysis. It recognizes the eight essential tools for community risk assessment and management; namely, models and frameworks, policy reforms, advocacy, institutional reform and capacity building, guidelines and planning frameworks, collaborative partnerships, funding mechanisms

and coordinating measures. The tool has already been used to conduct community risk assessments and prepare RRAPs for all of the 548 unions under the seven pilot districts. Its use is currently being expanded to other districts.

The Philippines: In the Philippines, there is an ongoing initiative to produce multi-hazard maps under the project on Hazard Mapping and Assessment for Effective Community-based Disaster Risk Management, better known as the READY project. The project aims to develop a manual on standard hazard mapping that will serve as a guide for local geologists throughout the country. This five year project covers 27 high risk provinces exposed to multiple natural hazards. It has three main components: multi-hazard identification and assessment, community-based disaster preparedness and mainstreaming risk reduction into the local development planning process.

- **Funding schemes for CBDRR in RCC member countries**

Bangladesh: The Government of Bangladesh, through the Local Disaster Risk Reduction Funding Guidelines (LDRRF), has allocated USD 2M (60% of total fund) to the 39 Letters of Agreement signed as of 2006. A minimum of 25% of the total LDRRF is earmarked for community proposals drawn from the CRA and RRAP processes. Linking the CRA and RRAP processes to the LDRRF ensures continuity from planning and assessment to actual implementation of action plans.

Indonesia: A key financial arrangement is a contingency scheme initiative of the Jakarta Provincial Government for transferring funds to the district, sub-district and village levels. Each village headman is provided about USD 1,000 for disaster preparedness activities, such as preparation of flood evacuation sites, marking areas, allocation of tasks for public kitchens, to be undertaken by responsible local people. Two years after the scheme was initiated, the fund increased to USD 15,000 in 2005 and was allocated to each village for disaster prevention issues related to cleanliness, hygiene, garbage clearance, environmental security, public health, and dengue prevention. Thus, provision is made for a local DRM budget with the local government unit holding the responsibility for the use of the funds.

Sri Lanka: The Government of Sri Lanka has identified priority projects and budget estimates for program component six on CBDRR in their Road Map. Total budget estimates for CBDRR is more than USD 28M phased over a 10-year period. For the first two years, the Road Map has estimated USD 6M to fund up to 500 grants of community teams implementing DRM projects. It also estimates USD 5 M for establishing CBDRR resource center.

Thailand: The Cabinet in 2007 had approved central budget of USD 2.6 M for CBDRR; evacuation drills in provinces and districts; and USD 377,000 for One Tambon One Search and Rescue (OTOS) project.

- **National initiatives on Capacity Building for CBDRR in RCC member countries**

Bangladesh: The Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) of the Government of Bangladesh has identified capacity building as one of priorities. The program has trained 525 Unions and 1000 Union Disaster Management Committees as well as carried out specific trainings on cyclone preparedness, CRA and RRAP using national training modules and tools. The key activities related to capacity building for 2008 includes:

- Develop and finalize training modules on Introduction to Disaster Management, and CRA and RRAP for piloting in seven districts;

- Conduct 3 training courses with Union Disaster Management Committees on comprehensive disaster management
- Conduct a comprehensive disaster management course exclusively for 49 PIOs- the member secretaries of Upazila Disaster Management Committees;
- Conduct 11 training courses for 292 Cyclone Preparedness Programme officials and volunteers for tsunami preparedness; and
- Conduct 11 training of trainers on CRA for 24 officials from LDRRF partners

Pakistan: The National Disaster Management Authority of Pakistan has developed training manuals for communities and district authorities. It is also in the process of establishing the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) that will offer courses for CBO, NGOs, and local authorities on CBDRR.

Thailand: DDPM of Thailand has been undertaking series of training since 2004. The training includes training of trainers on CBDRM, DRM for flood and tsunami, training on Mr. Warning for areas prone to landslide and training on search and rescue.

▪ Partnerships for CBDRR in RCC member countries

Cambodia: In 2005, the Cambodian Disaster Risk Reduction Forum (CDRR Forum) was established with support from Disaster Preparedness Programme of the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Department (DIPECHO) and other agencies to promote better coordination and exchange of DRR experiences. The forum meets three to four times a year with a rotating chair from participating agencies. The National Committee on Disaster Management has taken a leadership role in the management of the forum and presently co-chairs all meetings. Enhanced networking and coordination between the NCDM, local government and other DRR agencies has led to fruitful discussion of CBDRR strategies and other DRR issues.

Indonesia: The Indonesian Society for Disaster Management (*Masyarakat Penanggulangan Bencana Indonesia*/MPBI) was established in 2003 as a fluid mechanism with membership comprising of DM practitioners and observers in Indonesia. Over the last four years, MPBI has gained extensive support and networking through collaborations and partnerships with *Kappala*, *KPB*, *Bakornas PB*, Indonesian Institute for Disaster Preparedness (IIDP), CARE, UNOCHA, Oxfam, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI), Indonesian Parliament; mainly due to its lead in the development of the DRM law.

Nepal: The Disaster Preparedness Network (DP-Net) was established in 1996 and is envisioned as an association of individual organisations within the development sector in Nepal, which are concerned with disaster management. The network aims to assist individuals and organisations to prepare for, and respond to and manage disaster should it strike. DP-Net works closely with Government of Nepal through its agencies, which are concerned with disaster preparedness and management. It complements the effort of these agencies to inform and prepare organisations and communities to deal effectively with disasters. It is in the process of strengthening the network in different districts by forming the District Coordination Committee.

The Philippines: In the Philippines, a network of cooperation between academic research institutions and community based organizations for DRR was establish to answer partners' needs for increased communication, coordination and a mounting demand for disaster reduction and preparedness. The network is called Building Disaster Resilient Communities (BDRC) Learning Circle. BDRC allows for Christian Aid partners working in disaster-prone areas to meet and share experiences and for CBOs to meet with scientific

and research organizations on disasters. These meetings have increased forcing partners to explore more intensely pertinent issues. Sub-clusters have been created to deepen the exchange and learning around specialized DRR issues. The Learning Circle has been collaborating with agencies on climate change and risk assessments.

The Philippines also has a network of 29 business groups and social development foundations called Corporate Network for Disaster Response (CNDR) that was started during the 1990 earthquake and was strengthened following Mt. Pinatubo eruption and the occurrence of other natural disasters thereafter. Another network is the Philippines Disaster Management Forum composed of NGOs, individuals, academe and people's organizations that focuses on legislation and institutionalization of CBDRR.

Vietnam: In Viet Nam, a joint initiative was established with DIPECHO partners pledging to work together with one voice, DANl, rising out of a need for a more holistic approach to disasters. Specific objectives include improving coherence and efficiency of CBDRR initiatives and raising awareness through advocacy at the national, provincial and local levels. With CARE playing a coordination role, DANl activities include advocacy skills training; compilation and sharing of good practices; development of online CBDRR resources; support of joint events on National Disaster Day; study tours; collaboration with national and local media campaigns; and organization of policy dialogues between local DIPECHO partners, national agencies and donors. Challenges to the initiative come in the form of conflicting expectations and working styles among CBDRR partners, while communication and coordination can create obstacles.

Another network in Vietnam is the Disaster Management Working Group (DMWG) which was started by the IFRC and Vietnam Red Cross Society during the emergency relief efforts in the 1999 flooding. Since then, participation has increased and focus has shifted to DRR. DMWG has grown into a dynamic network with joint assessments of humanitarian situations, promotion of international standards including the publication of SPHERE Handbook in Vietnamese. The wealth of strong technical expertise from DMWG member agencies acts as an input to policy dialogues. The group continues to advocate for strengthened policy dialogues and the integration of CBDRR into development planning.

Mr. Rego further presented some of the challenges in implementing CDBRR programs as described in the Country Papers submitted by the RCC members

- **Integrating CBDRR into National, Local and Sectoral development Plans and Programmes**

Integrating CBDRR into the development plans and programmes at all levels is crucial for its effectiveness and sustainability. The lack of coordination and coherence in planning and implementing CBDRR activities and across development planning sectors contributes to duplication and waste of resources. This integration into development planning includes other CBDRR issues as well such as gender mainstreaming and linking CBDRR to relevant marketable livelihood training, micro finance and disaster insurance.

- **Increasing participation and involvement of the sub-national governments**

Integrating CBDRR in development plans and programmes at all levels encourages increased participation and involvement particularly of the sub-national governments. Integration can also enhance cooperation among stakeholders as most development partners (NGOs) have the tendency of bypassing government mechanism while implementing DRR projects at the community level.

▪ Capacity Building

Training and capacity development of the communities continues to remain as one of the priority focus of CBDRR. Scaling up the capacity building programs in CBDRR is essential as very few sub-national mechanisms and local actors have been reached compared to the present needs. In this process of scaling up, agreeing on a common conceptual understanding on CBDRR is essential. There is also a need to increase capacity and skills at community level to improve livelihoods and food security and reduce environmental degradation. Building community capacity can also enhance the sense of ownership by the community of CBDRR implementation leading to a weaning process from community dependence on relief and support from external agencies.

In conclusion, Mr. Rego recommended actions to meet the challenges. These recommendations were based on ADPC's experience in collaborating with national governments in CBDRR implementation and a technical note ADPC developed with UN/ISDR. The recommendations were in the following areas:

- Legislation: support mechanisms for the development and implementation of DRM legislation at sub - national and community level; support location specific legislation
- Institutional mechanisms: support initiatives that embrace a holistic and comprehensive approach to DRM at the provincial and district levels (i.e. so that personnel are not focused on relief/response only); promote a more proactive engagement in DRM; take pragmatic steps (depending upon the context) to address the lack of articulation between the national, sub - national level and communities by building capacity at the sub - national level through development of a cadre of dedicated focal persons assigned specifically to DRM
- Contiguity is a necessity: encourage the integration of small - scale DRM initiatives into the ongoing development process and aid sub - national government levels to view these as an intrinsic part of a holistic and multifaceted local development plan; promote lessons learning and good practice derived from small-scale and local projects
- Increase financial resources: dedicate more funding for a programmatic approach to DRR at the sub - national level; enable a smarter use of resources by providing finance at a slower pace and at time when the system is ready; invest in both preparedness and mitigation
- Move away from pilot approach and short funding cycle: support governments to mainstream DRM and through an institutionalized approach ensure that a longer - term programmatic approach is adopted by both governments at different levels with civil society organizations; commit to a more sustained source of funding to sub - national government level and to their civil society partners; consider the provision of seed funding to communities who have a DRR programme
- Train human resources: invest in DRM staff training within a country and support the development and dissemination of appropriate DRM information and materials; support greater collaboration between local government agencies/NGOs/other stakeholders involved in the generation of information for sub - national and community levels; help ensure through longer - term funding mechanisms that investment in staff training (both local and international), is not lost

- Engagement with local government: facilitate the development of a stronger interface between local governments and their involvement from the beginning of CBDRR projects
- Scale and scaling up: support projects that cover wider geographical areas, are implemented for longer periods of time and that have a focus on multi - hazard risk reduction, incorporating both hardware and software mitigation components
- Terminology: promote the utilization of a common lexicon of terminologies to be utilized by different agencies/governments at all levels to help overcome confusion
- Develop strategy/ policy around CBDRM: support governments to work with sub - national level and a wide range of stakeholders involved with DRM to develop DRM policy and strategy at the national level and ensure appropriate replication at the sub - national level
- Integration: promote an integrated, programmatic approach by partners to avoid duplication and wastage of resources; strengthen linkages between local community development entities/agencies and CBDRR practitioners; promote integration of DRM into community development projects carried out by community based organizations
- Response capacity: support sub - national level development of DRR/response teams, particularly at the community level – to undertake DRR activity (i.e. before the disaster strikes) and to act as the “first responders”

PLENARY DISCUSSION

In clarification to Dr. Bhichit Rattakul's proposal on having further discussion on aspects related to resource allocation for CBDRR, Mr. Rego confirmed that the purpose of the presentation was to set the stage on the status of CBDRR in RCC member countries and which would be discussed in detail in the group discussions at the end of this theme session. The comment from Mr. Vilayphong from Lao PDR emphasized that though different terminologies are used for CBDRR in different countries, the community based approach is found to be very useful in Lao PDR and has led to integration of risk assessment in rural development programs.

The issue of sustainability was raised by Madam Cora De Leon and she emphasized that CBDRR programs should be mainstreamed in local government so that it can up scaled in the long run without external support. She emphasized that any project, if envisioned to extend for more than three years, must look at the sustainability aspect as donors would like to see that there is a capacity building component already built in the project.

Mr. Man Thapa seconded that intervention over a long period tends to develop dependency and there are two challenges namely, to accomplish objectives and if project activities stay longer, communities tend to think the project will solve the problems. Mr. Rego suggested the aspect of having 'smart funding', i.e. same resources but over a longer period of time. This would enable steady involvement with the community and a move from project-based entities to involving more local government and local agencies and existing mechanisms. Moving away from project mode would minimize the dependency since the capacity of existing mechanisms would be strengthened in the process.

IX. SESSION IV A: EXPERIENCES OF NATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR COMMUNITY-BASED DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

Mr. Amarasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Sri Lanka, and Mr. Manuel Gotis, Director of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) of the Philippines acted as co-chairs of the session while Mr. Sok Phoeuk, Programme Manager, ADPC acted as the facilitator. The session focused on experiences of national programs for CBDRR policies, tools, and methodologies for its effective implementation.

SUPPORT TO IMPLEMENT CBDRM IN HIGH-RISK DISTRICTS IN INDIA

Mr. Rajiv Kumar, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India made a detailed presentation on the approach of Government of India to implement the national programme on DRM in high risk districts in India. The speaker started his presentation by providing a brief background of the various past disasters such as the Uttarkashi earthquake, the Lathur earthquake, Orissa Super cyclone of 1999 and the Gujarat earthquake of 2001, which has led to adopting of a comprehensive approach towards DRR based on the conviction that "development cannot be sustainable unless disaster mitigation is built into the development process".

Following the Orissa super cyclone a pilot program on CBDRM was implemented in seven coastal districts of Orissa and similar approach was adopted after the Gujarat earthquake. Based on these lessons learned, the Government of India in partnership with UNDP started the DRM Programme with a goal to achieve sustainable DRR in 175 most multi-hazard prone districts in 17 States with emphasis on strengthening the capacities of the communities, local self-governments and State and district administrations to deal with disaster events. The Ministry of Home Affairs is the executing agency at the national level and the State Governments act as nodal agencies to implement the programme activities. The programme works at all levels and aims to establish a national capacity building effort, raise education and awareness, formulate multi-hazard preparedness, mitigation, and response plans, and enhance knowledge network on DRM.

Significant achievements of the programme include plan preparation, capacity building trainings and awareness raising, establishment of information and emergency operation centres, local legislation for safer buildings etc. However, some of the challenges in implementation of the programmes had been the partnerships and resources which are spread too thin over large geographical area and with too many components and there is a stronger need to strengthen gender mainstreaming within the programme components.

HAZARDS MAPPING AND ASSESSMENT FOR EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY-BASED DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES

On behalf of Major General Glenn Rabonza from the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), Ms. Susan Jose from the Philippines made a brief presentation on the ongoing multi agency initiative in the country on Hazard Mapping and Assessment for effective CBDRM, better known as the READY project. The five-year project that began in 2006 has three components: multi-hazard identification and assessment, community-based disaster preparedness including IEC and Early Warning System (EWS), and initiating mainstreaming DRR into the local development planning process. At present, the project has produced multi-hazard maps for some of the 27 high-risk targeted provinces,

installed EWS for floods and tsunami, conducted IEC workshop-seminars, and trained qualified personnel on Rapid Earthquake Damage Assessment System (REDAS) software. The speaker highlighted the importance of tapping existing knowledge and complementary resources and efforts by NGOs and local government units to ensure sustainability of efforts is a key lesson gained through the READY project.

NATIONAL TOOLS FOR COMMUNITY –BASED RISK ASSESSMENT IN BANGLADESH

Mr. Mazumdar from the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (MoFDM), Government of Bangladesh started his presentation by emphasizing the central role the communities play in DRR and how policies and tools should enable them to continue this role effectively. The speaker introduced the Community Risk Assessment (CRA) approach which has been adopted by the Government of Bangladesh as part of a holistic framework to address disaster. The tools under CRA follow international risk management standards with a strong rights-based approach on gender and justice.

Continuing with the presentation Mr. Ian Rector from the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) of the Government of Bangladesh explained in detail the CRA tool. The Tool adopts a holistic perspective, involving the full interaction of a top down policy, planning and institutional reform, with bottom up community driven risk analysis. It recognises the eight essential tools for community risk assessment and management; namely, models and frameworks, policy reforms, advocacy, institutional reform and capacity building, guidelines and planning frameworks, collaborative partnerships, funding mechanisms and coordinating measures. The tool has already been used to conduct CRA and prepare RRAPs for all of the 548 unions under the seven pilot districts. Its use is currently being expanded to other districts.

PLENARY DISCUSSION

Clarifying the existing mandates of municipalities regarding disaster management, Mr. Rajiv Kumar said that India's Disaster Management Act of 2005 have mandated urban local bodies to take a leading role in disaster preparedness and risk reduction activities. While there is lack of institutional mechanism at this level, the Act directs the local bodies to conduct activities and employ risk reduction approaches. The question of what motivates communities to organize themselves in response to DRM was raised. Mr. Kumar observes that the top-down model is working in their case where national policies and regulations are enforced at the village level. The process of attending trainings and conducting the same trainings themselves to the next levels has deepened the understanding and motivation of all those involved. This led to local villagers mapping their key vulnerabilities and getting organized. In regard to the leadership in preparing and implementing the plans formulated, Mr. Kumar emphasized that the villagers had led the preparation of the plan with the help of UN volunteers and district administration. Planning was first done at the state level and then down to the village level. In the course of the planning process, capacity has been enhanced, and a module on plan preparation including what committees need to be constituted, was available to the planners.

With regard to the status of policy and institutional reform in Bangladesh, Mr. Mazumdar explained that the Disaster Management Act will soon be finalized and committees have been constituted from the national to the local levels with clear Terms of Reference for each.

Madam Cora commented on the importance of political will for implementing CDBRR. Relating her personal experience of relocating people from river banks, she emphasized that political will is essential for relocation as it has political and economic implications. She encouraged the participants to share cases of success and failure among countries in dealing with DRR especially for communities living near rivers and seas.

EXPERIENCE OF COMMUNITY-BASED DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT IN THAILAND

Ms. Wachana Kulchanarat from the Department of Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation (DDPM) related Thailand's experience in CBDRM learning from the experiences of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. The event exposed the weaknesses and challenges of the existing system such as logistics, lack of EWS, and the bureaucracy that hampered efficient service delivery. Moved by this realization, the country pushed for legislative reform to support CBDRM such as the revision of the 1979 Civil Defense Act and the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Act of 2007. The 2007 legislation established CBDRM as the main strategy of the Ministry of Interior in disaster prevention and mitigation as well as in raising public awareness on disaster management. Committees from the highest level of government down to the village level were established. The cabinet approved the CBDRM budget that launched capacity building activities, curriculum design, setting up of EWS (Mr. Warning), formation of the One Tambon One Search and Rescue Team and preparation of village disaster management plans. Currently, CBDRM activities have reached out to 1,186 villages in 75 provinces with support from multiple donors and partners including ADPC.

INITIATIVES IN VIETNAM ON SAFER COMMUNE PLANNING

Mr. Dang Quang Minh from the Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control, Government of Vietnam, explained how the economic loss from disasters beginning in 1997 has grown to about 1.5 percent of the country's annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This reality has motivated the country to establish an institutional framework for disaster management that is supported by relevant policies, laws, and ordinances, such as the laws on dike management, land use; ordinances on flood and storm control, irrigation, and hydro-meteorological measures; and national regulation for tsunami warning. Vietnam has been also promoting the concept of Safer Commune Planning (SCP) which aims to reduce vulnerability of the commune by improving institutions and capacities of stakeholders at all levels. This initiative, led by Center for International Studies and Corporation (CECI) since 2003, is expected to increase capacity, develop tools and methods, raise public awareness, and to mainstream CBDRM and DRR in national development planning. SCP follows four stages: preparation and planning, situational analysis, detailing the activities, and actual implementation. SCP is aligned with national action plan and strategy and the management structure. However, lack of coherence in policy and planning, challenges in legal enforcement continue to confront this initiative.

COMMUNITY-BASED DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT IN URBAN COMMUNITIES

Hon. Alipio Fernandez, Mayor Dagupan City, Philippines shared the achievements of the city on CBDRM. Dagupan city is one of the six cities under the ongoing program of ADPC on Program for Hydro-meteorological Disaster Mitigation in Secondary Cities in Asia (PROMISE) in Asia. Like the other sites, Dagupan being in the catchment basin of seven river systems is periodically faced by hydro-meteorological hazards. Mayor Fernandez emphasized the central role of the community in the success of their risk reduction initiative. The city's strategy in reaching out to the communities is emphasizing safety of

families as motivation for disaster management and using local as well as scientific knowledge in DRM and prevention as method. The Technical Working Group, composed of few members from the City Disaster Coordinating Council (CDCC), focused in reaching out to pilot areas, conducting training, forming groups of facilitators at the lowest level, compiling scientific data based on local knowledge, and over-all implementation of the PROMISE project. The project has four components, namely, early warning and evacuation system, public awareness, training, and advocacy and networking. Together with the pilot areas, the Technical Working Group conducted community risk assessment, developed disaster risk maps and risk reduction plan that includes EWS and evacuation plan. The city also has produced an operation manual for emergency response plan. It has passed ordinances relating to DRR and networked with other government agencies and private organizations. In 2007, Dagupan City received an award as Best City Disaster Coordinating Council. Reflecting on the experience, Mayor Fernandez emphasized the point that the community must take a central role in DRR and government must ensure that this role is strengthened through legislative and logistical support at various levels and facilitates direct communication between government and its constituent communities.

TOOL FOR COASTAL COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN COUNTRIES

Mr. Atiq Kainan Ahmed, Social Scientist, ADPC presented the initiative on developing the tool for Coastal Community Resilience (CCR) for use in Indian Ocean countries. The speaker emphasized that the coastal communities experience episodic such as tsunami and chronic such as seasonal flood hazards. These events are aggravated by climate change and increasing coastal population leading to demographic vulnerability. Additionally, there are human-induced vulnerabilities such as overexploitation, pollution that further increases the risks and vulnerabilities of coastal communities. The occurrence of mega-disasters is a manifestation of this emerging bleak scenario and these disasters have the capacity to undermine long-term development efforts. The coastal communities' progression of vulnerability highlights the weakness of systems and infrastructures. Amidst this grim state of affairs, there remains community resiliency. Resiliency is the ability to absorb shock, bounce back and learn and adapt from a disaster event. The HFA has increased the focus on building community resilience in DRR. From the experience of the Indian Ocean countries, CCR has eight elements: governance, socio-economic livelihoods, coastal resource management, land use management and structures, risk knowledge, warning and evacuation, emergency response, and disaster recovery. These elements must maintain an optimal balance as it oscillates from low to high resiliency and vice-versa. CCR must also be seen as an adaptive cyclical system. Enabling conditions from planning to monitoring and evaluation mechanisms must be enhanced for community level implementation. Through training and capacity building activities, communities and partners gain more learning and experience to adapt and mainstream CCR into the local planning and implementation cycle.

CRITICAL GUIDELINES FOR CBDRR AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR DISASTER REDUCTION IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

Mr. SoK Phoeuk, Programme Manager, ADPC, presented the initiative on Partnership for disaster reduction in South East Asia (PDRSEA) and the Critical Guidelines for CBDRR. The partnership was initiated in 2001 to promote CBDRR in SEA and is supported by DIPECHO and jointly implemented with UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). The partnership, which is on the 4th phase, is geared towards effective implementation of the HFA by enhancing national capacity in integrating CBDRR into planning and programming. The partnership also bridges the sharing of lessons and

experiences among regional partners. Two CBDRR tools were produced by PDRSEA; a Field Practitioner's Handbook and the Critical Guidelines. The Guideline was developed through a series of national and regional workshops and it provides a shared standard of performance in DRR. Its potential application covers the project cycle and can be used for advocacy and training as well. As a shared standard, the Guideline identifies four levels of performance principles—ethical, strategic, tactical, and implementation. The ethical principles mainly emphasize the need to observe basic rights, share information and cooperate than compete. Strategic principles must consider trust and ensure commitment and competence of staff. Tactical principles point to the use and updating of relevant data and indicators as well as mainstreaming activities. The implementation principles state the careful consideration of impacts, both intended and unintended, and the cultural adaptation of indicators to bring the community being served on board the process and not to alienate them. The Guideline has been adapted in case of Cambodia to develop the Guidance for National Strategy for CBDRM. The speaker emphasized the need to continually test the Guideline and revise it in changing context of CBDRM.

EXPERIENCE AND EVOLVING PERSPECTIVE OF CBDRM

Practical Action in Sri Lanka, represented by Mr. Ranasinghe Perera, presented their observations and findings on CBDRM experience in Sri Lanka. The observation highlights the inconsistency between the assumptions made by community-based development projects, including CBDRM-related projects, and the characteristics of present communities. Present communities are more individualistic and are motivated largely by their socio-economic contexts whereas community-based projects erroneously assume that collective action is still the norm. They observed that communities only act collectively when the benefit is deemed substantial or when the work is regarded as a must for all yet these are still short-term collective actions. The inconsistency or wrong assumption about present communities leads to project failures. Mr. Perera summed up the presentation by saying that not all community based projects fail. Some of the projects and/or organizations that succeeded exhibited the following characteristics: strong economic component, strong social elements (religious groups, etc), addressed immediate community needs, were supported by dedicated government bureaucrats, and led by dedicated rural leadership. In the case of CBDRM, Mr. Perera concluded that it is not led or owned by the community but rather, community participates at various levels only. Some limitations of CBDRM exist—important development decisions such as financial allocation still remain in the power of politicians, planners, administrators; roots and impacts of disaster are beyond community's control; and the time spent by communities in disaster management projects are meager.

PLENARY DISCUSSION

In regard to adopting mechanisms for sharing of lessons learned between cities, Mayor Fernandez explained that in Dagupan they have been sharing experiences through radio shows. In order to ensure sustainability, the city of Dagupan is planning to pass an ordinance where regular disaster drills are carried out so that the response to disaster will be more automatic.

Mr. Loy Rego praised the lucid and clear presentation made by Mr. Perera on the shift in community roles from collective to more individualized action. In response to the clarification on the current role of the community in community development projects, Mr. Perera emphasized that the communities cannot take leadership but they can participate in varying degrees according to their capacities and resources. Leadership

resides in the government agencies and village leadership is tasked to do so, such as the district level disaster management committees.

Madam Cora raised the point of leadership as animator and agent of change as demonstrated in the Dagupan experience. The city administrator is the strategic animator or agent provocateur of the process. While this model cannot be entirely replicated since no two communities are alike, certain elements can be used and applied in other communities.

X. SESSION IV B: GROUP DISCUSSION ON MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF INSTITUTIONALIZING AND UP SCALING COMMUNITY-BASED DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

This session was co-chaired by Mr. Bhishow Prakash Pandit, Ministry of Home Affair, Nepal, and Mr. Dang Quang Minh, Department of Dike Management and Flood Storm Control, Vietnam and facilitated by Mr. Loy Rego. To encourage active exchange of ideas among the member countries and formulate action points; this sub-session divided the participants in four groups. The first and second group comprised of RCC members and discussed the following:

- Typical challenges in up scaling pilot CBDRR programmes (implementing CBDRR in all high risk communities) and how to meet those challenges?
- What should be done to increase the involvement of Government (at national and local level) in implementation of CBDRR programs by NGOs and CBOs?
- What steps can be taken by Government at national and sub-national levels to support sustained implementation of CBDRR by community organizations?

The third group had representatives from the Planning and Sectoral Ministries from the RCC member countries and discussed specific steps necessary to increase the linkage of CBDRR programs to development planning (national as well as at the local level) process and what role the planning agencies could play?

The fourth group represented by the UN Agencies, partner organizations and donors participating in the RCC 7 meeting as observers, discussed the role their organizations could play in addressing some of the issues and challenges in implementing up scaled CBDRR.

The following paragraphs documents the recommendations of the group discussions:

Challenges for scaling up implementation of CBDRR programmes in all high risk communities as identified by the RCC members include:

- Policy agenda for CBDRR such as integration of CBDRR in the national development policy framework and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
- Funding for CBDRR
- Partnerships (NGOs/Government) for implementation of programmes
- Capacity building with special attention to formulating standardized procedures and identification of uniform outcomes and guidelines
- Institutional capacity & commitment, delegation authorities
- Community awareness and ownership, knowledge of benefits
- Sustainability by engagement of community and strengthening of local government and disaster management committees
- Transparency and credibility

Actions to increase national and local government involvement in CBDRR implementation activities of NGOs and community based organizations as identified by the RCC members include:

- Advocacy Networking: Cost-benefit analysis must be conducted for policy makers to realize that advantages in investing in CBDRR
- Institutionalization: Legislation must support CBDRR activities and be incorporated into government framework and plan of action of all development stakeholders. Government must also recognize the role of NGOs and CBOs in CBDRR and provide an enabling policy environment. Sustained dialogue between government, NGOs and CBOs must be supported as dialogue provides the platform for mutual consultation and learning.
- Funding/Resources: Government must allocate funds for CBDRR program and implementation especially at the local level.
- Coordination mechanisms/ Regulatory mechanisms: Establishing and strengthening coordination and regulatory mechanism between NGOs, CBOs and government agencies.
- Building capacity of CBOs and NGOs: Capacity building for NGO and CBO staff is crucial to an effective implementation of CBDRR activities. Enabling staff and training a cadre of dedicated people for CBDRR is important.
- Clarity of role of CBOs/NGOs in the whole process, defining common goals and priorities: Defining common goals and priorities and clarifying the role of each actor in relation to the goals and priorities is another way of enhancing cooperation between the NGOs, CBOs and government agencies.

Steps for government at national and sub-national levels to support sustained implementation of CBDRR by community organizations as identified by the RCC members include:

- Establish clear policy framework for support by national governments and partnerships between local government and CBOs
- Setup /adapt appropriate and suitable institutional mechanisms to accommodate CBDRR
- Establishing scheme for recognition of good practices in CBDRR and utilizing experiences of CBDRR award scheme in member countries
- Enhanced resource from national and local government

Specific steps necessary to increase the linkage of CBDRR programs to development planning process (national as well as at the local level) and the role the planning agencies could play as identified by the participating National agencies of Planning and Sectoral Agencies of RCC member countries, include:

- Increasing linkage of CBDRR programs to development planning with strengthened partnership between national disaster management office and national planning agency. Need for national planning agency to develop policies and guidelines which recognize or prioritize CBDRR; and local governments to institutionalize CBDRR in investment programming and project design, budgeting and revenue generation.
- Increasing linkage of CBDRR in Sectoral Planning such as in development of school curriculum and training of teachers.
- Establishing support systems by capacity building of technical people in the planning and sectoral agencies on CBDRR. It is also required to raise awareness of political leaders on the importance of DRR through development of IEC materials documentation of good practices and observance of public awareness campaigns such as observance of disaster preparedness day/month.

- Outside of the executive branch, appropriate legislations must be adopted (e.g., mandating planning)

Role of UN Agencies, partner organizations and donors in addressing some of the issues and challenges in implementing up scaled CBDRR includes:

- Appreciate and promote CBDRR as a window of opportunity for community empowerment
- Linking CBDRR to development planning and implementation
- Support CBDRR backed-up by local authorities and integrating local/traditional knowledge with science and technology
- Serve as bridge among communities, governments, donors, and other stakeholders
- Involvement of private sector in DRR; Corporate Social Responsibility in preparedness and risk reduction, not only in emergency relief and recovery
- Support formulation of national policies, plans or strategy papers on CBDRR as part of DRM framework
- Prioritize high-risk communities and those who express need for CBDRR
- Support capacity development, strengthening institutions, training and development of IEC materials
- Support and disseminate research and documentation of good/bad practices, lessons learned
- Revise agency policies – cannot be guided efficiency consideration if we want to reach communities most at risk (remote/isolated areas)
- Advocacy for CBDRR
- Facilitate dialogue among stakeholders
- Resource mobilization for CBDRR
- Set an environment for transparency and accountability to communities
- Raise awareness by supporting CBDRR conferences with community leaders, practitioners and women leaders.

In brief, the discussions held during the meeting reflected the evolving perspective of CBDRR with the move towards community leadership for DRR and called for greater engagement, partnership and integration with local government mechanisms for disaster management and development. It reaffirmed the commitment of RCC members to take up national programs on CBDRR and helped identify solutions for up scaling CBDRR. The need for enhanced resources from national and local government, clear policy framework, support from national government and regular inputs from government and scientific institutions on risk assessment were emphasized along with the need to establishing scheme for recognition of good practices in CBDRR and utilizing experiences of CBDRR award scheme in member countries. The RCC and ADPC, as its Secretariat, offered to lead a technical session and High level round table on CBDRR at the 3rd AMCDRR to be held in Kuala Lumpur in December, 2008.

XI. SESSION V: HFA IMPLEMENTATION IN ASIA

This session was co-organized by UN/ISDR, ADRC and ADPC. Mr. Rajiv Kumar, Ministry of Home Affairs, India and Mr. Rodzi Bin Saad, National Security Council, Malaysia acted as co-chairs and Mr. German Velasquez, UN/ISDR as the facilitator.

SESSION INTRODUCTION

In his introduction to the session, Dr. Bhichit Rattakul pointed that the RCC is a mechanism of all the NDMOs. It provides a platform for practitioners to exchange lessons and reflections, looks into the practical applications of policies and helps senior level officers get prepared for policy meetings. The inputs of the NDMOs are valuable and enhance the commitment of governments in the policy sphere, including budget allocations. Dr. Bhichit Rattakul also highlighted the role of the three main organizers as a coordinator of efforts in supporting DRR in the Asia Pacific countries at different levels. ISDR is working for policy framework and guidelines; ADPC, for two decades, has been conducting trainings, providing support to countries in development and implementing programs on DRR; and ADRC provides technical support to countries. Dr. Bhichit Rattakul welcomed everyone and encouraged members to discuss implementation of the HFA in the session and discuss how the RCC can contribute to the upcoming AMCDRR.

SESSION OBJECTIVES AND AGENDA

Ms. Helena Molin-Valdes, Deputy Director, UN/ISDR explained the session, which is divided into two halves, the first one would encourage discussion on progress in the region and actions needed to move ahead on the five priorities of the HFA that is reflected in each country's national framework plans and the second session will discuss the preparation for the AMCDRR.

Ms. Molin-Valdes related the history of how various groups, i.e. the UN (OCHA, ESCAP, UNDP) along with ADPC and ADRC have been involved in DRR in Asia starting in 2003 when the ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) was launched. The motive was to partner together with some of the major UN agencies and regional organizations working on DRR such as ADPC and ADRC. This became a crucial mechanism to bring all effort and organizations from various countries together. RCC was a useful mechanism to discuss these issues. In 2005, with the formulation of the HFA and the impact of Indian Ocean tsunami created a favorable political climate to support these efforts on DRR. China and India were two countries involved since the beginning and hosted the Asian Ministerial Conferences established which later on became the Regional Platform for DRR in Asia. Recently the IAP has been expanded to a membership of 30 members with an objective to partner to implement the HFA.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL HFA PROGRESS REVIEW FRAMEWORK FOR ASIA AND PACIFIC

Ms. Angelika Planitz of UN/ISDR presented the process being followed for reviewing HFA progress for Asia and the Pacific by identifying key outputs and processes expected. Reporting occurs in the territorial, thematic, and global dimension. For Asia-Pacific, this framework was developed jointly with IAP to guide actions and define outputs. Four expected results: accurate and reliable information on results achieved; enhance monitoring capacities of countries including the provision of a reporting guideline; looking at reporting not as an end but a way of informing national and regional

programming; and transporting knowledge in the region to the global level. Ms. Planitz presented in detail the review process at the national and regional levels including expected outputs, timeframe, implementation arrangements that involve other organizations and agencies. The partnership also looks at developing the methodology of the measurement process and thematic review process to guarantee accurate information and inclusiveness of the report to be generated. The National HFA Progress Reports being developed by the countries will be used to feed into the Global Assessment Report on DRR.

PLENARY DISCUSSIONS

Concerns were raised on effective integration of Climate Change and DRR. Mr. Velasquez from UN/ISDR informed that the international consensus is to move into having the same institutional arrangement for both Kyoto Protocol (post 2012) and HFA (2015). Identifying the nuances, the similarities and differences of the issues involving both is necessary. For example, is DRR a form of climate change adaptation? DRR includes volcanic eruptions, earthquakes while climate change focuses on hydro-meteorological events. DRR looks at the negative impacts of risks, while climate change looks at both. When a country has a DRR plan, is a climate change mitigation and adaptation plan necessary? What are the considerations, gaps, challenges, etc? He added that in Bali Climate Change Conference 2007, DRR is mentioned for the very first time in the Bali Action Plan. The Copenhagen 2009 meeting will agree on the next steps on how to take forward this synergy.

COUNTRY BRIEFINGS ON THE NATIONAL HFA REVIEW AND CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

Mr. Chandradasa from DMC, Sri Lanka presented Sri Lanka's experience in implementing the HFA. The Road Map for Safer Sri Lanka was developed based on HFA and the government is committed to its implementation in the national development planning and implementation in the next ten years. In the area of monitoring, Sri Lanka's post-tsunami evaluation revealed organizations working on same area and competing for the same limited resources. Meeting of all stakeholders was held and they developed a common program for DRR in Sri Lanka. From this, the National Disaster Monitoring and Coordinating Committee with 35 members was established. Regular monthly meetings to monitor DRR implementation are going on and there is special focus on mitigation activities. The common program derived from these discussions and meetings is the point of collaboration for these organizations.

PLENARY DISCUSSIONS

Ms. Helena Molin-Valdes commented at this point that while the process outlined in the discussion is leading to producing a Global Assessment Report, it is important to be able to have the reports and plans implemented. It is in the implementation that real commitment has come into play. She shared that her experience working with Latin American and Caribbean countries made her realize it is possible that this process can actually become the vehicle for countries to get organized, to develop an evidence-based agenda for policy decisions. She cited the example of Argentina that now uses the tool as a means to make government accountable. The reporting template based on HFA can be used as a generic report for easy reporting and discussion with donors, other organizations.

ONLINE REPORTING TOOL “HFA MONITOR”

Ms. Angelika Planitz presented the HFA Monitor as a reporting tool to inform about the status of HFA implementation from 2007-2009. It is available as an online reporting format as well as in word document for countries with internet difficulties. The goal of the tool is to make reporting easy and accessible by providing a template where organizations can easily report on HFA implementation activities with various partners. Ms. Planitz highlighted certain aspects of the tool that are useful in monitoring and updating status of HFA implementation activities. The tool has also been used in the development field in organizations such as UNDP.

THIRD ASIAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON DRR, UPDATE ON PREPARATORY PROCESS

Mr. Rodzi Bin Saad, from the National Security Council-Malaysia briefed the meeting on the preparations for the 3rd AMCDRR. Three meetings have been held till date in preparation of the conference and it has been decided that the secretariat of the conference will be the Crisis and Disaster Management Division of the NSC-Malaysia with the Division Undersecretary as the Head. Also, committees have been set up. The Prime Minister has committed to open the conference and the Deputy Prime Minister will deliver the closing speech.

Providing additional information, Ms. Christel Rose from UN/ISDR informed the meeting that theme chosen for the conference is “Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Reduction” with emphasis on local level action for DRR and private-public partnership. A regional working group has been set up and partners have expressed interest to be part of the event. The objectives set for the meeting are: to review actions taken by national governments and stakeholders for the implementation of the HFA; ensure effective follow-up to the decisions taken by IAP especially in mapping out and reporting on implementation and advancement of DRR in the Asia Pacific region; to take stock of various initiatives in Asia to promote cooperation and building partnerships; and lastly, to discuss the preparation for the Global Platform for DRR.

PLENARY DISCUSSIONS

Dr. Bhichit Rattakul outlined the important contribution the RCC could make to the 3rd AMCDRR through its rich outputs of the discussions at the meeting which would be critical in informing the outputs of the AMCDRR.

Mr. Jerry Velasquez posed the question of possibilities of linking the different meetings such as the Ministerial Conferences, the RCC and Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction organized by the ADRC. The challenge lies in ensuring that these meetings feed into each other so that the process builds on previous learning and becomes meaningful.

In response to the clarification on the objective of the upcoming ACDR, Mr. Suzuki, explained that its primary objective is to reform ADRC, build public-private partnership, and the applications of DRR. However, the linkage between ACDR and the Asian Ministerial Conference remains to be examined.

The meeting agreed on greater integration of RCC into the Regional and Global system namely linkages with the Asian Ministerial Conference and Global Platform for DRR. The meeting recognized that intensive discussion among senior officials was needed and the RCC served as a welcome forum and mechanism to translate Ministerial commitment, as reflected in AMC Declarations into action. The meeting encouraged UN/ISDR, ADPC and

ADRC to continue their dialogue on how the RCC and ACDR meeting could serve in preparing for, and following up on, Regional and Global Platform meetings.

XII. SESSION VI: EVALUATION OF MEETING AND ACTIONS FOR COMING YEARS

The session was co-chaired by Madam Corazon Alma G De Leon, Vice Chair, ADPC Board of Trustees and Ms. Wachana Kulchanarat, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Government of Thailand, and facilitated by Mr. Loy Rego, ADPC. The purpose of the session was to seek the feedback of the participants on the meeting, the future actions of the RCC and suggestions on priority activities on DRR in the region.

The delegates from Bangladesh, Nepal and Maldives expressed gratitude for the opportunity to share and learn from other delegates especially from the host country Sri Lanka and discuss issues that concern their countries. Specific suggestions from the observers highlighted the increased role the observers could play in the future meetings by sharing their experiences with the countries. The representative from USAID/OFDA highlighted the importance of having a special session on 'expectations from the donors, their rights and limits' in the future meetings.

DATE, VENUE, THEME OF RCC 8 AND SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS

The delegates from Iran and the Philippines reiterated their offers made at the earlier meetings to host the next RCC meeting while Mongolia and Nepal offered to host the subsequent RCC meetings in their countries. The offers will be discussed and decided in consonance with other factors such as time, goals, and resources. RCC appreciated the generous offers from the member countries.

ROLE OF ADPC AS THE SECRETARIAT OF THE RCC MECHANISM

There was consistent affirmation of the role of ADPC as Secretariat of the RCC. The participants and observers pointed out the commitment of ADPC in organizing this meeting and for putting forward the substantive issues on DRR for broader discussion and action at this venue.

XIII. SESSION VII: CLOSING CEREMONY

This session was co-chaired by Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, Executive Director, ADPC, and Mr. P.D. Amarasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Government of Sri Lanka and facilitated by Mr. Loy Rego.

SUMMARY OVERVIEW OF THE MEETING

Mr. Loy Rego presented the summary overview of what he described as an intense four day consultation. He highlighted that at the end, there is reaffirmation of the mechanism and role of RCC. The 7th RCC meeting demonstrated significant country ownership as shown by the sincere willingness to host next meetings and for the member countries to use their resources to attend. Mr. Rego observed that the operational and programmatic dimension of RCC mechanism with an active program on mainstreaming DRR into development, reaffirming commitment to upscale national CBDRR programs, and defining the linkage of RCC to the Regional Platform for DRR and the Asian Ministerial Conferences on DRR are clear gains of the meeting. The four major themes of the conference have contributed to improved knowledge on importance of local knowledge, science and technology, need for greater partnership at various levels, sharing of resources and investments, policy advocacy and the evolving roles of the

community. Notably, there is progress towards developing common methodologies and standards as shown in the sharing of national guidelines on CBDRR and CRA by Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. The linkage of Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and DRR is an emerging theme that is setting the direction of future approaches.

Mr. Rego pointed that the meeting recognized that intensive discussion among senior officials was needed and the RCC served as a welcome forum and mechanism to translate ministerial commitment as reflected in AMCDRR Declarations into action. The RCC meeting encouraged UN/ISDR, ADRC and ADPC to continue their dialogue on how the RCC and ACDR meeting could serve in preparing for and following up on Regional and Global Platform meetings.

In conclusion, he highlighted the achievement of the RCC in terms of identifying gaps and needs, catalyzing and accelerating national and sub-regional action, and the role RCC plays in guiding ADPC in its work.

REMARKS BY THE PARTICIPANTS

On behalf of the participants, Mr. Shaukat Tahir expressed gratitude for the opportunity to share experience in DRR especially in the context of mainstreaming DRR into development, CBDRM and implementation of the HFA. He pointed out the strong spirit of ownership to the RCC process and activities that has developed during the meeting. He closed his remarks by thanking the organizers, donors, participants and host country. He described the rewards for attending the meeting as educational and has strengthened the fellowship among member countries and fellow practitioners.

REMARKS BY DR. BHICHIT RATTAKUL

In his closing remarks, Dr. Bhichit Rattakul reminded all that the RCC is a mechanism for all the members and they should take advantage of it to take learn from each other and take forward the implementation of the HFA.

REMARKS BY MS. HELENA MOLIN-VALDES

Ms. Helena Molin-Valdes expressed her sincere gratitude for being able to attend the meeting which she found to be very useful. On a challenging note, she raised the idea of balancing the demand for reducing institutional carbon footprint and the benefit of having personal meetings. She affirmed the role of UN/ ISDR as a supporter of this important mechanism and facilitating collaboration with other partners such as the World Bank and the UNDP.

ADDRESS BY MS. REBECCA SHAW, FIRST SECRETARY, REGIONAL HUMANITARIAN/DISASTER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, AUSAID

Mr. Loy Rego read a congratulatory email message from Ms. Rebecca Shaw, First Secretary, Regional Humanitarian/Disaster Management Program, AusAID. Ms. Shaw was unable to personally attend the meeting due to the humanitarian response arising from Cyclone NARGIS that required her presence in Bangkok. In her message, Ms. Shaw emphasized the value AusAID attaches to the RCC and the support that it had been providing and looks forward to continued involvement.

REMARKS BY MR. P.D. AMARASINGHE, SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS, SRI LANKA

Mr. P.D. Amarasinghe thanked everyone for coming to Sri Lanka and all the organizers of the conference. He re-emphasized the essential relationship between DRR and Human Rights as both are necessary for rights-based approach to development.

CLOSING REMARKS BY PROF. DR. KRASAE CHANAWONGSE, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, ADPC

Prof. Dr. Krasae Chanawongse emphasized that the meeting was technically sound, socially acceptable, and fully participated by all. He observed that the enthusiasm displayed in the sessions can move mountains and he had no doubt that the same enthusiasm can move the issue of DRR to new levels. He affirmed the commitment of ADPC to the RCC mechanism and to serve member countries as an active secretariat. In closing, Prof. Dr. Chanawongse thanked the host country and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Government of Sri Lanka for hosting, the RCC members and observers for their active participation and the Government of Australia and AusAID for supporting this very important mechanism.

XIV. ANNEXES

ANNEX A: DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS TO THE 7TH RCC MEETING

PART A: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FROM RCC MEMBER COUNTRIES (AS OF MAY, 2008)

No.	Country	Name and Designation	Contact Details
1	Afghanistan	Dr. Abdul Maten Adrak Director General Department of Disaster Preparedness	MRRD Bldg., 2 nd Floor Sha Mahmood Gazy Watt Kabul, Afghanistan Tel: +93-070224561, +93-70-275830 Fax: +93-070224561 Email: noorpadshah@yahoo.com habib_yanoor@yahoo.com
2	Bangladesh	Mr. A.K.M. Abdul Awal Mazumdar Additional Secretary Ministry of Food and Disaster Management	Room No. 207, Building No. 4, Bangladesh Secretariat Dhaka-1000 Bangladesh Tel: +8802-7168744 Fax: +8802-7165405 Email: akmawal12@yahoo.com
3.	Bhutan	Ms. Karma Doma Tshering Head Disaster Management Division Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs	Tashichhodzong, Thimpu Bhutan Tel: +9752-326910 Fax: +9752-334944 Email: karmadt@mohca.gov.bt
4.	Cambodia	H.E. Mr. Hou Taing Eng Under Secretary of State Ministry of Planning	Phnom Penh, Cambodia Tel: +855-23-218406 Fax: +855-23-720906 Mobile: +855-12-610326 Email: hteng@camnet.com.kh
5.	Cambodia	H.E. Mr. Chea Se Under Secretary of State Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS)	Phnom Penh, Cambodia Email: chease1969@yahoo.com
6.	China	Mr. G.E. Chuanyou Counselor Embassy of the P.R. China in Sri Lanka	No. 381 A, Baudhaloka Mawatha Colombo 07, Sri Lanka Tel: +94-11-2694494, 2669558 Fax: +94-11-267-5101 Email: guo_xiaohan@mfa.gov.cn
7.	India	Mr. Rajiv Kumar Director (Disaster Management) Government of India Ministry of Home Affairs	Room No. 94 B-1 North Block New Delhi-110011 India Tel: +9111-23094019 Fax: +9111-23093750 Email: dirndm3-mha@nic.in
8.	Indonesia	Mr. Moris Nuaimi Deputy for Regional Development and Local Autonomy Directorate for Regional Development	Jl. Taman Suropati No. 2 Jakarta 10310, Indonesia Tel: +62-21-310-1984, 3926249 Fax: +62-21-392-6249

		II National Development Planning Agency BAPPENAS	Mobile: +62-813-99096911 Email: moris@bappenas.go.id , risnuai@yahoo.com
9.	Iran	Dr. Mohamad Ali Barkhordari Natural Disaster Research Institute (NDRI)	
10.	Iran	Mr. Hassan Azadeh Senior Expert in Disaster Management, Regional Network Unit, Asian Seismic Risk Reduction Center (ASRC)	3 rd Floor, No. 16, 5 th Alley Grand St. Tehran, Iran Email: hfa.iran@yahoo.com
11.	Lao PDR	Mr. Vilayphong Sisomvang Senior Officer National Disaster Management Office Social Welfare Department Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare	Pangkham Road, P.O. Box 347 Vientiane, Lao PDR Tel: +856-21-219-450 Fax: +856-21-213-287 Mobile: +85621-5654494 Email: ndmo@laotel.com , hamyai1@yahoo.com
12.	Lao PDR	Dr. Outhachak Keovivone Curriculum Developer Science Division Research Institute for Educational Science, Ministry of Education	P.O. Box 67, Mahosoth Road Vientiane, Lao PDR Tel: +856-21-213161 Fax: +856-21-212026 Email: keovivone@hotmail.com
13.	Malaysia	Mr. Rodzi Bin Ma Saad Principal Assistant Director Crisis and Disaster Division	National Security Council Prime Minister Department Level G, West Wing Perdana Putra Building Federal Government Administrative Centre 62502 Putrajaya, Malaysia Tel: +603-8888-3732 Fax: +603-8888-3051 Email: dzisaima@yahoo.com
14.	Maldives	Mr. Moosa Ali Kaleyfaan Assistant Director General National Disaster Management Centre	Former HIS Bldg., Maheedhee Magu Maldives Tel: +960-334-5315 Fax: +960-3333443 Email: info@ndmc.gov.mv
15.	Mongolia	Mr. Tuvshin Badral Head of Foreign Relations Division National Emergency Management Agency	Partisan Street 6 Ulaan Baator 2120644, Mongolia Tel: +976-51-262416 Fax: +976-11-322307 Email: nema_mongolia@yahoo.com
16.	Myanmar	Ms. San San Thein Minister Counselor Embassy of the Union of Myanmar	No. 4 A, Rosmead Avenue Colombo 7 Sri Lanka Tel: +94-11-2681007, 2696440 Fax: +94-11-2682052 Email: r.r.d@mptmail.net.mm
17.	Nepal	Mr. Kishore Thapa Joint Secretary Ministry of Physical Planning and Works Government of Nepal	Singha Durbar, Kathmandu Nepal Tel: +977-1-4211969 Fax: +977-1-4211720 Email: k_thapa413655@hotmail.com

18.	Nepal	Mr. Bishow Prakash Pandit Joint Secretary Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA)	Singha Durbar, Kathmandu Nepal
19.	Pakistan	Mr. Shaukat Nawaz Tahir Senior Member (Planning) National Disaster Management Authority	Prime Minister's Secretariat Islamabad, Pakistan Tel: +9251-920-9338 Fax: +9251-920-1065 Email: am@ndma.gov.pk , sntjs@yahoo.com
20.	Philippines	Ms. Susan Rachel G. Jose Director Regional Development Coordination Staff, National Economic Development Authority (NEDA)	#12 Blessed Jose Maria Escriva Drive Ortigas Center, Pasig City Philippines 1605 Tel: +632-631-3725 Fax: +632-631-3725 Email: SGJose@neda.gov.ph
21.	Philippines	Mr. Alipio Vittoria Ramon D. Fernandez City Administrator Dagupan City Hall Complex	A.B. Fernandez Avenue 2400 Dagupan City Philippines Tel: +63-75-522-2751 Fax: +63-75-522-2754
22.	Philippines	Director Manuel Gotis Department of Interior Local Government (DILG)	
23.	Sri Lanka	Mr. Peter Dias Amarasinghe Secretary Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights Government of Sri Lanka	02 Wijerama Mawatha Colombo 07, Sri Lanka Tel: +94-11-2695012 Fax: + 94-11-2681982 Email: amasklk@yahoo.com
24.	Sri Lanka	Mr. Lalith Chandrapala Director Planning Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights Government of Sri Lanka	02 Wijerama Mawatha Colombo 07, Sri Lanka Tel: +94-11-2695012 Fax: + 94-11-2681982
25.	Sri Lanka	Mr. Basil Fernando Director General National Building Research Organization Government of Sri Lanka	
26.	Sri Lanka	Major General Gamini Hettiarachchi Director General Disaster Management Center Government of Sri Lanka	
27.	Sri Lanka	Mr. G.D. Dharmaratna Director General Department of Meteorology Government of Sri Lanka	

28	Sri Lanka	Mr. N.D. Hettiarachchi Ministry of Resettlement and Disaster Relief Government of Sri Lanka	
29	Thailand	Ms. Wachana Kulchanarat Plan and Policy Analyst Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Ministry of Interior	3/12 U-Thongnok Road, Vachira Sub-district, Dusit Bangkok, Thailand Tel: +66-2-243-0020 ext. 2415 Fax: +66-2-243-5279 Email: wachana@yahoo.com
30	Vietnam	Mr. Dang Quang Minh Deputy Chief of Administrative Division, Department of Dyke Management and Flood, Storm Control (DDMFSC)	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Building A4, No. 02 Ngoc Ha Street Ba Dinh District Hanoi, Vietnam Tel: +844-7335693 Fax: +844-733-5701 Mobile: +84-912-294355 Email: dgminh_mard@yahoo.com , pclbtw@fpt.vn

PART B: LIST OF RCC OBSERVERS

No.	Organization	Name & Designation	Contact Details
1.	Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Mr. K.M. Thilakaratne Project Specialist Sri Lanka Resident Mission	Asian Development Bank Tel: +94-11-2387055 Fax: +94-11-2386527
2.	Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC)	Mr. Koji Suzuki Executive Director	Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) 1-5-2 F Wakihamakaigan-dori Chuo-ku, Kobe, Hyogo Japan Tel: +81-78-262-5540 Fax: +81-78-262-5546 Email: suzukik@adrc.or.jp
3.	Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP)	Mr. Ian Rector Chief Technical Advisor and Team Leader	Disaster Management & Relief Bhaban 92-93 Mohakhali C/A (2 nd Floor) Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh Tel: +880-2-989-0937 Fax: +880-2-989-0854 Mobile: +8801-1818843 Email: ian.rector@cdmp.org.bd

4.	Center for Disaster Preparedness	Ms. Lorna Victoria Director	Quezon City, Philippines Tel : +632-926-6996, 656-2926 Fax : +632-928-7285 Email : oyvictoria@yahoo.com , cdp@info.com.ph
5.	Embassy of P.R. China in Colombo	Ms. Guo Xiaohan Political Attache	No. 381 A, Baudhaloka Mawatha Colombo 07, Sri Lanka Tel: +94-11-2694494, 2669558 Fax: +94-11-267-5101 Email: guo_xiaohan@mfa.gov.cn
6.	European Community Humanitarian Affairs Directorate General	Mr. David Verboom Head of ECHO Colombo office	Tel: +94-11-2692880, 4716551 Fax: +94-11-2692881 E-mail: hoo@echo-colombo.org
7.	European Community Humanitarian Affairs Directorate General	Mr. Borja Miguelez Technical Assistant ECHO- Colombo office	Tel: +94-11-2692880, 4716551 Fax: +94-11-2692881 E-mail: ta01@echo-colombo.org
8.	Practical Action	Mr. Buddika Hapuarachchi Project Manager – DRR	No. 5, Lionel Edirisinghe Mawatha Colombo – 05 Sri Lanka Tel: +94-11-282-9412 Email : hapuarachchi@practicalaction.org.lk
9.	UN/ISDR	Ms. Helena Molin-Valdes Deputy Director	International Environment House II, Chemin de Balexert 7-9, CH-1219 Geneva, Switzerland Tel: +41-22-9178908 Fax: +41-22-9178964 Email: molINVALDES@un.org
10.	UN/ISDR Asia & Pacific	Dr. German Velasquez Senior Regional Coordinator	United Nations Secretariat Building 7th Floor, Section B - Office 0748 Rajdamnern Nok Avenue 10400 Bangkok, Thailand Tel: +66-2-288-2745 Fax: +66-2-288-1050 Email: velasquezg@un.org
11.	UN/ISDR Asia & Pacific	Ms. Angelika Planitz Programme Officer, South East Asia and the Pacific	United Nations Secretariat Building 7th Floor, Section B - Office 0748 Rajdamnern Nok Avenue 10400 Bangkok, Thailand Tel: +66-2-288-2766 Fax: +66-2-288-1050 Email: planitz@un.org

12.	UN/ISDR Asia & Pacific	Ms. Christel Rose Regional Programme Officer	United Nations Secretariat Building 7th Floor, Section B - Office 0748 Rajdamnern Nok Avenue 10400 Bangkok, Thailand Tel: +66-2-288-2766 Fax: +66-2-288-1050 Email: rosec@un.org
13.	UN-Habitat	Mr. David Evans Chief Technical Officer Colombo office	Tel: +94-11-5333704, 5333708 Fax: +94-11-5334318 Email: david@unhabitat.lk
14.	USAID/OFDA	Ms. Sue McIntyre Regional Advisor South Asia Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, USAID/Nepal	US Embassy, P.O. Box 295 Maharagunj, Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: +977-1-400-7200 ext. 4279 Email: smcintyre@usaid.gov
15.	UNDP South-South Unit	Mr. DENIS NKALA Chief South-South Unit (Asia & Pacific)	UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok 3rd Floor, UN Service Building Rajdamnern Nok Avenue Bangkok, Thailand Tel: +66-2-288-2711 Fax: +66-2-280-2700 Email: denis.nkala@undp.org
16.	UNDP Colombo	MR. MAN THAPA DISASTER RISK REDUCTION ADVISOR	202-204 Baudhdhaloka, Mawatha Colombo 07, Sri Lanka Tel: +94-11-2580691 ext. 307 Fax: +94-11-2581116 Mobile: +94-77-3444149 Email: man.b.thapa@undp.org

ANNEX B: LIST OF RCC MEMBERS

(AS OF MAY 2008)

Director General
Strategic Planning and Control
Office of the Vice President
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Secretary
Ministry of Food and Disaster Management
(MFDM)
And
Director General
Disaster Management Bureau
People's Republic of Bangladesh

Secretary
Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs
Kingdom of Bhutan

Director
National Disaster Management Center
Ministry of Home Affairs
State of Brunei Darussalam

First Vice President
And
Secretary General
National Committee for Disaster
Management
Kingdom of Cambodia

Director General
Department of Disaster and Social Relief
Ministry of Civil Affairs
People's Republic of China

Chief
Department of Emergency Situations and
Civil Safety Service
Ministry of Internal Affairs
Republic of Georgia

Secretary (Border Management)
Ministry of Home Affairs
Government of India

Chief Executive
Bakornas PBP

National Coordinating Board for
Disaster Management
Republic of Indonesia

Deputy for Technical Affairs
Office of the Deputy President for
Strategic Planning and Control (SPAC)
Islamic Republic of Iran

Director General of Civil Defence
Jordanian Civil Defence
Ministry of Interior
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Chairman
Emergency Agency
Republic of Kazakhstan

Administrator
National Emergency Management
Agency
Ministry of Government Administration and
Home Affairs
Republic of Korea

Director
National Disaster Management Office
Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
Lao People's Democratic Republic

Undersecretary
Crisis and Disaster Management Division
National Security Council
Prime Minister's Department
Government of Malaysia

Director General
National Disaster Management Center
Maldives

Chief
National Emergency Management
Agency
Mongolia

Director General
Relief and Resettlement Department
Ministry of Social Welfare
Union of Myanmar

Secretary
Ministry of Home Affairs
Nepal

Director General
National Disaster Management Office
Department of Provincial and Local
Government Affairs
Independent State of Papua New Guinea

Administrator
Office of Civil Defense and Executive Officer
National Disaster Coordinating Council
Department of National Defense
Republic of the Philippines

Chairman
National Disaster Management Authority
Prime Minister's Secretariat
Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Secretary
Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights
And
Director General
Disaster Management Center
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Chief
Emergency Services and
National Disaster Management Office
Ministry of Interior
Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

Director General
Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation
Ministry of Interior
Kingdom of Thailand

Director
Department of Dike Management, Flood and Storm Control
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Socialist Republic of Vietnam

ANNEX C: MEETING PROGRAM OF THE 7TH MEETING OF THE ADPC REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

In collaboration with Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights,

Government of Sri Lanka

Supported by the Government of Australia

08th-10th May 2008

Taj Samudra Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Thursday	08 th May 2008
08.00-08.45	Registration of Participants
09.00-10.15	Opening Ceremony of the 7th RCC Meeting <i>Venue: Crystal Room Lower</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lighting of oil lamp• National Anthem• Introduction of Dignitaries on the dais• Welcome Address by Mr. P.D. Amarasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Government of Sri Lanka• Welcome Address by Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, Executive Director, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)• Address by H.E. Prof Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, Chairman, ADPC, Board of Trustees• Inaugural Address by Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Minister of Disaster Management and Human rights, Government of Sri Lanka• Presentation of the plaque of appreciation to the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Government of Sri Lanka• Presentation of the plaque of appreciation to the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center• Vote of Thanks by Madam Corazon Alma G. De Leon, Vice Chairman, ADPC, Board of Trustees• Group Photo
Session I	Show casing the achievements of Disaster Risk Management in Sri Lanka
10.30-12.00	
Co Chairs:	Mr. P.D. Amarasinghe, Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights Sri Lanka and Dr. Wang Zhenyao, Ministry of Civil Affairs, P.R. China
Facilitator:	Mr. N.M.S.I Arambepola, ADPC <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disaster Management in Sri Lanka (by Major Gen. Gamini Hettiarachchi Disaster Management Center, Government of Sri Lanka)• Early Warning Systems; current status(by Mr. Lalith Chandrapala, Department of Meteorology, Government of Sri Lanka)• Slope failures in Sri Lanka, current trend (by Mr. R.M.S. Bandara, National Building Research Organization, Government of Sri Lanka)• Strategies in Disaster Response (by Mr. J. Gunawardana, Ministry of Resettlement and Disaster Relief, Government of Sri Lanka)

12.00 – 13.30 Opening Lunch (Hosted by the Government of Sri Lanka)

Session II Introduction, Adoption of Agenda and Overview of the Meeting

13.30-14.15

Chair: Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, ADPC and Madam Corazon Alma G. De Leon, Vice Chair ADPC Board of Trustees

Facilitator: Mr. A.R. Subbiah, ADPC

- **Role of RCC and Purpose of the Meeting** (by Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, Executive Director, ADPC)
- **Self Introduction** by all participants and observers
- **Adoption of Agenda**
- **Steering Committee for the Meeting**
- **Overview of ADPC's RCC Follow-up Activities** (by Mr. Loy Rego, Director, Disaster Management Systems Team, ADPC)

Session III Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development

Session IIIA Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into National Development Process

14.15—15.30

Co Chairs: Mr. A.K.M Abdul Awal Mazumdar, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management and Ms. Karma Doma Tshering, Disaster Management Division, Bhutan

Facilitator: Mr. Loy Rego, ADPC

- **National Plan for Comprehensive Disaster Reduction of the People's Republic of China** (by Dr. Wang Zhenyao, Department of Disaster and Social Relief, Ministry of Civil Affairs, P.R. China)
- Experience of **Indonesia in integrating Disaster Risk Reduction into National Development Planning Process** (by Mr. Morris Nuaimi, BAPPENAS, Indonesia)
- **Strategic National Action Plan of the Kingdom of Cambodia** (by H.E. Hou Taing Eng, Ministry of Planning, Cambodia))
- **National Disaster Management Framework of Pakistan** (by Mr. Shaukat N. Tahir, National Disaster Management Authority, Pakistan)
- **National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy of Nepal** (by Mr. Bishow Prakash Pandit, Ministry of Home Affairs and Mr. Kishore Thapa, Ministry of Physical Planning and Works, Nepal)

Session III B Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Sector Development Process

15.45-17.00

Co Chairs: Mr. Kishore Thapa, Ministry of Physical Planning and Works, Nepal, and H.E. Mr. Hou Traing Eng, Ministry of Planning, Cambodia

Facilitator: Mr. Sanjaya Bhatia, ADPC

- Experience of **Philippines in integrating DRR into Land Use Planning, Infrastructure and Education** (by Ms. Susan Jose, National Economic Development Authority, Philippines)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of Lao PDR in integrating DRR into Education Sector (by Mr. Vilayphong SISOMVANG, National Disaster Management Office and Dr. Kiovivong, Ministry of Education, Lao PDR) • Initiatives in Sri Lanka in integrating DRR into Local Government (by Mr. Basil Fernando, National Building Research Organization, Government of Sri Lanka) • Presentation on Global Campaign on Safe Hospitals (by Ms. Christel Rose, UN/ISDR)
17.00- 17.30	1st Meeting of RCC-7 Steering Committee
19.00- 21.00	Dinner and Cultural Show , (hosted by Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Government of Sri Lanka)

Friday	09th May 2008
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Session III	Continued
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Session III C	Progress on RCC Program on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development policy, planning and implementation in Asia
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9.00- 10.15

Co Chairs:	Director Susan Jose, National Economic Development Authority, Philippines and Mr. Moosa Ali Kaleyfaan, National Disaster Management Center, Maldives
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Facilitator:	Mr. Aslam Perwaiz, ADPC
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- Progress on **RCC Program on Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development** and Phase II of the Program and Report on 5th Meeting of the RCC MDRD Advisory Panel (by Mr. Loy Rego, ADPC)
- Progress on **Development of RCC Guidelines on Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into Development** (by Mr. Sanjaya Bhatia and Mr. Arghya Sinha Roy, ADPC)

Session IV	Rights-based Community-led disaster risk management
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10.30 – 11.15	Introduction of the theme session
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Co Chairs:	Mr. Shaukat Nawaz Tahir, National Disaster Management Authority, Pakistan and Mr. Tuvshin Badral, National Emergency Management Agency, Mongolia
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Facilitator:	Mr. Atiq Kainan Ahmed, ADPC
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- **Rights based approaches to Community-led disaster risk management** (by Mr. P.D. Amarasinghe, Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Government of Sri Lanka)
- **Overview of CBDRM based on Country Papers from RCC members and meeting the challenges** (by Mr. Loy Rego, ADPC)

Session IVA	Experiences of National Programs for Community-based disaster risk management
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11.15-12.30

Co Chairs: Dr. Abdul Maten Adrak, Department of Disaster Preparedness, Afghanistan and Dr. Mohamad Ali Barkhordari, Natural Disaster Research Institute, Iran

Facilitator: Mr. Sok Phoeuk, ADPC

- **Support to implement CBDRM in high risk districts in India** (by Mr. Rajiv Kumar, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India)
- **Hazards Mapping and Assessment for Effective Community-Based Disaster Risk Management in the Philippines** (by representative from , National Disaster Coordinating Council, Philippines)
- **National Tools for Community based risk assessment in Bangladesh** (by Mr. Mazumdar, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, Government of Bangladesh and Mr. Ian Rector, Comprehensive Disaster Management Program, Bangladesh)
- **Experience of Community-Based Disaster Risk Management in Thailand** (by Ms. Wachana Kulchanarat, Department of Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation, Thailand)

12.30.1 – 13.45 Lunch (Hosted by the Government of Sri Lanka)

13.45 – 15.15 **Session IVA continued**

Co Chairs: Major Gen. Gamini Hettiarachchi, Disaster Management Center, Government of Sri Lanka and Mr. Viloyphong SISOMVANG, National Disaster Management Office, Lao PDR

Facilitator: Mr. N.M.S.I Arambepola, ADPC

- **Initiatives in Vietnam on Safer Commune Planning** (by Mr. Dang Quang Minh, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam)
- **Community-Based Disaster Risk Management in Urban Communities ; experiences from Dagupan city in the Philippines** (by Mr. Alipio Vittoria Fernandez, City Administrator, Dagupan City, Philippines)
- **Coastal Community Resilience in the Indian Ocean countries** (by Mr. Atiq Kainan Ahmed, ADPC)
- **Critical Guidelines for CBDRM and Partnerships for Disaster Reduction in South East Asia** (by Mr. Sok Phoeuk and Mr. Aslam Perwaiz, ADPC)
- **Experiences and evolving perspective of Community-based disaster risk management** (by Mr. Ranasinghe Perera, Practical Action, Sri Lanka)

Session IV B **Group Discussion on Meeting the challenges of institutionalizing and up scaling Community-led disaster risk management**

15.30-16.30

Co Chairs: Mr. Bishow Prakash Pandit, Ministry of Home Affairs, Nepal and Mr. Dang Quang Minh, Department of Dyke Management and Flood Storm Control, Vietnam

Facilitator: Mr. Loy Rego, ADPC

- 16.30-17.30 **Presentation by Groups**
- 17.30- 18.00 **2nd Meeting of RCC-7 Steering Committee**
- 19.00- 21.00 **Welcome Dinner** (hosted by ADPC)

Saturday 10th May 2008

Session V HFA Implementation in Asia (co-organized with UN/ISDR and ADRC)

8.30-11.30

Co Chairs: Mr. Rajiv Kumar, Ministry of Home Affairs, India and Mr. Rodzi Bin Saad, National Security Council, Malaysia

Facilitator: Dr. German Velasquez, UN/ISDR

Session Introduction:

- Welcome to Joint Session (by Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, ADPC)
- Session Objectives and Agenda (by Ms. Helena Molin-Valdes, UN/ISDR)

The HFA Progress Review Process 2007/9:

- The Regional and National HFA Progress Review Framework for Asia and Pacific (by Ms. Angelika Planitz, UN/ISDR)
- Country briefings on the national HFA review and consultation process
- Some experiences from other regions (by Ms. Helena Molin-Valdes, UN/ISDR)
- The online reporting tool: "HFA Monitor" (by Ms. Angelika Planitz, UN/ISDR)

The Third Asian Ministerial Conference (AMC3) on DRR in December 2008

- Update on AMC 3 and next steps planned in the preparatory process
 - Presentation by Mr. Rodzi Bin Saad, National Security Council, Government of Malaysia
 - Presentation by Ms. Christel Rose, UN/ISDR
- RCC's contribution to AMC3 (by Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, ADPC)
- Plenary Discussion on the expected outcome of RCC 7 for inputs to AMC3 (by Dr. Jerry Velasquez, UN/ISDR)

Summary and Closing

Session VI Evaluation of Meeting, and Actions for coming year

11.30-12.15

Co Chairs: Madam Corazon Alma G. De Leon, Vice Chair ADPC Board of Trustees and Ms. Wachana Kulchanarat, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Thailand

Facilitator: Mr. Loy Rego, ADPC

- Plenary Discussion on **future activities of the RCC**
- **Future Meetings of RCC**
 - Date and Venue of RCC 8
 - Offers/ Expressions of Interest to co-host RCC 9

Session VII Closing Ceremony

12.15-12.45

Co Chairs: Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, ADPC and Mr. Amarasinghe, Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Sri Lanka

Facilitator: Mr. Loy Rego, ADPC

- **Summary Overview of the Meeting**
- **Remarks by the Participants**
- **Invitation to RCC 8**
- **Message from UN/ISDR by Ms. Helena Molin Valdes**, Deputy Director, UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR)
- **Address by Ms. Rebecca Shaw**, First Secretary, Regional Humanitarian / Disaster Management Program, AusAID
- **Closing Remarks by H.E. Prof Dr. Krasae Chanawongse**, Chairman, ADPC, Board of Trustees

12.45- 13.30 Lunch

14.00 – 16.30 Field Visit

Visit to the Diyawana Uyana Development Project by the Urban Development Authority and the Canal Development Project by Sri Lanka Land Recreation and Development Corporation

**ANNEX D: ADDRESSES AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE RCC 7 MEETING
8TH MAY, COLOMBO, SRI LANKA**

**Mr. P.D. Amarasinghe,
Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights,
Government of Sri Lanka
8 May 2008, Taj Samudra Hotel**

Honorable Minister, Mr. Samarasinghe and member of the Advisory Board of the ADPC, Prof Krasae, Chairman of ADPC Board of Trustees, Madam Corazon, Vice Chair of ADPC Board of Trustees, Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, Executive Director, ADPC, Secretary to the Prime Minister, Secretary to Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Secretary to Ministry of Resettlement and Disaster Relief Services and other Secretaries, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentleman, on behalf of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights of Democratic Social Republic of Sri Lanka, I have great honor in welcoming all of you to the inaugural session of the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management. The Government of Sri Lanka and our Honorable Minister considers this as a great privilege for being able to host this important meeting in Colombo in association with ADPC. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to Hon Minister Mr. Samarasinghe for honoring us by presiding over this important meeting and I am very grateful to Prof Krasae, Madam Corazon and Dr. Bhichit Rattakul for taking their time off from their busy schedule to attend this meeting.

As you are aware the ADPC is an organization well known in the Asia Pacific Region for implementing programs and projects to reduce the impact of disasters. Sri Lanka is one of the countries which are benefited greatly from the activities of ADPC particularly in the area of capacity building in Disaster Management. The RCC at present comprises of 30 members from 26 countries in Asia and Pacific region. The role of the RCC is to provide a consultative mechanism for the development of action strategies for Disaster Management in the region to promote cooperative programs on a regional and sub-regional basis as well as to guide ADPC's work. At the previous RCC meeting which was held in Kunming, China in November 2006, I represented Sri Lanka. At the meeting when the agenda item of the venue of the 7th meeting was discussed, I contacted Honorable Minister Mr. Samarasinghe, Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights and asked whether we can host this 7th RCC meeting in Colombo. He promptly agreed for that. Thank you Sir.

The theme of the RCC 7 Meeting is Rights based community led disaster risk management. This theme too was identified in Kunming in China particularly due to suggestions made by the Sri Lankan delegation.

Hon Minister, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen let me hereby welcome you all once again in Sri Lanka and hope that all of you would have a pleasant stay in this beautiful country. We will try our level best in ensuring that your short stay in Sri Lanka is as comfortable as possible.

Our deepest appreciation for Honorable Minister for kindly agreeing to inaugurate and address the meeting. Finally there are many individuals who helped to get this conference off ground; I would not single them out, except to acknowledge the considerable efforts of ADPC, the local staff and the staff of the hotel. I wish you all most fruitful three days of interesting and stimulating discussions and sharing of knowledge.

**Welcome Address by Professor Dr. Krasae Chanawongse,
Chairman, ADPC Board of Trustees
8 May 2008, Taj Samudra Hotel**

Your Excellency Mr. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Government of Sri Lanka, Mr. Peter Dias Amarasinghe Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Government of Sri Lanka, Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, Executive Director, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, Madam Corazon Alma De Leon, Vice Chair, ADPC Board of Trustees, Excellencies, RCC members and observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to welcome you all this morning at this special occasion in Colombo, at the opening ceremony of seventh meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) on Disaster Management.

Your Excellency Mr. Mahinda Samarasinghe, we are honored to have you with us this morning. Your presence at this opening ceremony is ample evidence of the commitment and confidence of Sri Lanka to effectively deal with the disaster risks it faces and the leadership you have provided to the country and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights. We are looking forward to learn from your long experience in disaster risk reduction. Special thanks to our host the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Government of Sri Lanka for their warm and generous hospitality and excellent arrangements in Colombo.

On behalf of the ADPC Board of Trustees, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the members of the RCC, and other distinguished invitees from the region as well as representatives from other countries attending this meeting. I would also like to thank members of the diplomatic corps and officials from international organizations who have kindly honored us with their presence this morning.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The RCC has certainly come of age since our first meeting in Bangkok in 2000. I have personally participated in all subsequent meetings of the RCC in Delhi, Dhaka, Hanoi and Kunming, and have seen its growth as an effective regional mechanism to take forward the agenda of disaster risk reduction. On behalf of the ADPC Board of Trustees, I can confidently say that the key directions the RCC has set itself in 2001 for the decade ending 2010 are consistent with the Hyogo Framework for Action and augur well for the future development of Asia. This mechanism; which has proved its continued relevance over the past nine years; is an important part of the Regional Platform for Disaster Reduction; and a forum to contribute to the Asian Ministerial Conferences.

I derive immense pride and satisfaction in leading ADPC, as the Chairman of its Board of Trustees. Since its inception, ADPC has contributed dynamically to the paradigm shift in disaster management, adopting a comprehensive approach towards disaster risk reduction by enhancing institutional capacities, promoting community-based disaster risk reduction practices and supporting mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in countries of the Asian Region. The ADPC Charter signed by nine Asian countries confirms its mandate and articulates the high expectations of its role.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the catastrophic cyclones SIDR in Bangladesh last November and NARGIS a week ago in Myanmar once again demonstrates the most serious impact of a disaster is always felt by the local communities and on their immediate environment. Thus every disaster is a local disaster and requires the active involvement of communities and local stakeholders, in response; but also in preparedness and risk reduction.

Hence it is appropriate that the theme of the 7th RCC meeting is Rights-based Community-led Disaster Risk Management. I am sure your participation would help to facilitate rich discussion on the challenges related to community led disaster risk management and identify ways to address the challenges to upscale the impact of disaster risk reduction in all at risk communities in our respective countries.

At the same time the session on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development would complement the need to link our initiatives on disaster risk reduction with the development priorities of our countries. Disasters have an enormous impact on development. Every disaster results in a serious social and economic setback to the development and poverty reduction priorities of the developing countries, by diverting the scarce resources that are programmed for development to relief and rehabilitation efforts. Hence Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction is an urgent need, especially standing at the mid point between the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals and their target completion date of 2015.

Deliberations on this subject will help take forward the implementation of the Phase II of the RCC Program on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development which was launched at the RCC 4 Meeting in Dhaka in 2004 and adopted by the RCC members in the Hanoi RCC 5 Statement on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development.

I am sure that the special session being co-organized by UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), ADPC and the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) on Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in Asian region, will provide an important platform to discuss and address the burning issues around implementation of HFA in the region. I am sure that this RC meeting will make valuable contribution to the forthcoming 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference in Kuala Lumpur.

With that I would like to conclude by extending heartfelt thanks to the Government of Sri Lanka for their support and collaboration.

I would like to thank the Government of Australia for their generous support in organizing the RCC Meetings.

I sincerely wish you all a very pleasant stay in Colombo and a successful meeting.

Thank you very much.

**Address by Dr. Bhichit Rattakul,
Executive Director, ADPC
8 May 2008, Taj Samudra Hotel**

Your Excellency Mr. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Government of Sri Lanka, Mr. Peter Dias Amarasinghe Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Government of Sri Lanka, Professor Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, Chairman of the ADPC Board of Trustees, Madam Corazon Alma De Leon, Vice Chair, ADPC Board of Trustees, Excellencies, RCC members and observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor and privilege to be here at this Seventh Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management. I would like to express our deep gratitude to the Government of Sri Lanka for kindly hosting this Seventh RCC meeting. We are grateful to the Government of Australia for their generous support which has made it possible for us all to meet again.

I would especially like to extend our deep appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights, for your gracious presence here today. You have provided inspirational stewardship of the Ministry since its establishment 3 years ago following the passage of the Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act. The Road Map for Safer Sri Lanka is an innovative example of a long term programmatic involvement in disaster reduction and is one we are eager to learn more about.

We look forward to learning from rich experience of your country in dealing with floods, droughts and landslides and your experience in the recovery of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami.

We are grateful for a continued cooperation and support provided by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights throughout the preparation for this RCC meeting.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), which was established in 1986 at the initiative of three UN Agencies namely UNOCHA, UNDP and WMO, have been serving for more than 20 years as the regional focal point for disaster risk reduction in Asia and the Pacific and continues to partner with national and sub-national governments, technical institutes, NGOs, UN Agencies and other development agencies to advance disaster reduction in the region and support implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA).

The Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) is a regional mechanism established at the initiative of ADPC and which brings together the Heads of National Disaster Management Offices of 26 Asian countries for purposive deliberations. It has lived up to the member countries expectation to serve as a useful and beneficial mechanism for dialogue, exchange of experience and lessons learned. Its role as a consultative mechanism for regional cooperation was recognized and affirmed by the inter-governmental Charter of ADPC, which gives the RCC added significance.

The 2001 Bangkok RCC Declaration identified as one of the key action areas; Building Community Level Programs for Risk Reduction. It is therefore very relevant that the theme of the RCC 7 Meeting chosen by the Government of Sri Lanka is Rights-based Community-led Disaster Risk Management.

ADPC has long believed that community action for disaster risk reduction is a crucial element in promoting a “culture of prevention” and creating safer communities. Therefore, community based approaches have been an integral part of the ADPC programs since the mid 1990s. This has included: Working directly with national and local partners and the communities; Capacity building of NGOs, local authorities and other civil society organizations; Advocacy to promote the adoption of community based approaches; Facilitation of experiences and lessons learnt sharing within and across national boundaries; and Strengthening of national and regional cross -sector networking for community based disaster risk reduction.

In 2003 ADPC identified 5 thematic areas of focus for its future work, namely: CBDRM; Climate Risk Management; Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development and Good Governance; Public Health in Emergencies; and Urban Disaster Risk Management.

One important program for promoting and institutionalizing CBDRR has been the Partnerships for Disaster Reduction in Southeast Asia (PDRSEA), a multi-phased project being implemented in Southeast Asian countries since 2000 with financial support from DIPECHO and in collaboration with UNESCAP since 2003. PDRSEA has focused on developing technical capacity of professionals through designing and conducting various training courses, facilitating sharing of experiences, across countries and organizations through newsletters, websites and email list serves. The program has provided support to national networks and led efforts towards regional networking. Practical tools for practitioners have been developed to support community action, including the CBDRM Field Practitioners Handbook and the Critical Guideline for CBDRM. Since 2005, the focus of the program has been on Institutionalizing Community Based Disaster Risk Management in the government policy, planning and implementation. In this regard the program works closely with the National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs), ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and practitioners. In the recently completed phase 4 the program focused more at sub-national and local levels in helping the government departments develop strategies and action plans to support community action.

The Regional End-to-End Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (EWS) Center has been set up as a collaborative effort of 23 Indian Ocean Countries involving 10 RCC member countries namely Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Maldives, Myanmar, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam, with ADPC as system facilitator. The EWS program connects the scientific and technological aspects of hazard monitoring and prediction with the practical application of hazard early warning in risk reduction through: the establishment of a regional network of real-time hazard observing stations; capacity to provide regional advisories to participating countries for early warning; and national and local capacity building in early warning, disaster preparedness and mitigation, including regional exchanges of information, best practices, and lessons learned, as well as research. The recent forecast n cyclone NARGIS provided to the Myanmar Government was appreciated by them and demonstrated the utility of this regional service. The program recognizes the importance of community involvement and has recently developed the Guide for evaluating coastal community resilience to tsunamis and other hazards for Indian Ocean Countries with support from USAID/ASIA.

The regional training course on “Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM)” is one of ADPC’s flagship courses. The course was initiated in 1997 in order to provide an opportunity to practitioners to learn essential skills and knowledge to systematically address disaster risk reduction challenges at the community level. The CBDRM course has been conducted at the regional level 16 times and regularly draws a diverse range of participants working in government agencies, NGOs, CBOs, UN agencies and the private sector from many countries of the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. The course has benefited from its partnership with Duryog Nivaran, Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and national networks of CBDRM practitioner organizations and national CBDRR resource centers. The course has also been adapted to the national context in Afghanistan, India, Sri Lanka, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam, and delivered in collaboration with national partners.

Thus CBDRR activities represents a key priority for ADPC’s work and deliberation at this RCC will set directions for the future of Governmental support and action on community based disaster risk reduction programmes in countries of the region.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am glad to report that under the guidance of the Advisory Panel of the RCC Program on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development, ADPC as the program secretariat has developed the Phase II of the RCC Mainstreaming program to be implemented from 2008-2012. The program entitled “Partnerships for Safe Development and Good Governance” will take forward the initiatives on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in Phase I of the program and contribute to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals. I am glad that this meeting has participation of the National Planning Agencies and sectoral ministries from six member countries.

In the session on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development, we will hear sharing of experience of the RCC member countries on various national initiatives on mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction as well as report on the progress of the RCC program on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development. The various Guideline documents developed under the RCC program will be discussed in detail and experiences shared on Priority Implementation Partnerships. The Program demonstrates the action oriented nature of the RCC deliberations.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the Hanoi RCC 5 Declaration three years ago, the RCC offered to serve as a forum and reporting mechanism through which the progress of implementing the Hyogo Framework in Asia (HFA) can be monitored. This year, a special RCC session is being co-organized with ISDR, ADPC and Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) on the HFA in Asia, which will provide ideas for implementation of HFA in the region as well as identify practical steps for implementing the outcomes of the Second Asian Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction held in November 2007 in India. Deliberations of this session will certainly act as a critical input to the upcoming Third Asian Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Malaysia at the end of December 2008. This reinforces the role of the RCC in the Regional and Global system for disaster risk reduction. I would like to sincerely thank UN/ISDR and ADRC for co hosting this important session during this meeting.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am sure your active sharing of experiences and participation in this meeting for the next two days will help in strengthening regional cooperation on disaster risk reduction and walking towards our shared goal of creating safer and resilient communities. I am confident we will also make specific progress in fine tuning the role of the RCC in the region.

In conclusion, I wish all delegates and guests fruitful deliberations and a pleasant stay in Colombo.

Thank you very much.

**Address by H.E. Hon. Minister Mr. Mahinda Samarasinghe,
Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights
8 May 2008, Taj Samudra Hotel**

Respected dignitaries' and participants

One of the perennial question I am asked when I go for international conferences is the correlation between Disaster Management and Human Rights. It has excellent synergies. We define Disaster Management in this country under the law which is established in the country under the Disaster Management Act of Sri Lanka as both natural and man made disaster prevention, mitigation, response and recovery. So when we talk about either natural or man made disaster, the instruments of human rights should be an integral part of any strategy which is launched to prevent and mitigate, respond and recover those disasters. If one was to talk about the conflict in Sri Lanka which has been going on for more than two decades, and has resulted in many thousands of innocent civilians being killed as results of extreme groups not adhering to the laws of the country and international standards and using innocent civilians as human shields to achieve their parochial ends, this results in not only political instability and as consequence economic instability and slowness in achieving sustainable development objective. It affects finally people's life and results in many thousands of people being displaced and having to be looked after and having to be provided for. So the prevention and mitigation of such conflict is essential, because it affects economic growth and the path towards sustainable development in any country. There are multitude of natural disaster like floods, droughts, cyclones, tsunamis etc. which affects life, the economic growth and the goal of attaining sustainable development which in return would provide for better life styles for the people of our respective countries. So disaster risk management is essential in identifying this multitude of natural disasters and man made disasters that a lot of our countries had to face in the past and will face in the future.

When the tsunami hit Sri Lanka in 2004, at that time disaster management was not thought about comprehensively. Disaster Risk Management was even less thought of. During this last three years after the tsunami we have been able to bring out consensus within and among different political parties represented in our parliament, and to work together to prevent, mitigate and respond better to these multitudes of natural and man made disasters that Sri Lanka would have to face in the future. I was able to as an opposition member way back in 2004, chair an important initiative launched by the Sri Lankan Parliament to establish a select committee of Parliament bringing together the different political ideologies represented in a democratic country such as Sri Lanka, to be able to work together setting aside political agendas and identifying our challenges as not being challenges in the context of political agenda but in the context of it being a national issues. I was able to give leadership to this different political ideologies to understand and appreciate that when one looks at a national issue one must cultivate a sense of urgency to establish synergies and common ground which then can be the common recommendations of political parties which can subsequently be built on either through legislative steps or through institutional plans of action. We identified at that very early stage of coming together and deliberating on what we should do to overcome the challenge Sri Lanka was facing that it is not only a top down impact which is important but also a bottom up impact. We took a very important decision that Disaster Management cannot be and should not be controlled at the center of a country's administration but should be designated to people who are the source of disasters and institutions which are near the source of disaster. Though coordination is necessary from a central location, the operational action should be definitely decentralized so that quick

action can be put into place at the time of a disaster. So we made a conscious decision that this must go in the provinces and districts of Sri Lanka, systems must be put into place to build capacity of local authorities in our country and indeed we must take it down to the grass root level. We must bring in Non Governmental Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, which were wonderful in the way that they responded spontaneously and efficiently and effectively in the immediate aftermath of the tsunami, we must inform and bring into play the communities which must be mobilized during the time of disaster. We studied the excellent volunteer strategies in countries like Australia, where in a time of a disaster people are mobilized immediately thus reducing and decreasing the burden on the Government and the administrative strata of the Government. So we have come a long way in putting that plan into action. We have signed Memorandums of Understandings with key NGO organizations in Sri Lanka, we are using them for training purposes, for disaster prevention and mitigation strategies and this has proven to be extremely effective.

When we talk of human conflict, I spoke of results of such situations with thousands of people being displaced from home; we had such experiences in Sri Lanka with 160,000 people being displaced. Today that figure has come down to 20,000. 140,000 had been resettled meeting international standards. We were very conscious of the fact that when people are being resettled they cannot be forced to go to their original habitat. But they must be provided with enough information so that they can make an informed choice based on the information that we give them. Resettlement has to be purely 100 % volunteer. Before resettlement a secure environment has to be created and the primary responsibility rests on the Government to do that. Demining has to take place when you are talking about resettlement. Certificates has to be issued so that demining is verified and a safe environment is created as a results of that, visits have to be encouraged for the community leaders so that they can go and see for themselves the relatively safe environment that has been created after conflict and of course being satisfied themselves that the Government responded by restoring the basic infrastructure facilities and services and the Government has a plan of action of meeting the livelihood challenges to make the resettlement sustainable.

But the real challenge of course is to prevent and mitigate such conflicts. How do we use conflict resolution techniques to prevent and mitigate, how do we receive early warnings of potential conflicts, how do we cultivate a sense of togetherness of working together, of respecting each others diversity and through that respect of each others diversity cultivating a united effort to meet the challenges that have to be met to prevent and mitigate conflicts. I have found human rights to be an excellent tool in this respect. Human rights are much beyond the fundamental rights that are guaranteed in most of our constitutions. Sri Lanka has ratified all of the core conventions of human rights, core conventions on labor standards and labor laws, but what is important is not only to stop at ratification but to cultivate a sense of urgency and commitment to put into place enabling legislation in our respective legislatures, to give effect to the principles embodied in those conventions. When we ratify a convention we take up certain responsibilities. We do not do that to benefit politically or in the way of development or in the way of international concession. One must have the commitments to put into effect the principles that we take on as a result of ratifying such important conventions. Now as a result of the effect we launched in our parliament we were able to make thirteen important recommendations through this parliamentary select committee process for parliament to consider and for governments to then consider implementation. Our parliament adopted unanimously the report that was submitted by my committee three years ago and as a result the legislative process began by putting in place the Disaster Management Act of Sri Lanka which is the foundation on which we are now operating. This Act created the Disaster Management

Center of Sri Lanka and which is charged with the responsibility of prevention and mitigation of disasters. We have another Ministry called Disaster Management Relief Ministry which has the mandate of resettlement and responding with relief services at the time of a disaster. We do not mix these two together. Of course there is coordination.

One of the most important lessons we learned out of the tsunami experience was the need to have a coordinated approach. There was a pouring of sympathy and goodwill from the international community, from the NGOs who were operating in Sri Lanka and from civil society in general. Our administrative strata did not look at the usual time of their employment, they went beyond that and they dedicated themselves at a 24/ 7 basis to assist in the recovery and relief process of the many thousands of people, but what we realized there was a problem of coordination. As a result of this the services sometimes duplicated and did not reach all the areas it should have, for e.g. certain areas on side of main road affected by the tsunami had an over pouring of relief services and where as certain areas which were inward, were remotely located, as a result of lack of coordination and did not have the level of services that others close by of the main road had the opportunity of receiving.

We have learned that as a result of the decision we took of decentralization, the responsibility of coordinating such services must be given to the government agent who is the main administrative focal point in charge of districts in Sri Lanka. Each district has an administrative head known as the government agent and that government agent is the Incident Command System Commander for the particular district. We have adopted the Incident Command System that was pioneered in the US. The Incident Commander would take in charge during the disaster. There are designated identified focal points in the incident command system which would automatically come together at the time of disaster and they would coordinate and facilitate. NGOs who want to assist, would be received, appreciated and facilitated to reach areas where services is required so as to avoid duplication, have maximum effort in the delivery of services. We are also working very closely with international committee. I head a structure called Consultative Committee on Humanitarian Assistance. We meet on a monthly basis. It has the key secretaries of our ministries such as Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Relief Services, Defense Secretary along with the heads of the UN Agencies, the co chairs for the peace process represented, INGOs and NGO representatives. We discuss openly on what needs to be done. There are problems which are brought up by international communities about access issues, facilitation needed from us. I have all the right people with me to discuss and provide decision. We have civil military liaison officers who are appointed by, who would liaison with international partners and the military and police, so that maximum facilitation could be provided for the delivery of humanitarian and development assistance. Early warning both for conflicts and natural disasters are being put into place. We have secured funding from regular national budget to put in place in the first phase fifty early warning towers which would be in designated location in the coast of Sri Lanka and linked with the 24/7 operation centre which are already in place and functioning but of course would be upgraded as part of this project. There are satellite link ups so that the early warning would be disseminated in one voice from one central location, so that confusion does not take place. This 24/7 is linked to international bodies such as the Tsunami Early Warning Center in Hawaii and Japanese Meteorology Agency. Of course formal links have been established with ADPC on the structure that you are putting into place. When the tsunami struck Sri Lanka on the 26th December 2004 it took one and half hour approximately for the wave to come from Sumatra to the east of Sri Lanka and hit the shores. It was a public holiday in Sri Lanka. We did not have 24/7 operation centre, we did not have formal links with these organizations that I mentioned to you. Have we had links and have we had 24/7 operations center, the warnings would have come and we would have saved thousands of lives. 38,000 people died in Sri Lanka and many more are still missing and that is the level of the impact that we had to face. Today as a result

of the system that has been put into place within fifteen minutes real time I get an advice on my desk which tells me the level of danger for Sri Lanka. We have got systems in place to immediately disseminate the information. We have gone through the drills of training people, identifying high ground, identifying evacuation routes, we have high resolution images of the topography of the two third of the coastline of Sri Lanka. We are using inundation models, to work with policy and search and rescue identified institutions in Sri Lanka and map out evacuation routes and develop a strategy where we can immediately go to the rescue of these people. A lot of work has been done. We still have challenges and still need to learn from the experiences of others and that is why Sri Lanka was very happy to host a conference of this nature where minds can meet, experiences can be shared. We do not know everything. We are looking forward to learning from you more. Of course we would act on that.

A very important initiative that was launched at the last session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva where a host of countries came together and sponsored a resolution on establishing the connection between global warming, climate change and human rights. Sri Lanka was happy to co sponsor this resolution. We have decided in Sri Lanka that we are willing to host a regional meeting to discuss this issue. This is once again the connection between disaster and human rights, going to a forum like Human Rights Council where we can work globally to come to the assistance of countries that would be affected as a result of no fault of their own. Those who are responsible for this kind of situation must also cultivate a sense of responsibility and urgency to come to the assistance of those countries that has to face a huge disaster in future. Hope during the course of your deliberation you would look into some of the issues that I raised here in my key note address.

Thank you very much.

**Vote of Thanks by Madam Corazon Alma De Leon,
Vice Chair, ADPC Board of Trustees
8 May 2008, Taj Samudra Hotel**

Your Excellency Mr. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Government of Sri Lanka, Mr. Peter Dias Amarasinghe Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Government of Sri Lanka, Professor Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, Chairman of the ADPC Board of Trustees, Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, Executive Director, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, Excellencies, RCC members and observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor to deliver a vote of thanks to you this morning as we commence the 7th Regional Consultative Committee Meeting on Disaster Management, here in Colombo. The presence of so many distinguished guests and representatives at this important meeting demonstrates the commitment of all RCC member countries to the goal of reducing hazard risks through enhanced information and experience sharing on disaster risk reduction. We are indeed honoured by the presence of His Excellency Mr. Mahinda Samarasinghe's at this 7th RCC meeting and on behalf of ADPC and the RCC delegates present here today, I wish to extend him a very hearty vote of thanks for sharing with this audience your time, experience and vision.

We are pleased to acknowledge the hard work of Mr. Peter Dias Amarasinghe at this note-worthy meeting whose significant contribution has led his team in significantly arranging this meeting.

We are especially grateful to the Government of Sri Lanka for receiving us with so warm a welcome to this delightful country and for co-hosting the 7th RCC meeting so willingly and with great generosity.

We are extremely thankful to the Government of Australia for supporting the RCC mechanism since its inception. The RCC has been widely recognized as a steadfast, effective regional mechanism for furthering disaster risk reduction initiatives and providing a venue from which to share information, experiences and lessons learnt. In highlighting this, we also recognize the invaluable, greatly enabling contribution of AusAID and wish to extend wholehearted thanks for their sustained generosity and support.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our most sincere thanks to all RCC delegates and observers from all represented international and regional organizations for their support and cooperation. We are very much encouraged by the impressive turnout at this significant meeting. It is anticipated that the sessions will be open, encouraging inputs, insights and experiences from all the RCC members on disaster risk reduction in their countries and the region. Therefore, I would like to encourage all the participants to actively participate in the discussions in the next three days.

I also wish to express thanks to our partner organizations in Sri Lanka who have helped us with arrangements and in detailed planning of the meeting. I am especially thankful to our colleagues from Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights for their extraordinary efforts in co-organizing this meeting and without whom the arrangements could not have been so smoothly or successfully accomplished. We are greatly cheered to be working alongside such supportive, patient and adept colleagues.

I want to extend heartfelt thanks to UN-ISDR and ADRC for co-organizing one of the sessions in the meeting regarding HFA implementation in Asia.

Lastly, I wish to draw your attention to the many months of preparatory work that have been put in to organizing and planning for this 7th RCC meeting. The dedicated staff of ADPC deserves to be recognized for their hard work, tireless energy and firm resolve for the purpose of bringing this important meeting to fruition. This demonstrates their commitment to risk reduction ultimately to our united goal in promoting safer communities and sustainable development. I extend my heartfelt thanks to you all for your continued efforts in pursuit of this important cause.

I wish you all a very fruitful deliberation and let us look forward and pay close attention to the outputs from these three days of experience sharing, partnership building and vision setting.

Thank you all very much.

ANNEX E: Follow-up Actions Taken by ADPC on Recommendations by Previous RCC Meetings (RCC 1 - 6)

A. Consolidated List of Recommendation made at RCC Meetings (RCC1-6) (As reported at 7th RCC Meeting)

1. Creating Awareness & Political Support (RCC 1 & 2)
 - 1.1 Creating Awareness, Promoting Political Will & Support
 - 1.2 Advocacy of Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management
2. Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development Policy, Planning & Implementation in Asia (MDRD) (RCC 1, 4, 5 & 6)
3. Capacity Building of National Disaster Management Systems (RCC 1 & 2)
 - 3.1 Capacity Building of National Disaster Management Systems
 - 3.2 Development of Disaster Management Plans
 - 3.3 Exchanging Experience on Legal & Institutional Arrangements
 - 3.4 Building of National Disaster Management Information Systems
 - 3.5 Improving Disaster Management Training
 - 3.6 Enhancing Scientific & Technical Cooperation in Disaster Management
4. Public Awareness and Media (RCC 1, 2 & 4)
 - 4.1 Enhancing Public Awareness on Disaster Risk Reduction & Media Coverage
5. Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) (RCC 2)
 - 5.1 National CBDRM Trainings & Country Level Pilots
 - 5.2 CBDRM Regional Programs
 - 5.3 Mobile, Neighborly, Cross-border Search & Rescue Team
 - 5.4 Actionable Community Level Early Warning System
6. Cooperation with Sub-Regional Agencies (RCC 1 & 2)
 - 6.1 Cooperation with Mekong River Commission (MRC)
 - 6.2 Cooperation with ICIMOD/WMO
 - 6.3 Cooperation with ASEAN
 - 6.4 Cooperation with SAARC
 - 6.5 Cooperation with SOPAC
 - 6.6 Cooperation in East Asia
 - 6.7 Cooperation in Central Asia
 - 6.8 Cooperation in West Asia
7. Regional Initiatives (RCC 1 & 2)
 - 7.1. Asian Regional Conference
 - 7.2. Asian Regional Report on Disaster Reduction
 - 7.3. Vulnerability Atlas for Asia: Development of Risk Maps & Local Level Referencing for Countries in the Asian Region
8. Flood Management and Mitigation (RCC 2 & 3)
9. Drought Management and Mitigation (RCC 3)

10. Urban Disaster Risk Management (RCC 4)
11. Building Capacity for Management of Man-made Disasters (RCC 2)
12. RCC Mechanisms (RCC 1, 2 & 6)
 - 12.1 Periodic Information Dissemination / Sharing in the Region
 - 12.2 Role & Function of RCC
 - 12.3 Expansion of RCC Membership & Observer Base
13. Support to implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action and Monitoring Progress (RCC5& 6)

B. Follow-up Actions Taken by ADPC on Recommendations of Previous RCC Meetings (RCC 1 - 6)

(Presented to the 7th RCC Meeting at Colombo, Sri Lanka, 08-10 May 2008)

No.	Prioritized RCC Action	Actions by ADPC since 2000
1.	Creating Awareness & Political Support (RCC 1 & 2)	
	1.1. Creating awareness, promoting political will and support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inauguration of Opening Ceremonies of RCC Meetings by Head of State or Government and participants of senior political figures in RCC 2,3,4,and 5. • Holding of RCC meetings in conjunction with the commemoration of National Disaster reduction days. • ADPC prepared concept paper "Creating Awareness, Political Will and Support for Disaster Management and Mitigation" discussed at RCC2. • Making presentations at ASEAN Ministerial Meetings on Disaster Management, December '04 – Phnom Penh, Phuket Ministerial Meeting on Regional Cooperation on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements, 28-29 January '05 – Thailand, ESCAP Ministerial Conference on Environmental and Sustainable Development, March '05 - Pusan, Korea. • Exploring probability of making presentations on disaster management at regional meetings of parliamentarians-on-going dialogues with EWC. • Proposed advocacy meetings with National committees/Councils of Disaster Management and with agencies responsible for Finance and Planning under the RCC program on MDRD
	1.2. Advocacy of Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCC 3 noted the work done in Bangladesh, China, India and Philippines and endorsed the need for RCC and its member countries to promote comprehensive multi-hazard approach. • Workshops held for Royal Thai Government officials on "Institutional Arrangements for Total Risk Management", 3-4 April 2002,Bangkok, Thailand and "Total Disaster Risk Management" with DDPM-Thailand, 18 July '04. • "2nd Consultative Meeting on Total Disaster Risk Management", jointly hosted by ADRC/OCHA/ADPC, 13-14 June 2002, Bangkok, Thailand. Attended by Regional Organization and Regional Offices of UN Agencies. • Primer on Disaster Risk Management developed by ADPC with support from UNDP & USAID, draft versions presented and discussed at RCC 3&4 (2004-2005) • 2 tailored courses on "Total Disaster Risk Management" conducted in Bangladesh in 2003. • The 3rd Regional Consultative Meeting of Regional Organizations & Regional Offices of UN Agencies jointly organized by WHO& ADPC from 24-25 February 2004 in the

		<p>Philippines on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management into Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training course on Governance and Disaster Risk Management for Local Government officers and elected persons, under PROMISE program.
2.	Mainstreaming/ Integrating Disaster Management into Development Planning (RCC 1 , 4, 5& 6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiated Development of "Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development Policy, Planning and Implementation in Asia (MDRD)" program in 2002. • RCC 4 endorsed revised concept paper on MDRD and initiated MDRD program. • Presentation of Mainstreaming concept at the 1st ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management, 7 December 2004 and at Phuket Ministerial Meeting on Regional Cooperation on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements, 28-29 January 2005. • "Disasters & Development (D&D)" course launched in Asia in 2004 jointly by ADPC, WHO, and UNDP. • Production and wide distribution of brochure on MDRD in 2005 and launching of the Program at World Conference on Disaster Reduction, January 2005 – Kobe, Japan. • Registration of RCC MDRD Program as a post WCDR Partnership. • Development of draft outline for Priority Implementation Projects. • Development of outline for guidelines and production of draft guidelines. • Constitution of Advisory Panel for the RCC program on MDRD, 1st Meeting 23-24 March 2005 (Bangkok), 2nd Meeting 17 May 2005 (Hanoi) • Request for Initial Proposal for Priority Implementation Projects (PIPs) from RCC member countries in April 2005. • Development of RCC Guidelines on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Agriculture Sector • Development of RCC Guidelines on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Education Sector • Development of RCC Guidelines on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Road Sector • Development of RCC Guidelines on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Land Use Planning (Draft • Development of Implementation plan for initiating Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Agriculture Sector of Lao PDR • Development of Implementation plan for initiating Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into School Curriculum of Cambodia • Priority Implementation Partnership in Philippines on Mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction into Infrastructure sector by incorporating risk assessment procedures into planning and construction of new Roads in Philippines • Mainstreaming DRM into Local Governance under PROMISE Program • Priority Implementation Partnership in Cambodia, Lao PDR and the Philippines on Mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction into Education sector • Developed Phase II of the RCC MDRD Program; Partnerships for Safe Development and Good Governance • Presented the progress made on the RCC MDRD Program at the First Session of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, Geneva, June 2007 • Presented the progress made on the RCC MDRD Program at the 2nd Asian Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction, New Delhi, November 2007 	

3.	<p>Capacity Building of National Disaster Management Systems (RCC 1 & 2)</p> <p>3.1 Capacity Building & Institutional Strengthening of National Disaster Management Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has programmed and implemented capacity building activities for the NDMOs of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, East Timor, India, Lao PDR, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. • Successful implementation of DANIDA-funded Disaster Reduction Program for Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam in Disaster Risk Communication. • ADB Technical Assistance project in Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh in strengthening their disaster management systems, resulting in the establishment of the first state level Ministry of Disaster Management and state level Disaster management Center in Uttaranchal, in 2002-03. • ADPC-World bank Workshop on "Reconstruction Needs Analysis, Planning and Implementation" 13-15 August 2002, Bangkok, Thailand. • Conducted DM training for provincial DM authorities in 5 provinces of China. • Assisting GSDMA, Gujarat, India, in enhancing their "Damage Assessment & Loss Estimation" system through adaptation of ECLAC methodology (2004-2005). • "Regional Capacity Enhancement for Landslide Impact Mitigation (RECLAIM)" project with funding from Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2004-05). • Supported Government of Indonesia and UNDP in developing Gol-UNDP program on decentralized disaster risk reduction (March – June 2005) • Supported Government of Sri Lanka through UNDP in developing "Road Map for Safer Sri Lanka" (October –December 2005) • Assisted in building capacity for DALA in 4 countries, Indonesia, India (Tamil Nadu), Sri Lanka and Thailand under Government of Netherlands/SNV supported program • Improving inter-agency coordination at all levels through the establishment of National Steering Committee that will meet at least twice a year before the start of the monsoon to share management plan and elaborate institutional response during the previous monsoon.
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	3.2 Development of Disaster Management Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to preparation of National Disaster Management Plan of Sri Lanka. • ADPC supporting development of state and pilot district plans in Uttar Pradesh & Uttar Ranchal States in India under ADB project (2002-03). • Under AUDMP, assisted municipal authorities in Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh & Indonesia to improve preparedness plan at city level. • Conducted 3 training courses in "Planning for Disaster Management" in India in collaboration with NCDM, India (2002). • Under MR.C Program of Flood Management and Mitigation, ADPC supports development of Provincial & District Flood Preparedness Plans in Mekong provinces of Cambodia, Lao & Vietnam. (2004-2006/Ongoing) • ADPC supported the Government of Sri Lanka in developing first draft of initial disaster management plan (Feb-June 2006)
	3.3. Exchanging Experience on Legal & Institutional Arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian Regional workshop held on "Legal and Institutional Arrangements for Disaster Management", 24-26 April 2002 in Bangkok. • Publication on "Overview of Disaster Management in Southeast Asia" under PDR-SEA 1 project. • Special session in Regional Lessons learned Workshop in Bali, September '02. • Research on National & Provincial Arrangements for Preparedness & Response in PDR-SEA 3. • Documentation of the current practices of national, provincial and district disaster management systems to support CBDRM, in Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Lao and Vietnam under PDR-SEA 3 project implemented by UNESCAP and ADPC with ECHO funding.
	3.4 Building of National Disaster Management Information Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADPC presented paper on "National DM Information Systems in Asia" at 4th GDIN Conference in Canberra 2001. • National level trainings for Information Management in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam under PDR-SEA 2 project in 2004. • Joint implementation of Pilot National Hazards and Vulnerability Atlas's for Vietnam and Thailand with Pacific Disaster Center in 2005. • See also reports on development of Vulnerability Atlas (Section 7.3 of this document)

3.5 Improving Disaster Management Training (RCC 1, 2 & 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening capacities of national institutions and consolidating ADMIT; review of capacities and needs. • Supporting NDMOs Training Capacity Building under PRD-SEA 1, 2 & 3 projects & MR.C-ECHO & MR.C-GTZ projects. • Development and delivery of courses Public Health in Emergency Management in Asian & the Pacific (PHEMAP), Hospital Emergency Preparedness & Response (HEPR), Public Health in Complex Emergencies (PHCE), Disasters & Development (D&D), Management of Public Health Risks in Disasters (MPHR), Management of the Dead and the Missing in Disasters (MDM), Health Care Facility Emergency Preparedness and Response to Epidemics & Pandemics (HCF-EPREP), Nutrition of Children & Mothers in Disasters (NCMD). • Has undertaken consultancy assignments in evaluation of training courses run by partner organizations in Cambodia, Lao, Myanmar. • "Capacity Building in Asia using Information Technology Applications (CASITA)" project implemented by ADPC in partnership with ITC and with EU Funding, for the institutionalization of academic courses of disaster mitigation at university level. • Program for Enhancement of Emergency Responses (PEER): Training to four earthquake prone countries of India, Philippines, Nepal and Indonesia. • UN-DMTP Trainings in Indonesia, East Timor and Papua New Guinea in 2002 • Conducted training on Damage and Loss Estimation for officials from provincial departments in Colombo, Tamil Nadu and Yogyakarta. • Conducted Regional Workshop for national DM authorities from Sri Lanka, Maldives, India, Thailand, Pakistan and Indonesia on Local Level Recovery Planning and Hazard Mitigation
3.6 Enhancing Scientific & Technical Cooperation in Disaster Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADPC through ECE and Climate Forecasting Application in Bangladesh (CFAB) project is promoting dialogue among scientists & users in Indonesia, Philippines, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Thailand. • At the RCC 1 & 3, India proposed regional study on drought in South Asia. ADPC is trying to identify resources. • "Drought Management and Livelihood System" pilot projects in Rajasthan, India and Bali, Indonesia with IRI (2005). • Applied Research Grants for Disaster Reduction in collaboration with Provention Consortium, World Bank in 2004 and 2005. • Promoting research in Academic institutions on GIS, Geodata application in DRM, under the CASITA program.

4.	Public Awareness & Media (RCC 1, 2 & 4)	
	4.1. Enhancing Public Awareness on Disaster Risk Reduction & Media Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the Department of Local Administration - Thailand on producing of Public Awareness Material on Flood, earthquake, landslide & Tsunami. • Working in Thailand on Mine Awareness Campaign in Province of Sae Kaew, Mae Hong Son and Chiang Mai. • Working in AUDMP project on Public Awareness Campaign in Nepal, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. • "Disaster Reduction Program in Cambodia, Lao & Vietnam (DRP-CLV)" focused on disaster risk communication with pilot program at the provincial level in Cambodia and Vietnam implemented and public awareness materials distributed. • Educational materials on flood and earthquake preparedness produced and distributed in Uttar Pradesh under ADB-TA (2002-03). • UNESCAP-ADPC Journalism Award for Outstanding Reporting on Emergencies and Disasters, launched at International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction, Bangkok, Thailand, 13 October 2004. • "Climate and Media" workshop held in 2004 by CRM team to promote dissemination of climate and extreme weather related information to the public through media (print, radio & TV). • Developed Media Kit on Community Based Disaster Risk Management and the Media under the PDR SEA 3 • Public awareness activities implemented under MR.C-ADPC-GTZ projects in Cambodia and Vietnam
5.	Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) (RCC 2)	
	5.1. National CBDRM Trainings and Country Level Pilots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted national training courses on CBDM and Urban Disaster Mitigation (UDM) in Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, India, Laos, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam in collaboration with national partner training institutions. • Pilot flood project in Hat Yai Thailand in 2003. • Coordinated regional training on CBDRM with SOPAC in February '05. • CBDRM Program funded by UNDP Thailand implemented in cooperation with DDPM Thailand in Twelve Southern Provinces of Thailand. • CBDRM Training modules for the urban context, under the PROMISE and Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunities (SHAHAARDO) program

5.2.	CBDRM Regional Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of concept paper for Asian Earthquake Vulnerability Reduction Program for high risk cities and districts. • Twelve international CBDRM courses in Bangkok & the region (since 1997). • Development of CBDRM curriculum, Regional Training of Trainers and Development of technical capacity of practitioners and partner organizations in CBDRM under PDR-SEA 1 (2001-02) project. • Community based Flood Risk Management Project developed and implemented in Cambodia and Thailand under AUDMP. • "Integrating CBDRM into Socio-Economic Development Process" workshop in Bangkok, 11-13 August 2004. • "3rd Disaster Management Practitioners Workshop on CBDRM", by ADPC, UNESCAP and IFRC in Bangkok, 11-13 May 2004. • Publication of regular printed and electronic newsletters on CBDRM to facilitate information sharing under PDR-SEA 2 , 3 and 4 project. • Publication of Practitioners Handbook for CBDRM Practitioners.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed new training courses on participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation, disaster risk communication at the community level and participatory disaster risk assessment. • Institutionalization of CBDRM into Government, Policy, Practice and implementation at the regional level under PDR-SEA 3 project (2005-06), PDR-SEA 4 project (2007-08). • Development of Critical Guidelines for Community –Based Disaster Risk Management • Training and Capacity Building Project (TCBP) in Afghanistan (2004-05). • Development of Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy for Cambodia (2005-2006) under ADB TA on Community Self Reliance and Flood Risk Reduction • Implementing Regional Program on Community Resilience under DANIDA funded program in Cambodia and Vietnam (2005-2007) • Basic Emergency Response Courses funded by UNDP providing training for instructors and communities for first medical response in Thailand and Maldives • "5th Disaster Management Practitioners Workshop on CBDRM", by ADPC, UNESCAP and ECHO in Phnom Penh, 2-4 April 2008.

	5.3. Mobile, Neighborly, Cross Border Search & Rescue Team (RCC 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Establishment of ASEAN Response Action Plan” – one of the priority projects under the ASEAN Regional program on Disaster Management, jointly developed by ACDM and ADPC. • Facilitation of trans-boundary emergency assistance under the GTZ-MR.C-ADPC program “Flood Emergency Management Strengthening” in MR.C member countries – Cambodia, Lao, Thailand and Vietnam. • Developing City level responders teams under the PROMISE program
	5.4. Actionable Community Level Early Warning System (RCC 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of “Overview of Early Warning System in Southeast Asia” under PDR-SEA 1 (2001-02) project. • Community level flood early warning system a key component within the trainings conducted in Cambodia & Vietnam under ECHO-MR.C-ADPC Capacity Building project Phase I (2003-04). • ADPC taking lead role in establishing end-to-end Multi-Hazard Early Warning System covering 10 countries of South and South East Asia and China
6.	Cooperation with Sub-Regional Agencies (RCC 1 & 2)	
	6.1 Cooperation with Mekong River Commission (MR.C) (RCC 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributed to the formulation of the regional Flood Management and Mitigation Strategy Implementation Program of MR.C. • Appraisal of “Flood and Emergency Management Strengthening” component 4 of the MR.C Flood management and Mitigation Program FMMP (June-July 2003). • Successful Implementation of Joint Program with MR.C on DIPECHO funded “Capacity Building for Flood Preparedness Planning using Flood Information Systems in the Lower Mekong Basin” Phase 1 (2003-2004) and Phase II (2005-2006). • Implementation of GTZ-MR.C-ADPC “Flood and Emergency Management Strengthening” program under MRC’s FMMP (2004-07). • Participated in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Annual Flood Forums of MR.C in May 2002, October 2003, April 2005 and May 2006 and gave presentations on “Enhanced Flood Preparedness at Community, Provincial and National Levels”, “Regional Capacities and Partnerships for Flood Preparedness, Damage Mitigation and Flood Proofing” and “Proposed Mekong FMM Newsletter & Awareness Materials: First Steps towards a Mekong FMM Partnership” respectively.

	6.2 Cooperation with ICIMOD/WMO (RCC 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADPC participated in ICIMOD-WMO meetings on South Asian Cooperation in Flood Management and is in dialogue on further collaboration (2001 & 2003). • Undertook a study commissioned by WMO on "Social Aspects of Integrated Flood Management". • Cooperating with ICIMOD in implementing courses on Earthquake vulnerability reduction (2002, 2005, 2006). • Participating in ICIMOD Programs on "Flash Flood Management" and "Enhancing Disaster Preparedness in South Asia". (2005 and 2006)
	6.3 Cooperation with ASEAN (RCC 1, 2 & 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held a workshop on "Development of ASEAN Regional Program on Disaster Management (ARPDm)" on 25-27 March 2002 to facilitate the development of the program. • Provided assistance in development of the ASEAN Regional Program on Disaster Management which was presented and endorsed at 12th AEGDM meeting, August 2002 in Hanoi, Vietnam. • On-going dialogue with ASEAN Secretariat on proposal for ADPC collaboration on the Implementation of the ARPDm. • Assisted with the production and printing of the ARPDm which was launched in Bali at ACDM meeting, 26-27 May 2004 and submitted proposals to ACDM at its 1st & 3rd meetings in Brunei (2003) and Phnom Penh (2004).. • Conducted "Feasibility Study for Establishment and Operationalization of an ASEAN Emergency Response and Strategic Planning Institute for Environmental Disasters" in 2004 • ADPC Support Activities to ARF ISM IDR: • ARF Disaster Management Workshop Jan1999 co-chaired by Royal Thai Government and Government of New Zealand; supported by USAID; organized by ADPC • ARF Workshop on Training of Trainers for Disaster Response Operations Jan 2000 co chaired by Royal Thai Government and Government of Australia; organized by ADPC • ARF Matrix of cooperation in disaster management among ASEAN Regional Forum Participating countries, compiled by ADPC on the request of ARF and presented at the 3rd meeting in Moscow

6.4 Cooperation with SAARC (RCC 1, 2, 3 & 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A concept paper prepared on “South Asian Cooperation in Disaster Management”, which was discussed at SAARC Technical Committee Meeting on Environment & Meteorology in March 2001 in Bhutan: as well as SAARC Standing Committee in August in Colombo. SAARC Secretariat supports Collaboration between Member countries and ADPC. • Assisted Indian Meteorological Department for SAARC regional workshop in Delhi on 25-28 March 2002. • On-going discussion with SAARC Secretariat on a collaborative MoU with ADPC and convening of a regular meeting of SAARC focal points on disaster management. • Call for strengthening cooperation on disaster management in SAARC made at both RCC 3 & 4. • RCC 3 calls for development of South Asian Regional Program on Disaster Management. ADPC developed a proposal on “Strengthening of South Asian Cooperation on Disaster Management”, in partnership with UN-ISDR and submitted it to ECHO (2003).
6.5 Cooperation with SOPAC (RCC 1&2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOU signed between ADPC and SOPAC in March 2001. • ADPC participated in SOPAC Annual Meeting in September 2001 in Auckland. • Delivery of CBDRM course in Fiji in 2005. • SOPAC attended RCC 5 meeting in Hanoi.
6.6 Cooperation with East Asia (RCC 1, 2, 3 & 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study tours for Chinese Civil Affairs officers to Thailand and Sri Lanka. • FRM course conducted in Beijing in cooperation with the Research Center on Flood & Drought Disaster Reduction, Ministry of Water Resources. • Planned activities on CBDRM trainings at provincial level in Jiangxi and Qinghai provinces of China. • ADPC facilitated cooperation between Mongolia and Australia Fire Services on wild land fire management.
6.7 Cooperation with Central Asia (RCC 1 & 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up with USAID on the feasibility study on the establishment of a regional center in Georgia (2002). • Dialogue with ISDR Central Asia office, UNDP & SDC offices & Focus Humanitarian in Tajikistan. • Training conducted in Tajikistan

	6.8 Cooperation with West Asia (RCC 1 & 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jordan has invited ADPC to participate in West Asian regional consultation 27-30 Oct 2001. • Disaster management training courses for disaster management practitioners in Iran and Turkey, 2004. • Support to Government of Iran/UNDP Program on "Earthquake Vulnerability Reduction" • Training course on Management of Public Health Risks with WHO-EMR.O and Iraq Ministry of Health, held in Jordan, 2005. • Training workshop on Nutrition of Children and Mothers in Disasters in Iran, with UNICEF and MoH Iran, December 2005
7.	Regional Initiatives (RCC 1 & 2)	
	7.1. Asian Regional Conference (RCC 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADPC prepared concept paper on "Organizing of Asia Regional Multi-stakeholder Conference on Disaster Reduction and Support to National Conferences" and tabled at RCC2. • Dialogue with potential cooperating partners (ISDR, UNDP, WHO) underway. • Held Asian Regional Conference on Best Practices on Disaster Mitigation in September '02. • Held 2nd, 3rd and 4th "Southeast Asia Disaster Management Practitioners Workshop" in 2001 (Danang) and 2004 and 2006 (Bangkok). • Organized, in collaboration with ISDR, "Asia Partnership Special Sessions on Asia" in WCDR. • Offered support to RCC members to assist in planning for national conferences.
	7.2. Asian Regional Report on Disaster Reduction (RCC 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADPC prepared concept paper on "Asian Regional Report on Disaster Reduction" and presented it at RCC2. • Review of Disaster Risk Management Practices in South East Asia. • Constitution of ARRDR Advisory group/editorial panel. • Preparation and presentation of a framework for analysis. • Identification of national partners for compilation of information. • ADPC contributed to the ISDR Global Report on Disaster Reduction. • World Bank supported study on Regional Analysis of Socio Economic Impact of December 2004 Earthquake and Indian Ocean Tsunami

	<p>7.3. Vulnerability Atlas for Asia: Development of Risk Maps & Local Level Referencing for Countries in the Asian Region (RCC 1 & 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADPC tabled concept paper on “Vulnerability Atlas for Asia: Development of Risk maps and Local Level “Referencing” for countries of the Asian Region” at RCC2. • Development of guidelines for Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam to undertake risk mapping at the national level. • Joint implementation of Pilot National Hazards and Vulnerability Atlas’s for Vietnam and Thailand with Pacific Disaster Center since 2004.
8.	<p>Flood Management & Mitigation (RCC 2 & 3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular “Urban Flood Mitigation” and “Flood Risk Management” courses conducted annually. • Flood preparedness and mitigation projects implemented in India, Cambodia, Lao, Vietnam, Thailand. • Consultation initiated for dialogue between neighboring provinces of Cambodia & Vietnam. • Trainings on “Flood Preparedness Planning at Provincial and District Level” developed and conducted (in local languages) in collaboration with MR.C in Cambodia, Lao and Vietnam. • “Primer on Integrated Flood Risk Management” developed under AUDMP with USAID and UNDP support. • Three tier flood forecasts technology developed for Bangladesh (2003) • Capacity Building of Bangladesh institutions now ongoing to transfer the technology and apply the flood forecasts locally for decision making in agriculture and DM (2006-2009)
9.	<p>Drought Management & Mitigation (RCC 3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Managing Livelihood Impacts and Drought in India and Indonesia” pilot projects in Rajasthan, India and Bali, Indonesia with IRI (2004). • RCC 3 recommended ADPC to link with ongoing programs of UNDP, INCRISAT, IUCN, ESCAP & ISDR. • Climate forecast application to anticipate potential impacts of dry spells, droughts in agriculture and water resources sectors- Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam (2003-2008) • Climate change impact assessment and livelihood adaptation options in drought prone areas- Bangladesh (2004-2005)
10.	<p>Urban Disaster Risk Management (RCC 4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Asian Urban Disaster Mitigation Program (AUDMP)” from 1995-2005 in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka & Thailand with sustained funding from USAID/OFDA • Dialogue with RCC member countries on needs identified through presentations in RCC 4. • “Urban Flood Mitigation” course developed and delivered regularly. • “Land-use Planning” course developed and delivered in Lao and Sri Lanka. • Held regional workshop on “Best Practices in Disaster Mitigation” in Bali Indonesia, from 22-24th September 2002, with funding from USAID/OFDA and partnership with other agencies. • Currently Implementing Program on Hydro meteorological Disaster Mitigation in Secondary Cities in Asia. The program is being implemented in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam with funding from USAID/OFDA
11.	<p>Building Capacity for Management of Man-made Disasters (RCC 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NBC course with FOI, ARC and EMA. • Cooperated with Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Royal Thai Government and Australian Government in organizing one session in Prevention of

	<p>Terrorism workshop on 17-19 April 2002 (presentation by ARC on "September 11 American Red Cross Responds").</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperate with UNEP-DTIE and ROAP on APELL program. • Held the first "Seminar on Emergency Planning and Enhancing Safety in Large Buildings" in collaboration with National Fire protection Association on 4th February 2002. • Mine risk education trainings in Mae Hong Son and Chiang Mai (2004). 	
12.	RCC Mechanisms (RCC 1 & 2)	
	12.1 Periodic Information Dissemination/ Sharing in the Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADPC sends newsletter to all RCC members and will develop email/ list serve. • Widely circulated RCC report as well as the soft copy of the report posted on the ADPC website. • Presented outcomes of RCC at annual ADPC Board of Trustees meetings and other regional meetings.
	12.2 Role and Function of RCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADPC to continue as convener & secretariat
	12.3 Expansion of RCC Membership and Observers Base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During 2001, Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia and Kazakhstan confirmed their membership. During 2004, Afghanistan accepted membership and during 2005 Maldives accepted membership. • Representatives from ISDR, World Bank, SIDA, EWC, ADB, UN Agencies and bilateral donors invited and participating to 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th RCC

Safer communities and sustainable development through disaster reduction



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