

Manila RCC 8 Statement on Implementing national programs on community-based disaster risk reduction in high-risk communities

We the delegates from RCC member countries, viz., Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Jordan, Korea, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam, having met in Manila, The Philippines from 22nd -24th February, 2010 for the 8th Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC) organized by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) in collaboration with the Government of the Philippines;

Recognizing, the most serious impact of a disaster is always felt by the local communities and their immediate environment;

Realizing, disaster risk is mostly shaped at the local level depending on the way communities and local stakeholders interact with the local environment, manage the natural resources and built environment;

Recalling that the RCC had at its second meeting in 2001 identified 'Building community level programs for preparedness and mitigation' as one of the Key Action Areas for the RCC;

Recalling the seventh meeting of the RCC held in Colombo in May 2008, with the theme of 'Rights based community led disaster risk management', affirmed the commitment of RCC Members to take up national programs on Community-based disaster risk (CBDRR) reduction in high risk communities;

Affirming the commitment to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the resilience of Nations and Communities to disasters'; adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in January 2005, the first priority for action of which calls for 'Ensuring that disaster risk reduction is a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation' and in the process ensuring community participation, so that local needs are met.

Affirming the priorities identified by our honorable Ministers at the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Kuala Lumpur on 2 -4 December 2008, which adopted the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction, which included as one of the priority areas 'Decentralized DRR: Empowerment of local government and civil society in DRR';

Recognizing the need to scale up community level action for DRR in all high risk communities

This 8th Meeting of the RCC calls upon every RCC member country to develop and implement national programs on CBDRR in high-risk communities with the following components:

A. Legal and policy frameworks enabling CBDRR

A1 National DRR policy and legislation in place and providing an enabling environment for community level action on DRR

A2 Legislation on related sectors (such as urban development, water resource management, local government) which recognizes the importance of community level action for reducing risk from natural hazards

A3 National DRR Action Plan and programs prioritizing CBDRR as a key component

- A4 National CBDRR Strategies developed to guide scaling up implementation of CBDRR especially in larger countries where large number of districts are at risk from natural hazards.
- A5 National Action Plans for Climate Change Adaptation recognizing CBDRR as a key strategy for adaptation and building resilience to climate change at local level
- A6 Post disaster recovery and reconstruction programs identifying CBDRR as a key element

B. Technical support to community level action on DRR

- B1 National risk maps identifying high risk provinces, districts and communities for prioritized implementation of CBDRR
- B2 National technical agencies disseminating hazard and risk maps to community organization through local authorities
- B3 Forecasts and early warning disseminated by local authorities through community level organization in order to reach communities at risk
- B4 Shared methodologies and tools developed for hazard, vulnerabilities and capacity assessment and local level DRR action planning

C. Strengthening partnership on CBDRR between local authorities, implementing partners and community organization (CBOs), civil society organizations and private sectors

- C1 Promotion of effective mechanisms for collaboration and information sharing between Governments at various levels and NGOs, civil society organizations and private sector to achieve accountability and sustainability of CBDRM Programs, as well as coordination with national and local level planning processes
- C2 District DM Plans developed by local authorities are effectively linked to DRR plans at all levels from national to community level
- C3 Award schemes established for recognition of good practices in CBDRR
- C4 Institutionalizing the role of educational institutions in promoting CBDRR by raising awareness among communities and participating in community level initiatives.

D. Resourcing CBDRR and linking with local development programs

- D1 National DRR program budgets including specific budgetary allocation for CBDRR activities
- D2 Local governments in high risk districts earmarking budgetary resources for CBDRR
- D3 Community-based measures identified in the local (provincial, district, commune, village) DRR plans included as inputs to the local development plan
- D4 DRR integrated into community development projects carried out by NGOs and community based organizations in line with national and local policies
- D5 Recognizing and building on community capacities, coping mechanisms and indigenous knowledge

E. Strengthening capacity on CBDRR

- E1 Investment in orientation and training on CBDRR for Government staff working at district, commune and village level through making use of existing capacity building systems such as college extension services

E2 Expansion of systems and institutions delivering training on CBDRR for local authorities, implementing partner NGOs and community organizations

E3 Adopting cost effective approaches for building capacity, such as by institutionalizing CBDRM courses within educational system at tertiary level

Requests the RCC members who have been implementing national programs on CBDRR to provide technical support to other RCC members in developing similar programs;

Requests ADPC in its capacity as secretariat of the RCC mechanism to contribute through the following actions:

- Development of customized regional advocacy manual covering guidelines on the scope and content of national programs, building on experiences of RCC member countries
- Providing technical support to interested RCC member countries in developing national programs on CBDRR

Calls on development partners UN agencies, donors, Red Cross Societies and NGOs to partner with the RCC and its member countries in implementation of national programs on CBDRR;

Requests the Government of the Philippines in its capacity as RCC Chair to carry the message in this Statement to the 4th Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR, in Incheon, Korea, October 2010 and beyond.

Appreciates the support provided by the Government of Australia to this important RCC mechanism

Acknowledges with great appreciation the gracious hosting and warm hospitality extended by the Government of the Philippines for the RCC8 Meeting.

Thanks ADPC for effectively fulfilling its role as RCC secretariat.
