

Jan Egeland signals a warning - climate change and inequality on the rise

Interest Story

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BANGKOK, Thailand – Globally, income inequality is on the rise; the richest portion of the world population is over 100 times richer than the poorest, and while this portion of the population continues to gain from accelerated economic growth afforded by industrialization, this same economic growth and industrialization is responsible for climate change which most severely affects the 1-2 billion poorest, most vulnerable, portion of the population.

On Friday, October 5, 2012, Mr. Jan Egeland, Deputy Director of Human Rights Watch and former UN Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator discussed this very issue at the ADPC's Brian Ward Memorial Lecture held in the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand.

Mr Egeland explained that climate change impacts vulnerable populations in many ways, including through its augmenting affect on natural hazard frequency and severity.

Although rich countries are readily able to both detect and implement security provisions, the majority of countries only have either essential or inadequate climate services, which can be debilitating when dealing with natural hazards. According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), 6 countries have no climate services whatsoever.

Tech savvy services

It may seem, from the availability of climate services, that not much attention is being paid to improving the technology involved in climate services. This is simply not true. Climate services available today are more advanced than ever, the challenge therein is providing and making these services readily available to those that need it most, Mr. Egeland affirmed.

What needs to happen is a multilateral cooperative effort that combines the efforts of those who have advanced climate services and understand the implications of the climatological data, with the efforts of those who do not have these services but are most vulnerable, to create a united front against the negative affects of climate change. By prioritizing the communication of climate services and the provision of disaster risk reduction measures to populations most vulnerable, lives could be saved.

Mobilization needed

Climate change is a global issue and only through a global effort will change occur. The solution to the negative affects of climate change will not be to find a culprit but to step up and take a leading role in reacting against climate change. This generation is more globalized than any other and thus also has more potential than any other to act in a global partnership to save vulnerable populations from the increasingly severe effects of climate change.



Mr. Jan Egeland joins ADPC to lecture on the importance of engaging climate services



NOTE TO EDITOR:

As the most hazard prone region in the world, Asia-Pacific must proactively manage its disaster risk. For nearly 30 years, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) has been making Asia-Pacific safer by strengthening disaster resilience at all levels.

Established in 1986, ADPC is as an independent non-governmental organization. With headquarters located in Bangkok, Thailand, ADPC has country offices in Bangladesh, Lao PDR and Myanmar. ADPC's well-established networks with government line agencies and strong partnerships with regional organizations and development agencies provide the foundation for their work.

ADPC deploys disaster risk management (DRM) information and systems to reduce local, national and regional risk across Asia-Pacific. Its portfolio focuses on DRM capacity building, improving DRM for cities and climate change, mainstreaming DRM into national and local development, improving DRM systems and undertaking disaster risk assessments. To achieve its aims in disaster risk reduction, ADPC works closely with local, national and regional governments, governmental and non-governmental organisations, donors and development partners.

For more information on ADPC's annual Brian Ward Memorial Lecture Series contact: Ms. Tiffany Hacker Noeske, Communication Specialist at tiffany@adpc.net



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