

Message from the Executive Director

I am pleased to circulate this report of the 2nd meeting of our Consultative Committee on Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management held in Bangkok from 31 October – 2 November 2001 attended by 23 delegates from 16 RCC member countries and territories and 13 observers from 12 international and regional organizations, UN agencies and bilateral funding agencies.

This report faithfully records all the important discussions, suggestions and recommendations made by the members and all comments received from participants on the draft sent in December, and this, besides being a snapshot in time, serves as a testimonial of our commitment made to the people of the region. The invaluable contributions of all the participants will surely have a significant influence on ADPC's future and our work in the region of creating safer communities.

This second meeting, building on the enthusiasms generated in and since the first meeting, endorsed the utility and efficacy of the RCC as a platform for dialogue and exchange of experience. The consensus statement adopted at the 2001 meeting encourages all RCC member countries to adopt the Total Risk Management Approach to deal with all natural, technological and man-made disaster risks. This Bangkok Statement (2001) is a watershed in the institutionalization of the RCC mechanism. As I noted at the RCC closing ceremony, "we at the ADPC accept the expectations of you have of us with a sense of humility and onerous responsibility".

We have worked hard over the last 3 months to prepare a plan of action for ADPC to work in partnerships with the RCC member countries on a country by country and sub-regional basis, as well as with sub-regional organizations. We will present in this plan at our forthcoming 3rd Annual Meeting of the ADPC Board of Trustees to be held in Bangkok on 27 February 2002.

We have simultaneously continued working on the priority action areas recommended by RCC1 and 2. Of particular significance are:

- The consolidation of the collaborative programs with sub-regional mechanisms, i.e., ASEAN, ICIMOD, MRC, SAARC and SOPAC namely:
 - The endorsement of SAARC-ADPC cooperation by the SAARC Standing Committee in January 2002 and visit of the incoming SAARC Secretary General to ADPC on February 2002 to identify collaborative activities.
 - Providing support to the ASEAN Secretariat convened Regional Workshop for "Development of the ASEAN Regional Program on Disaster Management" in March 2002 for presentation at the 12th AEGDM meeting to be held in Hanoi in August 2001.
- Holding the Asian Regional Sharing Workshop on "Legal and Institutional Arrangement and Planning for Disaster Management" for 24-26 April 2002 in Bangkok.
- Collaboration with the private sector and NFPA International in organizing the first workshop on "Planning for Emergencies and Enhancing Safety in Large Buildings" in Bangkok in February 2002; thus taking steps toward consolidating regional and ADPC capacity in responding to man-made and technological risks.
- Further development of the TRM approach will be discussed with regional offices of UN agencies and international organizations at the 2nd meeting to be hosted by ADPC/ADRC/UNOCHA in June 2002.
- Initiating dialogue with partners on the hosting of the Asian Regional Conference leading to the issue of the 1st brochure later this year.

I am also pleased to inform you that the Government of India has confirmed its offer to host the 3rd RCC meeting in New Delhi in October/ November 2002. As decided, a major thematic focus will be sharing of experience on drought management. We will be informing all RCC members and observers in April 2002 of the dates and draft agenda after discussion with the Indian Government.

I look forward to receiving your comments and suggestions and to collaborating with all of you in working towards our mutually shared goals of disaster risks reduction in Asia.

Sincerely

Dr Suvit Yodmani

Executive Director, ADPC

Executive Summary of RCC-2 Report

The second meeting of the ADPC Consultative Committee on Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management (RCC) was held from October 31 to November 2, 2001 in Bangkok. The RCC, set up within the framework of the ADPC Advisory Council (AC), is a major mechanism of ADPC's governance; comprises Board of Trustees (BoT) or AC members working in key government positions in the national disaster management systems of the countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The RCC has three main purposes. First, it provides a consultative mechanism for development of action strategies for disaster reduction in the region; second, it promotes cooperative programs at both regional and sub-regional levels; and third, it guides the work of ADPC and its future directions.

The Opening Ceremony of the RCC-2 was held on October 31, 2001. The ceremony was presided over jointly by H.E. Professor Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, Minister to the Prime Minister's Office and Chairperson of the ADPC Board of Trustees, and by H.E. Ambassador Nitya Pibulsonggram, Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Royal Thai Government. The ceremony was attended by Ambassadors and counselors from embassies in Bangkok, senior officials from UN agencies, representatives of other international organizations and agencies, international NGOs, members of the ADPC BoT, and the media.

The meeting (RCC2) was attended by 23 delegates from 16 countries and territories (Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Georgia, India, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, East Timor and Vietnam), and 13 observers representing 12 international and regional organizations, UN agencies and bilateral and multilateral funding agencies (ASEAN, ADB, ADRC, AUSAID, DFID, ECHO, ICIMOD, OFDA/USAID, MRC, UNDP, UNESCAP, and UNTAET).

The meeting comprised seven substantive sessions. Following the adoption of the agenda, these served to introduce the work of ADPC to the meeting (II), and in particular, follow-up work by ADPC on action areas agreed in RCC1 (III); short paper presentations by delegates on lessons learned from recent disasters and programs (IV); identification of priority action areas (V); regional cooperation on flood preparedness and management (VI); and consolidation of the RCC mechanism (VII).

Taking account of the recommendations and action areas identified during the course of both RCC1 and RCC2, this meeting endorsed the following direction for regional cooperation in disaster management in general:

- In recognition of the increasing incidence and severity of natural, technological and manmade disaster risks, the meeting encouraged all RCC member countries to adopt a Total Risk Management strategy. Such a strategy involves a comprehensive approach to multi-hazard disaster risk management and reduction, and includes prevention, mitigation and preparedness in addition to response and recovery.

The meeting discussed key action areas in which the RCC should advance the Total Risk Management approach during coming years. These were grouped into four broad categories:

- Building community level programs for preparedness and mitigation
- Capacity building of national disaster management systems
- Cooperation with sub-regional mechanisms, such as ASEAN, SAARC, SOPAC, MRC and ICIMOD.
- Regional initiatives to create awareness and promote political will.

Concerning the RCC itself, the meeting concluded that

- The mechanism itself is a useful and beneficial platform for dialogue, and exchange of experience and lessons learned. It serves an important function in conceptualizing and developing practical cooperative programs between member countries at the regional and sub-regional levels. It was recommended that the RCC mechanism be institutionalized.
- The meeting endorsed the principle of inviting senior officials of the member countries, national disaster coordinating bodies and that it is appropriate to expand the RCC to include other countries in Asia. The meeting appreciated the presence and participation of observers from multilateral and bilateral organizations and encouraged them and other organizations to take note of the outputs of the meeting, and to continue participating in future meetings.
- Future RCC meetings should be organized annually and as far as possible at different venues in the region.

Concerning ADPC,

- ADPC was requested to continue as a facilitator and convener of this consultative mechanism and to serve as a regional focal point and technical resource for the RCC in disaster management.

The meeting noted the decision of the ADPC Board of Trustees to work towards the achievement of international (intergovernmental) status organization, and supported this direction.

A formal statement (Annex VII) covering the issues agreed was delivered at the end of the meeting on behalf of delegates and observers.

PRIORITISING ACTION AREAS ARISING FROM RCC-1

The meeting reviewed recommendations from RCC-1, and emerging issues and identified priorities for future actions in the coming year by the RCC member countries and ADPC as follows:

i. Capacity Building of National Disaster Management Systems

After reviewing the 10 action areas recommended under the theme at RCC-1, discussing first the priorities of individual member countries and then the collective priorities, the following ranking emerged:

1. Integrating disaster management into national planning
2. Strengthening national and sub-regional disaster management committees/agencies
3. Developing disaster management plans
4. Exchanging experience on legal and institutional arrangements
5. Creating awareness and political support
6. Building national disaster management information systems
7. Improving disaster management training and capacity building
8. Promoting public awareness and media coverage of disaster risk reduction
9. Enhancing scientific and technical cooperation in disaster management
10. Mapping strengths and capacities of RCC member countries.

Specific actions, in some instances supplementary to those specified in RCC1, were identified for each area and are more fully described in the [Annex VI](#).

ii. Regional Initiatives

The meeting discussed the four regional initiatives proposed at RCC-1 that were elaborated in the ADPC papers and ranked them as follows:

1. Creating Awareness, Political Will and Support for Disaster Management and Mitigation

The following initiatives were proposed:

- Presentations at Asian ministerial level
 - Presentations at regional and national meetings of parliamentarians
 - Meetings with/ between National Committees (or Council) of Disaster Management and ministries responsible for finance and planning
 - Advocacy of comprehensive Total Risk Management (TRM) approach.
- ## **2. Organizing of Asian Regional Multi-Stakeholder Conference on Disaster Reduction and Support to National Conferences**

Two proposals were made by ADPC: a regional conference on *Disaster Reduction in Asia* to be organized in 2004, and national conferences on disaster reduction in interested countries, with national disaster management focal points taking the lead in organizing (in collaboration with ADPC).

The meeting approved of the proposals, and encouraged the RCC members and ADPC to continue pursuing the initiatives.

3. Developing the Asian Regional Report on Disaster Reduction

ADPC will take a lead role in the proposed publication of an *Asian Regional Report on Disaster Reduction*, or ARRDR. The intended audience will be national level policymakers and decision makers, both in disaster management and critical resource sectors, and agency personnel worldwide. Initially, the report will probably not be able to focus on all 45 countries in the region, with a launch in 2003.

ARRDR will provide a framework for the assessment of progress towards disaster reduction in the Asian region; to systematically capture innovative strategies, programs and projects in different countries and to share knowledge of what does and does not work with a view to replication; and to act as an advocacy tool for promoting the cause of disaster reduction in the diverse development contexts of Asian countries.

4. Vulnerability Atlas for Asia: Development of Risk Maps and Local Level “Referencing” for Countries of the Asian Region

Proposed initiatives are

- For ADPC to initiate development of a methodology for a vulnerability atlas in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, and identification of national level capacity to carry out risk mapping and local level referencing under its ongoing DANIDA-funded Disaster Reduction Program for these three countries
- Dialogue with CTR partners, especially USGS, and Circum Pacific Council with a view to adapting the HAZPAC software to a more multi-hazard based approach for extension elsewhere in Asia
- Continued partnership with UNDP and ISDR on the development of the World Vulnerability Report.

The meeting approved of the proposals, and encouraged ADPC to continue while developing a concept paper for the Asian Vulnerability Atlas for RCC-3.

iii. New Areas

1. Fostering of sub-regional cooperation through periodic sub-regional meetings
2. Strengthening of Regional Networking

3. Formation of neighborly Search & Rescue Team (across-borders), that is transportable from one country to another in the event of emergency
4. Organizing field trips to impact areas for post disaster assessments
5. Exchange of information, knowledge and mechanisms on Community-Based Disaster Management practices
6. Extension and improvement of existing simulation exercises and development of new practical ones
7. Community Level Warning & Preparedness
8. Development of actionable early warning system
9. Promoting holistic DM approaches and capacity building at local levels by taking into climate change and variability and promoting information dissemination and warning networks among countries.

It was noted that national priorities might differ substantially from priorities identified by regional groups, and from the aggregated summaries. These priorities therefore need to be understood as being in addition to national and indeed regional level priorities.

iv. Southeast Asia – ASEAN Regional Program

The RCC welcomed and endorsed the extensive discussions on the development of the ASEAN Regional Program on Disaster Management that had taken place in the South East Asian Working Group meeting, held on 29-30 October 2001 and recommended that these be pursued in 2002 as a priority.

v. Southeast Asia: regional cooperation in flooding

ADPC was requested to conduct a feasibility study in collaboration with MRC into the building of a diversion canal in Cambodia as a mechanism for controlling flooding on the Mekong. The use of barrages should be investigated as a means of protecting against saltwater penetration. Resources and funding were needed for this feasibility study. Meetings need to be organized to carry out topographical and geological surveys. The group felt that ADPC could assist the MRC, and that NGOs should be invited to participate.

The countries also welcomed the MRC's Flood Management and Mitigation (FMM) Strategy encouraged ADPC-MRC cooperation in the development and implementation of concrete programs in pursuit of the strategy.

ADPC should replicate throughout Southeast Asian countries the CBDM and AUDMP programs.

vi. South Asia: Sub-regional coordination and cooperation with SAARC

Delegates recommended an institutionalized framework for sub-regional countries to meet regularly with each other, possibly up to three times a year, with delegates being heads of NDMOs and endorsed the idea mooted at RCC1 to convene a South Asian meeting of NDMOs and other technical experts. This would be of particular benefit in developing practical cooperation and conducting technical studies. The delegates from India and Nepal offered to consider hosting such a meeting during 2002, and would confirm their offers after consultation with their respective governments.

In the context of SAARC, the delegates recognized the value of establishing institutionalized mechanisms as done by ASEAN through its ASEAN Experts Group on Disaster Management. The delegates also welcomed the dialogue established between the SAARC Secretariat and ADPC, discussed at RCC1, and appreciated the Secretariat facilitating discussion on disaster management in both the Technical Committee on Meteorology, Environment and Forestry in March 2001, and the SAARC Standing Committee in August 2001.

The South Asian delegates strongly endorsed the hosting of a workshop along the lines proposed in the papers, requested ADPC to pursue this with the SAARC Secretariat and would take up these issues with their governments.

vii. South Asia: regional cooperation in flooding

Delegates noted the benefits to the region of both the HKH-HYCOS and FINE projects. South Asian NDMOs should be included in next year's consultative meeting being convened by ICIMOD.

South Asian delegates felt that the region could learn from the experience of MRC as a mechanism for institutionalized cooperation on flood management and more broadly water resource development for river basins in the South Asian region spanning national boundaries. Many countries have bilateral collaborations, but these could be supplemented at the sub-regional level. Sri Lanka needed to be included in deliberations, and would be part of the grouping proposed.

South Asian countries need to be more pro-active in working to identify external funding and resources for projects, in addition to greater allocations from national budgets.

Other issues raised were the need to promote dialogue between hydro-met offices, NDMOs and other disaster management agencies, and support for dialogue between sub-regional agencies and linkages.

viii. Central Asia: regional cooperation in Disaster Management

There is a need for stronger regional cooperation in disaster management in the Central Asian region. The group would like ADPC to assist in enabling countries in this region to establish NDMCs where needed through advocacy at the highest level, and networking.

Georgia and Kazakhstan requested that ADPC design training programs to assist in enabling the effective establishment of NDMCs at local, provincial and national levels, and in enabling donor funding.

In particular, Georgia affirmed its request made at RCC-1 for collaboration from ADPC and RCC members in its efforts to establish a regional disaster management center for Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia.

ix. West Asia: regional cooperation in Disaster Management

There is a need for stronger regional cooperation in disaster management in the West Asian region. Jordan and Iran would like ADPC to assist in enabling countries in this region to establish NDMCs where needed through advocacy at the highest level, and networking and requested that ADPC to design training programs to assist in enabling the effective establishment of NDMCs at local, provincial and national levels, and in enabling donor funding.

Jordan welcomed collaboration from ADPC and RCC members in its efforts to establish national and regional disaster management centers and appreciated programs made since RCC-1 with ADPC beginning a dialogue with Jordanian Civil Defence and the Jordanian Red Crescent Society.

Iran, participating for the first time, also sought closer bilateral cooperation with ADPC and consolidation of the dialogue began at the IDNDR-ESCAP Asia meeting in February 1999. It proposed that drought be an issue that could be addressed at RCC3. Iran is presently in the third year of a severe drought affecting much of central Asia as far away as China and Mongolia. Iran offered to contribute actively to the development of a program to be discussed at the next RCC-3.

x. Pacific: regional cooperation in flooding

Delegates welcome the MoU signed between SOPAC and ADPC in March 2001 and ADPC participated in the annual meeting of NDMOs in the South Pacific held in Auckland in September 2001. The cooperative programs initiated and recommended that

ADPC deepen this cooperation with SOPAC to consolidate a partnership for the benefit of Pacific nations' disaster management needs.

The meeting expressed appreciation of the SOPAC-ADPC cooperative endeavor for accredited training in CBDM for Pacific countries and for the further development of a cooperative course on Public Safety Management.

xi. Building Capacity to respond to man-made disasters

Delegates expressed their concern in dealing with man-made disasters and the roles of RCC and ADPC regarding the matter were identified as follows:

- That ADPC and the RCC member countries turn their attention and build capacity in dealing with threats to manmade — especially biological, chemical and nuclear — disasters
- That RCC contribute to capacity-building and enhancing bilateral and multilateral cooperation
- To learn from the experience of colleagues assembled and to exchange experience
- To build cooperative mechanisms
- To learn more about flood control and natural disaster management.
- For ADPC to start building its own capacity to respond to man-made disasters, and in due course of time become a resource center, sharing and disseminating information on these hazards.

xii. Future RCC meetings

Future RCC meetings should be organized annually, and as far as possible, at different venues in the region.

The meeting endorsed the proposal that RCC3 be held in India.

xiii. Theme of the RCC-3

Ideally, each RCC meeting should have a thematic focus, and a field visit to see how the host country organizes its disaster management systems. The meeting approved the theme of drought be the specific focus for RCC3.

xiv. Funding of RCC meetings

Appreciation was expressed of Australia's financial support of a significant portion of the costs of RCC2; ADPC will find donors and support for RCC3 and RCC4. Appreciation

Acronyms

AC	ADPC Advisory Council
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADMIT	Asian Disaster Mitigation Training Network
ADPC	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
ADRC	Asian Disaster Reduction Center, Kobe, Japan
ADRU	Asian Disaster Response Unit
AEGDM	ASEAN Experts Group on Disaster Management
AIT	Asian Institute of Technology
APDIRWG	Asia Pacific Disaster Information Regional Working Group
ARF	ASEAN Regional Forum
ARF-ISMDR	ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
AUSAID	Australian Agency for International Development
BIMSTEC	Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand Economic Cooperation
BMTPC	Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council, Ministry of Urban Development, India
BoT	Board of Trustees of ADPC
CAREC	Central Asia Regional Cooperative Framework
CRED	Centre for Research on Epidemiology of Disasters, Louvain, Belgium
CTR	Crowding the Rim – a collaborative initiative of USGS, American Red Cross, Stanford University and the Circum Pacific Council
DANA	Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis Program of ADPC
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DFID	Department for International Development (formerly the ODA), UK
DIPECHO	Disaster Preparedness Program of ECHO
DMF	Disaster Management Facility of the World Bank
DMIS	Disaster Management Information System
DMP	Disaster Management Plan
DRP-CLV	Disaster Reduction Program for Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam
ECE	Extreme Climatic Events Program of ADPC
ECHO	European Community Humanitarian Office
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FRIEND	Flow Regime from International Experimental Network Data
GMS	Greater Mekong Sub-Region
GRDR	Global Report on Disaster Reduction
HAZPAC	‘Hazards of the Pacific’ GIS-based software of CTR
HFHI	Habitat for Humanity International

HKH	Hindu Kush Himalayas
HKH-HYCOS	Hydrological Cycle Observing System for the HKH region
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Kathmandu
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDNDR	International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
INSARAG	International Search and Rescue Advisory Group of UNOCHA
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (also UN-ISDR)
IULA	International Union of Local Authorities
MRC	Mekong River Commission
NCDM	National Committee for Disaster Management, Cambodia
NDCC	National Disaster Coordinating Council, the Philippines
NDMO	National Disaster Management Office
NDMP	National Disaster Management Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (USA)
NSET	National Society for Earthquake Technology, Nepal
OCD	Office of Civil Defence, the Philippines
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the UN
OFDA	Office of the US Foreign Disaster Assistance of USAID
PACT	Participating Agencies Cooperating Together, Cambodia
PDPR	Planning, Development and Partner Relations Division of ADPC
PDR-SEA	Partnerships for Disaster Reduction South East Asia Program of ADPC funded by ECHO
PEER	ADPC Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response
RCC1	First Meeting of the ADPC Consultative Committee on Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management (November 20 - 22, 2000)
RCC2	Second Meeting of the ADPC Consultative Committee on Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management (October 31 - November 2, 2001)
RTG	Royal Thai Government
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Secretariat at Kathmandu)
SACEP	South Asia Cooperative Environment Program (Secretariat at Colombo)
SOPAC	South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (Secretariat at Suva, Fiji)
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNDAC	United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination System of OCHA
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNDRO	United Nations Disaster Relief Organization (now OCHA)
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program

UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for the Asia-Pacific
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UN-ISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
UNTAET	United Nations Transitional Administration of East Timor
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USGS	United States Geological Survey
VAM	Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping methodology of WFP
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Program
WHYCOS	World Hydrological Cycle Observing System of WMO
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

Introduction

1. Context

The second meeting of the ADPC Consultative Committee on Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management (RCC2) was held from October 31 to November 2, 2001 at the Imperial Queen's Park Hotel in Bangkok. This document is the report of this second meeting. The meeting was organized by ADPC, and attended by 23 delegates from 16 countries and territories (Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Georgia, India, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, East Timor and Vietnam), and 13 observers representing 12 international and regional organizations, UN agencies and bilateral and multilateral funding agencies (ASEAN, ADB, ADRC, AUSAID, DFID, ECHO, ICIMOD, OFDA/USAID, UNDP, UNESCAP, UNTAET, and MRC). ADPC was represented by nine senior staff. A full list of delegates and observers is given in Annex I.

2. The RCC

The establishment of ADPC in 1986 was preceded by an extensive consultative process with national governments and other key organizations in several countries throughout the Asia-Pacific region concerning their changing disaster management related needs. These consultations were undertaken as part of a feasibility study undertaken by the United Nations Disaster Relief Organization (UNDRO; now the Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, or OCHA).

In June 1999, ADPC became an independent, non-profit international foundation. Its regional role in promoting risk reduction and capacity building remains unchanged. However, the administrative change has provided new opportunities for greater stakeholder involvement both in ADPC's governance and in ongoing processes of needs identification and priority setting for ADPC activities. The ADPC Board of Trustees (BoT), the international Advisory Council (AC) and the RCC are the three bodies established to achieve these goals.

The AC was established in order to provide strategic guidance and input in support of ADPC's vision, mission and institutional growth. In November 2001, it comprised over 70 eminent individuals and representatives of key government and stakeholder organizations from around the world. The RCC was established in March 2000 within the AC framework. It comprises BoT and AC members 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 26 present members representing 23 countries and territories (Annex I).

The role of the RCC is 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
- Guidance to the work of ADPC and its future directions.

3. Objectives of the meeting

The main objectives of RCC2 were

- To identify disaster-related needs and priorities
- To identify ways to promote regional and sub-regional cooperation, and to support work and enhance effectiveness of existing mechanisms
- To enhance sub-regional cooperation in flood preparedness and mitigation
- To establish priority action areas

- To present experiences and lessons learned from recent disasters and programs.

4. Opening ceremony

The Opening Ceremony was held at 0900 hrs on Wednesday, October 31, 2001. The ceremony was presided over jointly by H.E. Professor Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, Minister to the Prime Minister's Office and Chairperson of the ADPC Board of Trustees, and by H.E. Ambassador Nitya Pibulsonggram, Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Royal Thai Government. The ceremony was attended by Ambassadors and counselors from embassies in Bangkok, senior officials from UN agencies, representatives of other international organizations and agencies, international NGOs, members of the ADPC BoT, and the media.

The Welcome Address was given by Dr Suvit Yodmani, the Executive Director of ADPC (the full text is given in Annex IV.a). In setting the context for the meeting, Dr Suvit noted its objectives, suggesting that RCC2 provided an opportunity to take stock of progress during the past year, and identify priority action areas; to share disaster management experience and lessons learned; and to identify mechanisms for flood preparedness. The past year had been a very busy one for ADPC, not least because of the many natural disasters that had afflicted the region. Floods had inundated many parts of Asia, and it had thus been agreed to focus a three-hour session on this issue. However, the events of September 11 in the USA had also served to focus attention on man-made disasters. Whatever the cause, the needs of the victims are similar. During this period, ADPC's achievements in disaster management were significant (see Para 10).

The Inaugural Address was presented by H.E. Professor Dr Krasae Chanawongse, Chairman of the ADPC Board of Trustees and Minister to the Prime Minister's Office, RTG (Annex IV.b). Professor Krasae remarked that having participated in and read the report of RCC1, he was convinced that the RCC played an invaluable role in charting the regional disaster management agenda in coming years. By way of illustration, he mentioned two recent examples. First, following the flashfloods in Phetchabun province, northern Thailand on August 11 this year, ADPC's response included a full technical assessment to understand the causes, and subsequently develop a mitigation plan. This was presented to the RTG, and was discussed by the Cabinet. Second, following the earthquake in Gujarat state, India, on January 26, 2001, ADPC sent a team to work with agencies to develop a response. He is proud of the relevance, timeliness and value of this work.

The award earlier in October of the United Nations Sasakawa Certificate of Distinction to Col. Brian Ward, the founding director of ADPC, for his achievements in disaster reduction also testified to the importance of ADPC's work.

The Keynote Address was given by H.E. Ambassador Nitya Pibulsonggram, Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, RTG, on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Surakiat Sathirathai (Annex IV.c). Ambassador Nitya noted the importance of establishing a culture of preparedness, and the need to make people aware of the dangers and risks, well informed and ready to face any potential calamity, and thus reduce the impacts of disasters. Crucial prerequisites for generating a high level of awareness, he argued, were: political awareness, a structured multi-sectoral program, partnership with the private sector, self-reliance and participation of communities, encouragement and sharing of local wisdom and knowledge, promotion of local ownership and leadership. In the light of recent manmade disasters in Thailand (notably the recent chemical spill on a Bangkok expressway and the explosion at the weapons warehouse in Korat province), Ambassador Nitya also drew attention to the imperative need of the host country for appropriate preventive measures.

The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Ms Corazon Alma de Leon, former Chairman of the Civil Service Commission of the Philippines and Vice Chairman of the ADPC Board of Trustees ([Annex IV.d](#)).

5. Introduction and adoption of the agenda

This session was chaired by Ms Corazon Alma de Leon and facilitated by Mr David Hollister.

Dr Suvit briefed the meeting on the role of the RCC (see Para 3) and the purpose of RCC2 (see Para 2).

Delegates and observers introduced themselves, the organizations they were representing, and their expectations of RCC2. Expectations mentioned included

- That ADPC and the RCC member countries turn their attention and build capacity in dealing with threats to manmade — especially biological, chemical and nuclear — disasters
- That RCC contribute to capacity-building and enhancing bilateral and multilateral cooperation
- To learn from the experience of colleagues assembled and to exchange experience
- To build cooperative mechanisms
- To learn more about flood control and natural disaster management.

The agenda was approved following minor amendments. The amended agenda is shown in 0.

Dr Suvit proposed Ms Corazon Alma de Leon as the Chairperson of the meeting, which was unanimously approved by all members present.

As at the first RCC meeting, a Steering Committee was constituted. The role of the Steering Committee was to meet frequently throughout the meeting in order to guide the overall direction, to focus its deliberations and towards substantive outcomes. The meeting elected the following delegates to serve on the Committee:

- Cambodia — Mr Peou Samy
- China — Mr Li Cheng
- India — Mr Ashok Pradhan
- Lao PDR — Mr Phetsavang Sounalath
- Nepal — Mr Kumar Prasad Poudyal
- Papua New Guinea — Mr Martin Mose
- Philippines — Maj. Gen. Melchor Rosales
- Thailand — Dr Tairjing Siriphanich
- ADPC — Mr David Hollister
- ADPC — Mr Aloysius Rego

The Steering Committee's first meeting was held immediately after the first section.

II. Overview of ADPC activities and future directions

The second session of the meeting was co-chaired by Mr Chanchai Soontaramut and Maj. Gen. Melchor Rosales, and facilitated by Ms Zenaida Delica.

6. Overview of ADPC and its activities

Mr David Hollister, ADPC Deputy Executive Director, gave a detailed presentation on ADPC governance, activities and future directions. ADPC's approach continues to emphasize both the technical level and the policy level dimensions of disaster preparedness work. At the former level, ADPC has a proven track record as a regional technical resource and training center. The latter is in response to the critical importance of political will, and involves encouraging diplomats, policy and decision makers to perceive the significant and adverse impacts of disasters on development, and to incorporate disaster prevention, management and mitigation into the policy and development plans of their countries and communities. ADPC is also active at the global level: it is a member of the Steering Committee of the ProVention Consortium of the World Bank, and a member of the UN's Inter-Agency Taskforce of ISDR.

ADPC's programs are presently directly supported by a wide range of ODA agencies and other funding agencies, including AusAID, ADB, DFID, DANIDA, DMF, ECHO and DIPECHO, IFRC, OFDA and UNDP. Additional revenues are generated by training fees and consultancy.

Mr Hollister presented a brief overview of ADPC's six main programs, namely Training and Education (T&E); Information, Research and Network Support (IR&NS); Technical Services (TS); Regional Programs (RP); Planning, Development and Partner Relations (PDPR); and Finance, Administration and Human Resources (FA&HR). Details of all programs can be accessed at <http://www.adpc.ait.ac.th/>.

Under T&E, attention was drawn to the Asian Disaster Mitigation Training Network (ADMIT), a formal partnership of 12 national training institutes in Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Indonesia, Philippines and Laos, with two regional partners (ADPC and IULA). This stand-alone network develops and shares curriculum and course materials with the goal of capacity building in disaster mitigation.

Under IR&NS, it was noted that all ADPC's extensive library of technical documents is now available through its website.

Under TS, several programs were noted, including the UNDP Disaster Management capacity building program (in Cambodia and Sri Lanka); the Vietnam Red Cross Disaster Resistant House Rehabilitation Program, for which ADPC conducted a 3-week evaluation leading to new program development; training needs analysis and capacity building for the NDMO in East Timor; and an ADB TA project aimed at strengthening Disaster Mitigation and Management at the State Level in Uttar Pradesh.

Under RP, Mr Hollister gave details of several existing and projected programs. These are the Asian Urban Disaster Mitigation Program (AUDMP); Extreme Climatic Events (ECE); Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER); Partnerships for Disaster Reduction-SEA (PDR-SEA); Disaster Reduction Program for Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam (DRP/CLV); and Flood Preparedness Information Network for India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka (FINE).

In conclusion, Mr Hollister noted that ADPC works on a partnership basis with local, national, regional and global organizations of diverse kinds. It offers opportunities to promote regional cooperation and technology transfer (North → South, South → South and South → North).

7. ADPC Strategic Plan

Mr Aloysius Rego, ADPC Director of Planning, Development and Partner Relations, presented ADPC's draft strategic plan for 2001 – 2005 (details at <http://www.adpc.ait.ac.th/pdpr/plan.html>). The strategy plan has evolved through intensive strategic planning sessions held annually since 1999, and was being presented to the RCC in order to receive inputs and feedback.

Mr Rego defined ADPC's strategic goals — promoting disaster reduction as an integrated part of development, building capacity, facilitating partnerships, recognition as a proactive and responsive regional resource, and achievement of quality service through a team approach — and elaborated substantially on each of the supporting objectives.

Various aspects were emphasized, and reinforced points made by Mr Hollister (Para 6), *inter alia*, the importance of working at both technical and political levels in order to accomplish ADPC's goals; the critical need for documentation of lessons learned; and responsiveness to emergent biological, chemical and nuclear threats.

8. Discussion on Para 6 and Para 7

Noting the ambitiousness of ADPC's strategy and the diverse programs being implemented in its pursuance, Mr Dang Quang Tinh sought clarification on the question of funding. Dr Suvit, responding for ADPC, drew attention to ADPC's expanding resource base. The strategy took into consideration inputs from RCC1, but in terms of funding, ADPC is quite practical. At least 80% of the strategy is presently supported by diverse agencies from OFDA to AusAID, ECHO, DANIDA and others. The goal here is to continue forging new partnerships. Mr Hollister added that the presentations were based on an emerging detailed workplan pursuant to RCC1. ADPC has embarked on an ambitious project for risk and vulnerability mapping. This might be a 50-year project, but funding is available to start, and to demonstrate its worth.

A question was raised by Mr Zakaria concerning ADPC's methodology for interacting with policy-makers and decision-makers. Dr Suvit noted that reaching policy-makers is always difficult, but that ADPC has had some success in Thailand. There is also ADPC's ongoing involvement of the diplomatic community in Thailand, involving dialogue, discussion and sharing of information. ADPC is also interested in engaging in dialogue with parliamentarians in different Asian countries, possibly in a rather informal way, in order to gain their interest in the critical issues. It is necessary to work not only with ministries responsible for disaster management, such as the Ministry of the Interior, but also Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Finance and Planning, and the Budget Bureau.

Ms de Leon suggested that ADPC might disaggregate activities according to major events and resources in order to better demonstrate to donors how contributions are being used on various initiatives. This might clarify the respective values of cross-country and in-country programs. She acknowledged the role Dr Suvit has played in making much of this work possible. Mr Rego noted that the next session (III) would report on progress since RCC1 and flag specific new initiatives.

Mr Sinha noted two 'mega-trends'. First, there is an increasing urgency for countries to adopt multi-hazard planning strategies. For example, the September 11 events in the USA were barely imaginable, but it is now clear that all countries need to be prepared to respond to all possible disasters, imaginable or otherwise. Second, it is necessary to look at the whole cycle of disasters, and incorporate these into national disaster management strategies. For example, learning from the Gujarat earthquake, India needs to acknowledge that the whole of the northeast of India is prone to seismic hazards, but that national disaster agencies and international donors tend to be attracted to the site of the most recent disaster and ignore the wider picture.

In the Indian context, he highlighted how after the Andhra Cyclone of 1977, a major program was implemented in the state leading to significant improvements in preparedness there: but no changes were initiated in the neighboring state of Orissa;

which was then devastated by a cyclone in 1999. So too after the Latur earthquake in 1993, in Maharashtra, as major disaster management planning and preparedness initiative was successfully implemented in the state but no noteworthy earthquake mitigation was done in the neighboring state of Gujarat, which was then devastated by the Kutch earthquake of 2001. Even now in the major programs launched in the wake of the 1999 and 2001 disasters in Orissa and Gujarat in each state, no remarkable effort is being initiated in other cyclone and earthquake prone states of India. In all of this, the most salient feature was a failure to learn from experience.

Dr Tom Brennan, responding, agreed with the need to take a much more holistic, comprehensive approach, and with the observation that agencies remain reactive rather than pro-active. He drew attention to work in Kathmandu, where, for example, artisans have been trained, and schools retrofitted to act as safe havens, but only after public awareness of the dangers had been raised.

ADPC needs to continue to be able to depend on the goodwill of donors, and must be nimble and confident in innovating. It has to be able to present the entire package to countries, getting a lot of people in different ministries, like finance, involved too. ADPC needs to be pro-active in developing low-cost solutions to problems —this is a pre-requisite, because if they are not low-cost, they stand little chance of implementation. RCC participants need to promote these ideas among agencies and ministries in their countries. In all of this, political will was a pre-requisite. Finally, Dr Brennan drew attention to the need for countries to support ADPC, and that this might best be achieved through annual contributions to ADPC. That way, through ownership, they could make demands of ADPC, not just request politely that things be done.

III. Follow-up on suggested action areas

Session III was co-chaired by Mr Ashok Pradhan, Col. Ahmed Mahmoud Al Mefleh and Major Alzabet Abdelhadi, and was facilitated by Mr David Hollister.

9. Action areas suggested by RCC1

Mr Aloysius Rego briefed the meeting on Action Areas suggested at RCC1 (see Annex X for the full RCC1 Executive Summary). The briefing paper addresses recommendations under two headings. Section A covers capacity building of national disaster management systems; Section B covers regional initiatives in disaster management. Various follow-up actions are needed, specifically under Section A.

RCC members were requested to provide ADPC with information and suggestions on:

(A) Capacity Building of National Disaster Management Systems

1. Strengthening National Disaster Management Agencies/Committees (NDMCs) (Action Area **vi**)
2. Existing legal and institutional arrangements and proposed changes to enable ADPC to facilitate the exchange of positive and negative experiences (Action Area **vii**)
3. Current national disaster management plans (DMPs) so that ADPC might record, archive and disseminate this information (Action Area **viii**)
4. Current status of disaster management information systems so that ADPC might serve as a knowledge and information bank, assisting national governments in capacity building (Action Area **ix**)
5. Existing training institutions offering disaster management training and lists of courses offered, to facilitate regional networking and exchange of expertise (Action Area **x**)

6. Mobilization of a greater constituency for disaster preparedness and mitigation and thinned for improved media coverage of disaster management (Action Area xii)
7. Current efforts to integrate disaster mitigation into national planning, so that ADPC might capture best practices in disaster mitigation (Action Area xii)
8. Enhancing Scientific and Technical Cooperation in Disaster Management (Action Area xii)
9. Current capacities for disaster management with a view to mapping strengths and capacities of RCC member countries (Action Area vi)
10. Meetings of parliamentarians at which presentations on disaster management might be made, with a view to creating awareness at the political level, and hence political will (Action Area xv)

(B) Regional Initiatives in Disaster Management

1. To organize a high level Asian Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management to secure political support for disaster management (Action Area xii)
2. To hold a large multi stakeholder conference at the Asian level with cross-sectoral participation (Action Area xii)
3. To develop and publish Asian State Disaster Management Report 2002 (Action Area xii)
4. To prepare a vulnerability atlas for Asia (Action Area xii)

10. Actions taken by ADPC since RCC1

Mr Rego continued by providing a summary of ADPC actions carried out in response to RCC1 (reproduced here as Annex **XI**). Actions were grouped under four sub-headings: Section A covered capacity building of national systems; Section B, regional initiatives; Section C, sub-regional cooperation in disaster management; and Section D the future role of the RCC.

11. Report on South East Asian Working Group Meeting on Regional Cooperation

Mr Yong Chantalangsy, representing the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, briefed the meeting on deliberations of the South East Asian Working Group Meeting on Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management. This meeting was convened by ADPC under its PDR-SEA project, and funded by ECHO under its Second DIPECHO Action Plan for South-East Asia. The meeting was held immediately prior to RCC2 (October 29-30) at the same venue.

The meeting brought together key officials of NDMOs in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Philippines and Vietnam, the ASEAN Secretariat, MRC and ADPC, with the aim of strengthening existing mechanisms for sub-regional cooperation. The meeting identified priority needs at the national and sub-regional level of all participant countries.

The Working Group recommended that

- ADPC prepare an updated matrix of cooperation, including not only an inventory of existing mechanisms for regional cooperation but also an inventory of existing bilateral and multilateral initiatives, training centers and their training programs on disaster management, and an update on latest developments
- ADPC assist the ASEAN Secretariat to work with the ASEAN member countries in the development of the ASEAN Regional Program on Disaster Management for presentation at the 12th AEGDM meeting to be held in Hanoi in August 2002

- to develop the program, the ASEAN Secretariat and ADPC will convene a workshop in March 2002
- The exercise on country needs identification and prioritization has been carried out in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam and it needs to initially be extended to all 10 ASEAN countries and thereafter be replicated in other RCC member countries
- Future AEGDM meeting should have suitable field level exercises held after the meeting.

The RCC welcomed and endorsed the extensive discussions on the development of the ASEAN Regional Program on Disaster Management that had taken place in the South East Asian Working Group meeting, held on 29-30 October 2001 and recommended that these be pursued in 2002 as a priority.

12. ADPC concept papers on regional initiatives

The next four papers presented were concept papers prepared by ADPC for discussion at this meeting by way of follow-up to recommendations of RCC1 on regional initiatives.

Mr Rego presented a concept paper on *Organizing Asian Regional Multi-Stakeholder Conference on Disaster Reduction and Support to National Conferences*. This paper was drafted in response to RCC-1 Action Area xvii, and comprised two proposals: a regional conference on *Disaster Reduction in Asia* to be organized in 2004, and national conferences on disaster reduction organized in interested countries, with national disaster management focal points taking the lead in organizing (in collaboration with ADPC).

The regional conference would provide a forum for networking among disaster management organizations in Asia, an opportunity to share lessons learned, and to discuss recent projects, new initiatives and research in disaster reduction in the region. ADPC proposed that following consultation with regional and international organizations to identify interest in co-organizing, a first announcement be made by June 2002.

National conferences are seen as an important mechanism for networking at the national level, with cross-sectoral participation by people in governmental and non-governmental sectors, national scientific communities and academia. ADPC would support such conferences by providing technical support and organizing sessions aimed at sharing a regional perspective.

The second concept paper presented by Mr Rego was entitled *Creating Awareness, Political Will and Support for Disaster Management and Mitigation*. This proposal was in response to RCC-1 Action Area xv. Specific proposed actions for discussion were:

- **Presentations at Asian ministerial level meetings.** This would involve RCC and ADPC requesting that discussion on disaster risk management be included on agenda of current regional and sub-regional ministerial meetings on health, the environment, or finance. Specific opportunities in the coming years were identified.
- **Presentations at regional and national meetings of parliamentarians** Specific opportunities would need to be identified, such as the Asian forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, Asian meetings of the International Parliamentarian Union, and national level meetings of parliamentarians.
- **Meetings with/ between National Committees (or Councils) of Disaster Management and ministries responsible for finance and planning** Where such bodies have been established, they might benefit from learning of good practice in disaster reduction adopted globally and in the region.
- **Advocacy of a comprehensive Total Risk Management (TRM) approach.** This proposal was endorsed at a meeting of regional offices of

United Nations agencies, regional organizations (ADPC, ADRC and ICIMOD) and donors (ADB, OFDA) held in Kathmandu in July 2001. The TRM approach is holistic, and goes beyond the traditionally limited scope of response to include preparedness and mitigation activities with a view to reduction of the severity and scope of disasters. That meeting requested that ADPC, ADRC, and OCHA/ADRU promote and facilitate the adoption of the approach in selected high risk countries on a pilot basis, and assist national authorities to establish a database of current interventions.

Mr Kamal Kishore presented the third concept paper, a proposal for the establishment of an *Asian Regional Report on Disaster Reduction*, or ARRDR. This proposal was in response to the RCC-1 Action Area xviii, which recommended the preparation of an Asian State of Disaster Management Report, in response to the relative lack of mechanisms for systematically capturing and sharing knowledge of what does and does not work in disaster reduction programs.

At the global level, the proposed report complements IFRC's World Disaster Report, UN ISDR's Global Report on Disaster Reduction (GRDR), and UNDP's Global Vulnerability Report. At the regional level, ADPC produced a report at the close of UN-IDNDR entitled "*Managing Disasters in Asia and the Pacific: a Review of Lessons Learned during IDNDR*", and ADRC and CRED produced a report on disaster and accident statistics in Asia. Various countries, including India, Bangladesh and Nepal have produced national level reports.

The objectives would be to provide a framework for the analysis and assessment of progress towards disaster reduction in the region; to systematically capture innovative strategies, programs and projects in different countries and to share, with a view to replication; and to act as an advocacy tool for promoting the cause of disaster reduction in the diverse development contexts of Asian countries. The intended audience would be national level policymakers and decision makers, both in disaster management and critical resource sectors, and personnel responsible for disaster management working in funding agencies. The concept paper proposed an approach involving a lead role for ADPC. Initially, the report would probably not be able to focus on all 45 countries in the region, but would be launched in 2003. an advisory committee to steer the preparation would be constituted.

13. Discussion on Para 12

Mr Zakaria questioned the feasibility of the approach outlined for the AARDR. How would countries be selected for inclusion? The advisory group would need to be representative at least to the regional level. Mr Kishore responded that the approach outlined simply acknowledged realistically the size of the task. Countries vary widely in terms of the availability of information. The proposal for representation on the advisory group was an excellent one, he agreed.

Ms de Leon spoke approvingly of the three proposals, and noted that their goals be understood as intersecting and serving each other. With the RCC meeting annually, this provides an important mechanism for monitoring the progress towards their accomplishment.

A regional conference might be in danger of becoming a shopping list, so this will need careful planning with a strong focus on showcasing breakthroughs that make a difference, such as, she suggested, the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in enabling authorities to clear towns around Mt. Pinatubo recently. The regional conference must serve to enable all stakeholders and donors to see which breakthroughs work best, and what actions failed, and why.

In recognition of the increasing incidence and severity of natural, technological and manmade disaster risks, the meeting encouraged all RCC member countries to adopt a

Total Risk Management strategy. The meeting approved of ADPC's proposals and persuaded the RCC members and ADPC to continue pursuing the initiatives.

14. ADPC concept paper on developing a vulnerability atlas for Asia

The fourth concept paper was presented by Mr Rego. This was entitled *Vulnerability Atlas for Asia: Development of Risk Maps and Local Level Referencing for Countries in the Asian Region*. This paper was prepared in pursuance to Action Area xix. The discussion paper summarized recent initiatives in the region aimed at risk mapping and the concept of community level referencing of the risk map. Because the task requires significant technical resources and capacities, financial outlay would be significant. Hence the proposal is to 'begin by thinking small and making concrete progress'. Proposed initiatives are

- For ADPC to initiate guidelines for the development of a vulnerability atlas in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, enabling the development of a methodology and identification of national level capacity to carry out risk mapping under its ongoing DANIDA-funded Disaster Reduction Program for these three countries
- Dialogue with CTR partners, especially USGS with a view to adapting the HAZPAC software to a more multi-hazard based approach for extension elsewhere in Asia
- Continued partnership with UNDP and ISDR on the development of the World Vulnerability Report.

15. Discussion on Para 14

Mr Sinha suggested that the issue of RCC and ADPC partnership with UNDP and ISDR merited its own separate discussion on a range of issues; not just in the context of the vulnerability report. India has some experience in mapping discrete hazards, particularly in the vulnerability atlas produced by BMTPC, and now is interested in doing the same for all hazards. He was pleased to note that China has also done a similar exercise, and would like to know more of this initiative. He strongly recommended that, rather than diluting the initial proposal for comprehensive regional hazard and risk mapping, RCC and ADPC should develop a clear time frame for implementing it.

Concerning the first three ADPC discussion papers (Para 12), the Disaster Report should be added to the agenda of the Stakeholders meeting.

Would it be possible for countries to develop their own Disaster Risk index, rather like UNDP's Human Development Index? Cities and States could be ranked so as we could better understand who has done what where. This might even become a separate project. He noted that GHI and UNCRD had initiated a similar approach in their GESI project.

Mr Poudyal fully supported Mr Sinha's statements. It is essential that UN agencies and others work together in collecting and disseminating data on disaster reduction. Could ADPC assist in developing appropriate software for the purpose?

Nepal has had experience in mapping hazard occurrence and impacts on a district basis for the past five years, but still does not have a clear basis for the design. We could design it according to the ranking proposed.

Mr Hollister requested clarification at this point on whether delegates thought that these proposals from ADPC were moves in the right direction. Should we continue with these initiatives, however incomplete they might still be?

Mr Sinha, suggested that RCC2 fully endorsed the initiatives. The decisions taken by RCC1 were landmark decisions. He anticipated wholehearted endorsement of these proposals. Funding, of course, remained the major issue. With ADRC now receiving contributions from 23 countries, he suggested that it was time for RCC member countries

to support ADPC financially through periodic contributions, as had been suggested at RCC1. The roadmap proposed by ADPC is quite distinctive, and worthy of support.

The Chair, Mr Pradhan, in relation to Mr Hollister's question, noted the meeting's sense of approval for the ADPC proposals and encouraged ADPC to continue while developing a concept paper for the Asian Vulnerability Atlas for RCC-3.

IV. Lessons learned from recent disasters and programs

Session IV comprised country presentations by RCC members. Session IVA (Para 16 – Para 21) was co-chaired by Mr Peou Samy and Mr Hiralal Bala, and facilitated by Ms Zenaida Delica. Session IVB (Para 22 – Para 26) was co-chaired by Mr Li Cheng and Mr Dang Quang Tinh, and facilitated by Mr Robin Willison. Full copies of these papers are available on request for the countries and ADPC.

16. Lessons learned from recent disasters in Jordan

The presentation on Jordan was made by Col. Ahmad Mahnoud Al Mefleh. Noting that Jordan is one of the more hazard-prone countries in the region, the presentation focused primarily on the impact of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990, and the subsequent flight of 1.5 million refugees to Jordan during the Gulf War, characterized as a man-made disaster. With the assistance of ICRC, IFRC, the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society and Jordanian authorities agreed to set up facilities for reception of the refugees, but the numbers of refugees massively exceeded expectations. Natural conditions made this relief operation far more difficult.

Lessons learned centered on the importance of coordination (the responsibility in Jordan of the High Council of Civil Defence); the benefits of experience in handling such crises; the importance of coordination between NGOs and government agencies; the importance of public awareness, trained personnel, and a well-rehearsed disaster plan; and the need for structuring of outside assistance.

Proposed initiatives for ADPC and RCC consideration included the development of national disaster management information systems; improvement of training in disaster management and capacity building, possibly through a West Asian focal point in Jordan; and enhancing scientific and technical cooperation in disaster management.

17. Lessons learned from the Gujarat earthquake

India's presentation focused on the recent experience of the Gujarat earthquake in January 2001, and was made by Mr Ashok Pradhan, Special Secretary and Central Relief Commissioner (CRC) at the Indian Ministry of Agriculture. India is highly vulnerable to a variety of natural disasters. Response is principally the responsibility of State governments, with the Government of India (GOI) supplementing efforts with physical, material and financial support. The integrated administrative mechanism is based on a national contingency plan, with the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation the critical department, and Mr Pradhan, the CRC, the nodal officer. Each state and district must have a disaster contingency plan. At the national level, the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) is under the Cabinet Secretary, and the Crisis Management Group under the CRC. Financially, there is a Calamity Relief Fund for each state, with 75% of funds coming from GOI and 25% from the state itself. There is additional funding available in the form of a National Calamity Contingency Fund. Other significant mechanisms are a National Committee on Disaster Management (NCMC), with national and state level political representation, responsible for proposing institutional and legislative responses; and a High Powered Committee on Disaster Management Plans with a brief to establish disaster management plans at national, state and district levels. The national vision for disaster management is to favour preparedness rather than crisis management; to develop a coordinated participatory approach rather

than make each state responsible; to upgrade and deploy technology; and to utilize information as a tool for disaster management.

GOI's international policy in disasters is not to solicit external assistance, but to accept all offers with gratitude; in the recent earthquake, the international response was overwhelming. The Gujarat earthquake happened on January 26, 2001 at 0845. The response was immediate with the NCMC meeting by 1500 and an emergency cabinet meeting convened by 1700 the same day. The policy response included delegating all responsibility for clearance to the Agriculture Ministry, hotlines set up in Bhuj and Ahmedabad, no financial cap on financing relief, free airlifting of relief by the air force and national carriers and free rail transportation; visas on arrival for international rescue teams, waiver of cargo terminal handling charges, customs duty exemption, and waiver of airport charges for non-scheduled flights; making all donations 100% tax deductible; and Rs. 500 million advance assistance. The armed forces were mobilized the same day.

Highlights of GOI's response were the immediate policy decision making; establishing a single authority for clearance; no constraint on finances; immediate simplification of bureaucratic procedures; resources were pooled and channeled; national resources were placed at the disposal of the state government; exemptions accelerated relief and rescue efforts; international assistance gratefully accepted.

Immediate lessons learned were that relevant legislation was missing, and that building control regulations did not exist, or were not observed; property and life were inadequately insured; there were no local search-and-rescue teams; there was a lack of both high tech equipment and readily portable equipment. On the positive side, coordination was highly effective, enabling a rapid state and national response; authority was effectively delegated; red tape was cut; the international response was spontaneous; and public and NGO response overwhelming.

18. Flood control and management of large rivers in Vietnam

Mr Dang Quang Tinh, Director of the Department of Dike Management, Flood and Storm Control, in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, presented a paper on flood control and management of the Red River in northern Vietnam. This presentation focused on preventing floods from breaching embankments in the vicinity of Hanoi and other important areas along the river. To cope with extreme flooding, it has been proposed to build emergency spillways on existing dykes with a view to prevention of broken dykes. Such spillways allow the overflow to be controlled effectively, preventing loss of life and damage to property. Each spillway is between 100m and 300m long, and built with concrete up to one meter below the top of the dyke.

These spillways work on the principle that a certain level of damage is acceptable if catastrophe is to be avoided. They also enable environmental devastation to be avoided, and serve as an early warning system for local people.

19. People's Republic of China's preplan for disaster relief

Mr Li Cheng of China's Department of Disaster and Social Relief, the Ministry of Civil Affairs made a presentation on China's disaster relief plan. In March 2001, the Government of China asked all local governments to draw up a preplan for disaster relief based on experience in international exchange and lessons learned from other countries. Each plan must specify intention, preconditions, necessary preparation, organization in the event of a disaster, and emergency response and action. Each preplan must specify the response in the event of different types of disaster, and must indicate clearly how actions be initiated; materials and other resources required must be specified, and lines of authority in the event of an emergency clearly delineated.

Other actions in 2001 are to draw up laws aimed at disaster reduction and disaster relief.

20. The work of the National Disaster Coordinating Council, the Philippines

This presentation was made by Maj. Gen. Melchor Rosales, Administrator of the Office of Civil Defence in the Department of National Defence, and Executive Officer of the National Disaster Coordinating Council. The main context of the presentation was Typhoon Ferie (Utor), which hit the Philippines on 3 July 2001. Because it stayed at sea, its damage was limited although this augmented its strength; the greatest damage was caused by rainfall. Over 2 million people were affected, with more than 50,000 houses partially or totally damaged; casualties number more than 500. Most casualties were caused by landslides and mudslide, and by drowning. The total estimated damage is 3.5 billion Pesos, 3.5 times the national disaster budget.

The full impact could have been minimized if people had heeded early warnings over radio and TV, and taken proper precautionary measures. Mitigation measures were not properly enforced, and local government was poorly organized and improperly equipped for disaster. Actions taken for capacity building have included strengthening the NDCC (including measures such as enhancing support systems, streamlining the functions of the OCD division, and institutionalization of public safety and emergency management offices at the local level); exchanging experience on legal and institutional arrangements (drafting a bill to strengthen disaster preparedness and prevention nationally); improving disaster management training and capacity building (for example, by developing standard training modules, coordinating with local government academies on training local disaster managers and collaboration with ADPC on training); integrating disaster mitigation into national planning (including a requirement that local government insure physical assets rather than rely on calamity funds and a pipeline provision permitting them to use 5% of calamity funds for pro-active preventive measures); enhancing scientific and technical cooperation in disaster management (for example, an Extreme Climate Events sharing session, and a tsunami warning dissemination and response mechanism workshop); creating awareness and political support, through dialogue with local chief executives and dialogue with legislators.

The presentation concluded with a brief description of the mitigation action taken in response to the Mt Pinatubo Lake disaster threat, involving the excavation of a channel that allowed the dangerous build up of rainwater inside the volcanic crater to be drained, thus averting inundation of nine villages.

21. Discussion on Para 16 – Para 20

In response to a question from Dr Suvit, General Rosales explained that, in the Philippines, there are two types of calamity funds, local and national. If the calamity is beyond the capacity of the local authorities and the available funds, the national 1 billion Peso fund can be accessed.

Dr Brennan asked whether the fund could be used for mitigation. Gen. Rosales responded that Congress had still to approve this use. Ms De Leon observed that if cities and municipalities are able to develop their own disaster reduction units, central government does not need to support so much. In this context, she noted the recent hotel fire in Quezon City, where 100 deaths might have been prevented had firemen been equipped adequately to climb to windows and cut grills. Unfortunately, central funds could not be spent for this purpose.

Mr Sinha informed the meeting that India has a proposal under consideration to allow training and other mitigation activities to be paid from calamity funds. 5 – 10% can now be used for mitigation activities. The case is being made that 10% of funds nationally must be earmarked for mitigation, and at the district level it has been proposed that funding always be available for such purposes.

Dr Brennan requested information on what is being done to enforce building codes in the Philippines and India. Mr Pradhan responded by explaining how India has divided the country into zones according to 'earthquake-proneness'. Specific requirements for each

zone are being circulated; these specify materials, foundations, and building structures. Some states have come out with specific information for builders. Concerning enforcement, instructions have been issued to local governments that new buildings must comply with these regulations, but old buildings remain a problem. Information is now being circulated on strengthening existing buildings.

Next, Mr Pradhan and Mr Sinha displayed a new calendar for 2002 and posters aimed at promoting October 29 — the anniversary of the devastating Orissa Cyclone in 1999 — as National Disaster Reduction Day, which was being commemorated by activities nationwide informing people of what they needed to know and how to incorporate this knowledge into their lives.

Responding to Dr Brennan from the Filipino perspective, Gen. Rosales mentioned that a certain level of response is easily accomplished, and the situation in the Philippines is similar to that in India. The next level would be the relocation of people who have constructed homes where they should not be. At the highest level, there is a need to address reforestation to enable enhanced forest cover to increase water retention in the soil.

Ms Shrestha of ICIMOD queried whether the draining of Mt. Pinatubo was complete or ongoing, since similar situations relating to glacial lakes prevailed in Nepal. Gen. Rosales responded that the situation was being monitored carefully by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology, but the worst danger was now passed.

Concluding this session, the Co-Chair, Mr Bala reminded delegates and observers that the main purpose of the session had been to share lessons learned from mitigation of suffering. Every country has its own systems for distribution of relief, government agencies, and own mechanisms for management of disasters. Natural hazards like earthquakes are hard to forecast, but others like floods can be forecast more easily. Work needs to be done in pre-planning to alleviate later suffering.

22. Natural disasters and reduction activities in Kazakhstan

The presentation on Kazakhstan was made by Mr Medetkhan Zapparov, Chief of the Debris Flow Protection Service of *Kazselezaschita*, Kazakhstan's Emergency Agency. Natural hazards in Kazakhstan include earthquakes, debris flow; flooding; forest and steppe fires, and avalanches. The recent intensive development of the economy has heightened the risk from seismic activity.

Debris flows are among the most dangerous natural phenomena facing the country. There are more than 2,700 glaciers, 5,000 debris flow centres, 300 debris flow basins and 500 glacial lakes; the whole territory of the country is exposed to risk from debris flow. Responsibility for prevention and reduction of the consequences of debris flow, and for all natural disasters, rests with *Kazselezaschita*. One of the most important responsibilities of the Debris Flow Protection Service is preventive engineering measures. A unique anti-debris flow protection structure has been created in Almaty City and Oblast costing USD 200 million. It includes large debris flow barriers, channel stabilization and sand-check dams against debris flow and seasonal flooding.

All disaster management at present is complicated by the transitional nature of Kazakhstan's economy. However, Kazakhstan presents special opportunities for research into the phenomenon. *Kazselezaschita* plans to hold an international conference and seminars on experiments on debris flow, with the assistance of international organizations. These will enable advances in scientific knowledge relevant to all countries in the region.

23. Capacity building of disaster management systems in Cambodia

Mr Peou Samy, Secretary General of the Cambodian National Committee for Disaster Management, presented a paper on lessons learned from Cambodia in terms of actions taken towards capacity building. These include strengthening of the National Committee

for Disaster Management through training at international, national and provincial level workshops; exchange of experience on legal and institutional arrangements, with NCDM taking the lead in developing a national policy for emergency management; development of disaster management plans at provincial levels; building of a national disaster management information system, in collaboration with MRC, UN agencies, international organizations, and NGOs, by forming a working group; improving disaster management training, by establishing a core team of trainers and a series of ToT workshops; raising of public awareness through mass media dissemination of information and grassroots activities; integrating disaster management into national planning, including adoption of a building code to avoid all forms of hazards and pollution, and the establishment of a new Ministry of Land Use and Construction; enhancing scientific and technical cooperation in disaster management, specifically collaborations with MRC and the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology to find solutions to flood damage; creating awareness and public support, with the Royal Government of Cambodia defining disaster management as a critical issue in the alleviation of poverty. He highlighted the contribution of ADPC to capacity building for disaster management in Cambodia and reiterated that the Regional Cambodian Government looked forward to continued cooperation with ADPC under its PDR-SEA and DRP-CLV projects.

Mr Samy's presentation also focused on flooding of the Mekong River on August 15 2001 resulting in the inundation of six provinces, and flash floods in the mountainous region in the west, with several districts inundated for a week. In the northwest, several provinces were affected by drought. The death toll from floods was 62, and a total of more than 2 million people were affected. Approximate damage was USD 35 million. 2,600 rescue workers have been trained and equipped with 40 rescue boats and 1000 lifejackets. NCDM has been instructed to monitor the disaster situation, especially food shortages, by coordinating with ministries agencies and NGOs.

24. Disaster management in Nepal

The presentation on behalf of Nepal was made by Mr Kumar Prasad Poudyal, the Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control and Disaster Management, Ministry of Home Affairs. Nepal faces some of the most severe flooding-related hazards in the world caused by heavy rainfall, and the steepness of watershed and river channels. In addition, it also faces threats from landslides, windstorms, hail, lightning, avalanche, glacial lake outburst floods, debris flow and drought. Natural disasters in 2000 accounted for 394 deaths and damage worth USD 151 million to property. Institutionally, responsibility for disaster management rests with the Central Natural Disaster Relief Committee, which acts as a nodal agency to formulate policies and plans in coordination with various actors. Disaster management is the prime responsibility of Mr Poudyal's department, which was established earlier this year by upgrading the previously existing Disaster Management Cell.

Scope for improvement lies in several areas. First, in preparing the population, Nepal is hindered by poverty, ignorance and illiteracy, most notably among women. This places considerable responsibility on formal and informal education. Second, the level of coordination among relevant agencies needs to be strengthened further. Third, allocation of resources for disaster management in Nepal are negligible, a factor of the country's poverty. Present allocation is spent almost entirely on rescue and emergency relief; other aspects are barely touched. Fourth, sharing experience through exchange programs is highly desirable for all relevant parties in Nepal. Fifth, development of early warning systems is as priority, but again, Nepal is hampered by a lack of funds and technology. Sixth, laws, building codes and regulatory tools are all in need of improvement. Seventh, monitoring mechanisms for disaster mitigation are weak and in need of strengthening. Eighth, central and district level relief committees are only mobilized in times of emergency, and thus play little role in preparedness and awareness raising. Disaster management information systems are urgently needed, as present manual mechanisms are

highly deficient. Ninth, fire fighting equipment is unavailable even in urban areas. Tenth, medical supplies in times of emergencies and epidemics are inadequate.

25. Bangladesh floods and their impacts in 2001

Mr Hiralal Bala, the Secretary of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief presented on behalf of Bangladesh. His presentation focused on flooding in the southwest of the country in the period July – September last year. Floods are an almost annual occurrence in Bangladesh however, the floods in 2000 were particularly devastating to eight districts, some of which had experienced flooding for the first time in several years. Part of the flooding was caused by two reservoirs filling and over spilling, causing overflowing of the Kodla and Ichhamoti rivers. Poor drainage then prevented rapid dispersal of flood waters. Construction of the Farakka dam has led to heavy siltation on the upper stream of two rivers draining the region. Problems were further exacerbated by encroachment by shrimp farmers and other fish farmers, and by road and embankment construction. Damage to crop, settlements and roads was massive. However, few people died.

This was fortuitous, as the absence of flooding in this region for many years meant that public awareness of danger was low; no awareness building programs had been undertaken. The Government of Bangladesh mobilized resources in the form of cash, rice and other materials and distributed these among affected families.

26. Lao PDR's experience in disaster management

Mr Phetsavang Sounalath, Director of the Lao NDMO, presented for his country. His presentation focused on the development of provincial disaster management committees (PDMCs), and mobilizing social and political support for disaster management through training. The first item focused on the mechanisms for formation of the PDMCs. The second item focused on the role of the NDMO in involving representatives of mass organizations, like the Lao Youth Union and Lao Women's Union, village heads and officials at different levels. In 2000, the NDMO organized training for PDMC members and invited participation from representatives of different groups. In Champasak province, village heads were included in the training, and in Bokeo, four senior monks from different temples. In Attapeu province, 10 members of the National Assembly participated in training. Evaluation suggests that this 'socialization' approach has been effective in raising public awareness.

The NDMO has also organized training on disaster management for journalists and members of the media, with special efforts made to reach young people throughout the country.

Laos proposes that in order to raise the awareness of highest level policy makers, sessions on disaster management be included in the agendas of the International Parliamentarians Union and Asian Parliamentarian Forum. Study tours are also recommended with field visits to disaster sites, meeting people affected by disasters and visits to successful disaster preparedness programmes. Development of a vulnerability atlas and publication of an Asian Disaster Report are also activities endorsed by Laos. In this context, Laos looked forward to continued cooperation with ADPC under its PDR-SEA, AUDMPa and DRP-CLV projects.

27. The work of the Civil Defence Secretariat of Thailand

This presentation was by Mr Sompot Kongrod on behalf of Mr Chalotorn Paoat, the Director of the Civil Defence Division, Department of Local Administration. The presentation focused on the recent floods in Phetchabun province in the north of the country on August 11 this year. The flashflood devastated the entire Namkhor village; Nearby Namsoon village was also heavily affected. Despite warnings several days before, no action was taken to avert catastrophe, and hence there had clearly been a failure of public awareness raising.

After the flood, an ADPC team visited the site to make a preliminary assessment of the damage and to analyze causes of the flooding. Its report made recommendations to the RTG at both national and provincial levels involving the formulation of a multi-agency strategy. For Phetchabun province, the strategy involved relocation of vulnerable households and the construction of a flood barrage upstream. At the national level, recommendations included risk mapping by the appropriate agency, incorporating data from other agencies, namely the Royal Irrigation Department and Department of Hydrology; awareness-raising and simplification of meteorological warnings, using non-technical language; the need for the Department of Meteorology to be more precise in its warnings; and for community warning mechanisms to be developed. Community level mechanisms, specifically local government and volunteers, should be used for dissemination of information, as many people have no access to TV.

RTG action involved approving a program comprising five components: a public awareness raising project; collaboration with ADPC to compile a book for public awareness raising; village level training courses; establishment of disaster information centres before December 2001; and structural measures worth THB 6,080 million.

The RTG plans to restructure civil defence mechanisms because of the apparent lack of coordination between agencies; a new Department of Disaster Management is being considered. If the proposal is accepted, relevant departments will split from existing department next fiscal year. It is hoped that with this restructuring local peoples will be better protected.

28. Disaster response planning in India: the work of the High Power Committee

This presentation was by Mr Anil Sinha, the Head of the National Centre for Disaster Management of the Indian Institute of Public Administration. The High Power Committee (HPC) was set up by the Indian Prime Minister in 1999 in response to the particular requirements caused by India's disaster proneness, with 85% of the country's area vulnerable to disasters and 57% lying in high seismic zones. Proactive planned response, prevention and mitigation measures are essential. HPC utilizes a process-oriented participatory approach — rather than an academic or technical approach — to involve different sectors. The focus is on facilitating states and districts to produce their own plans incorporating local characteristics. Plans are required to have provisions for mutual assistance to neighboring states and districts. The overall aim is to ensure ongoing consolidation, upgrading, updating and rehearsal.

Four levels of plans are prepared: Level 0 is the developmental phase of monitoring and preparedness; Level 1 includes disasters that can be handled at the district level; Level 2 includes higher intensity disasters that require state level intervention; and Level 3 includes very severe disasters requiring major intervention at the national level. The work of the HPC recognizes four essential cultures that need to be cultivated. These are the culture of preparedness; the culture of quick response; the culture of strategic thinking; and the culture of prevention.

In addition to its extensive efforts aimed at strengthening support systems and enabling better response to disasters, HPC is also working to include disaster management within constitutional and legal frameworks.

A major part of HPC's work engages community-based organizations working at the community level, recognizing that the first response is usually at this level. This work has led to the formation of Vasudeva, a national network of over 60 NGOs working on disaster management. HPC is involved in working with state institutes of rural development to prepare Panchayat levels plans for preparedness. It is also addressing the intractable issue of insurance, working closely with the WB and the private sector, making recommendations as to how the insurance sector can better serve disaster afflicted people.

Regionally, HPC has taken a lead in organizing a conference on international collaboration in disaster management, and workshops for organizations in SAARC countries for information sharing, cooperation and HRD.

Other critical initiatives include efforts to improve database management, with an intelligent integrated database seen as a prerequisite for effective disaster response; ensuring this data is accessible through user-friendly interfaces; and 'micro-zonation' of multiple hazards zones.

Present and future directions include the development of checklists, handbooks, Standard Operating Procedures, and Dos and Don'ts; vulnerability maps for different disasters; compilations of laws, regulations and manuals related to disaster management; and conferences of state governments and UTs for formulation of State Plans.

In September 2001, HPC submitted its final report, which is now under consideration by the Government of India. It will continue to exist as a working group of the all-party National Committee on Disaster Management, chaired by the Prime Minister, set up in January 2001 in the wake of the Gujarat earthquake.

29. Population and territorial protection in emergency situations in Georgia

Georgia's presentation was made by Mr Otar Tavelishvili, Head of the Department of Extreme Situation and Civil Defence. Central Asia is one of the most disaster-prone regions, with all kinds of disasters — notably earthquakes, droughts, floods, avalanches and ice torrents — afflicting the country frequently. The Dept of Emergency Situation was established in 1996, but still lacks high level resources and expertise. Other needs are for reliable analysis and evaluation of risks in emergencies; improvement of coordination activities at national, regional and international levels; training of the population for disaster preparedness.

Mr Tavelishvili briefed the meeting on a UNDP/DMTP program for improving disaster management in Georgia. Key features involve developing a geo-information system; training of the population; establishment and implementation of an emergency disaster management system; developing an autonomous communication system; establishment of a regional disaster management center; and equipping two regional rescue services with necessary equipment. He reiterated his request to ADPC to assist with the development of the regional center in Georgia.

30. The Emergency Relief Cell in Pakistan

Mr M. Nafees Zakaria, Counsellor at the Embassy of Pakistan and DPR to UNESCAP, presented on behalf of Pakistan. Due to resource constraints, Pakistan, like other countries in the region, cannot afford large permanent relief operations. The Emergency Relief Cell (ERC) is a body established in the Cabinet Division at the federal level for coordinating disaster management efforts. The federal government's role is to assist the provincial governments responsible for provision of relief. ERC's responsibilities include provision of financial assistance; coordination with agencies and NGOs; administration of relief funds; coordination of training programs overseas for all disaster management personnel; maintenance of relief equipment including helicopters and assistance to calamity stricken neighboring countries.

31. Discussion on Para 22 – Para 30

Mr Tinh raised a question concerning the impact of typhoons on Vietnam. These cause flooding in mountainous areas, which have a disastrous impact on people who live on mountain slopes. Some typhoons come across Laos from Thailand, but there is little sharing of information between these countries. So can we have sub-regional cooperation on the sharing of forecast rainfall data? If Vietnam knows the details, it can estimate where flash floods will likely occur from the risk maps.

Dr Brennan concurred. Real-time information in Vietnam is predictive capacity in Thailand and Laos. What needs to happen next?

Mr Tinh noted also that the Philippines ‘exports’ typhoons to Vietnam. He therefore proposed a meeting between Vietnam, Philippines, Laos and Thailand to discuss strategies. Similar needs for sub-regional cooperation exist for flooding; Cambodia, and Vietnam need to discuss, with the assistance of MRC. Field trips to observe causes of disasters could be organized

Mr Kishore observed that ADPC’s Extreme Climate Events (ECE) program is looking at this issue. The information sharing is multi-directional. He noted also that at the ECE meeting in the Philippines, Vietnam was represented, and acknowledged that the dialogue needs to be taken much further.

A second issue is the real-time transfer of forecast data. NDMOs and hydro met offices both complain about non-provision of information by the other, so there appears to be unmet expectations on both sides. So why could we not have joint forums of NDMOs and hydro met offices.

Ms de Leon was impressed by the approach taken by the HPC in India. The approach needed to be comprehensive in order for the different cultures identified to develop.

She also concurred with Mr Kishore’s second point concerning the lack of sufficient communication between hydro met offices and NDMOs. NDMOs need to be aware of the possible impacts of information they have for scientific communities. China and the Philippines have a small project to forecast earthquakes, using information from nature. This is an example of developing a culture of preparedness.

Col. Ward noted approvingly the recognition of the different cultures needed, but suggested that a fifth — the culture of safety — needed also to be identified and developed. This is particularly important in industrial contexts.

Mr Mose made a plea for traditional coping mechanisms. This was supported fully by Mr Sinha. Traditional wisdom is taken seriously in India, and needs to be preserved and documented effectively.

V. Identification of priority action areas

Session V was chaired by Col. Brian Ward and Mr Martin Mose, and facilitated by Mr Aloysius Rego.

The objectives of this session are:

- To review recommendations of 1st RCC meeting.
- To identify priorities to be taken up for future actions under 2 categories
 - Capacity Building of National Disaster Management Systems
 - Regional initiatives for Disaster Management
- To suggest practical ways to achieve implementation.

32. Approach

Col. Ward briefed the meeting on the *modus operandi* for the session, the intention of which was to review recommendations from RCC1 and identify priorities for future actions. To facilitate deliberations, ADPC provided a map of ‘suggested action areas’, each based on RCC1 recommendations and these recommended actions might fall into one of three possible categories:

- A. Capacity building of national disaster management systems (10 suggested action areas)
- B. Regional initiatives for disaster management (4 suggested action areas)

C. New action areas.

Delegates and observers were split into three groups, with each group composed of participants from different sub-regions of Asia and observers. Each group was asked to do two things. First, they were asked to deliberate on the suggested action areas and prioritize, with 1 being highest priority for RCC and ADPC actions and 10 lowest. This method was used explicitly to oblige groups to assign priority to particular areas, with experience informing ADPC that using high/medium/low tends to lead to all areas being identified as high priority.

Second, groups were asked to identify specific actions that should be undertaken by ADPC and RCC pursuant to each action area. One ADPC staff assisted each group's deliberations. Following presentation by the three groups, priorities were aggregated and recommended actions collated. Time limitations (the session finished at 1800 hrs, one hour later than scheduled) meant that none of the groups had much time to discuss the third category.

The group followed different approaches in their pursuit of the task; including getting each country present to separately rank the areas from its national perspective. The group ranking was derived from aggregation of the individual responses.

33. Outcomes

A. Priorities for capacity building for national systems

1. Integrating disaster management into national planning
2. Strengthening national disaster management committees/ agencies
3. Developing disaster management plans
4. Exchanging experience on legal and institutional arrangements
5. Creating awareness and political support
6. Building national disaster management information systems
7. Improving disaster management training and capacity building
8. Promoting public awareness and media coverage of disaster risk reduction
9. Enhancing scientific and technical cooperation in disaster management
10. Mapping strengths and capacities of RCC member countries

B. Priorities for regional initiatives

1. Creating awareness, political will and support for disaster management and mitigation
2. Organizing an Asian regional multi-stakeholder conference on disaster reduction and support to national conferences
3. Asian regional report on disaster reduction
4. Vulnerability Atlas for Asia: development of risk maps and local level referencing for countries in the Asian region.

C. New areas

1. Fostering of sub-regional cooperation through periodic sub-regional meetings
2. Strengthening of Regional Networking
3. Formation of neighborly Search & Rescue Team (across-borders), that is transportable from one country to another in the event of emergency
4. Organizing field trips to impact areas for post disaster assessments
5. Exchange of information, knowledge and mechanisms on Community-Based Disaster Management practices

6. Extension and improvement of existing simulation exercises and development of new practical ones
7. Community Level Warning & Preparedness
8. Development of actionable early warning system
10. Promoting holistic DM approaches and capacity building at local levels by taking into climate change and variability and promoting information dissemination and warning networks among countries.

For each priority area, follow-up actions for ADPC and RCC members were identified. These are listed in Annex VI.

34. Discussion

Mr Pradhan reminded the meeting that on the first day he had highlighted the need to start focusing on man-made disasters in addition to natural disasters. ADPC must start to build its own capacity to respond to man-made disasters, and in due course of time become a resource center, sharing and disseminating information on these hazards.

Dr Brennan noted that perhaps prioritization was not the right way of looking at the actions under discussion. For his group, political will is a pre-requisite of all the other suggested action areas for capacity building of national systems. The group took the view that it is necessary to have parliament and senior members of government on your side before the other areas can effectively be addressed.

Ms Michotte questioned the purpose of the exercise; surely the priorities under A needed to be prioritized at the national level. Unless RCC and ADPC are clear on this, they run the risk of developing and implementing a strategy that does not reflect the will of any particular country.

Col. Ward acknowledged the validity of these comments, and the dangers of drawing the wrong conclusions. Because of the number of possible priorities, ADPC and RCC need to know where to concentrate. ADPC has developed from being a disseminator of expertise to seeing the importance of political factors in accomplishing disaster management goals.

Col. Ward requested clarification on a point made by the first group on creating cross-national search-and-rescue teams.

Ms Michotte elaborated on the proposal for members of Group 1, noting that the intention would be a multi-national cross-border taskforce able to be mobilized quickly in the event of an emergency in one country in the region. One way of understanding this proposal would be in terms of formalizing various local capacities.

For Mr Sinha, the issue was rather one of national capacity building. Teams need not be multi-national or international; rather, once national teams are formed, they can become transportable.

For Iran, Mr Barzi noted that cross-border assistance might not always be welcome. Any such assistance had to be at the request of the affected country. This meant that agreements between countries needed to be formalized in preparedness for disasters if such a proposal were to be operationalized. Agreements need to be bilateral.

Gen. Rosales fully supported Mr Sinha's statement. The intention would certainly not be to excuse individual countries from responsibility for preparedness, but for countries to mutually support each other if necessary and possible. It could be understood in terms of a network that might be activated at times of need in neighboring countries.

Dr Brennan noted that ADPC's PEER program is operating in four countries (India, Indonesia, Nepal and Philippines) to develop national search-and-rescue capacities. Jointly conducted training is an important mechanism for personnel from these countries to get to know each other. It is far more likely that colleagues who have trained together in this way would be useful than teams from countries in very different regions of the world.

Col. Ward, summarizing, noted that the meeting seemed to be in favor of strong national capacities leading to a neighborly search-and-rescue team approach, but that multi-national teams might be hard to actualize. No country should rely only on the international community for assistance in any particular area; thinking that this might be possible is extremely dangerous.

It was noted that national priorities might differ substantially from priorities identified by regional groups, and from the aggregated summaries. These priorities therefore need to be understood as being in addition to national and indeed regional level priorities.

Finally, Col. Ward welcomed the recognition by the group of the need for further development of actionable community-level early response systems.

VI. Regional Cooperation in Flood Preparedness and Management

Session VI, the first session of the third and final day of the meeting, was co-chaired by Mr Phetsavang Sounnalath and Mr Kumar Poudyal, and was facilitated by Mr Kamal Kishore. The session comprised presentations by delegates and representatives of regional organizations (ICIMOD, MRC and ADPC) on the issue of regional cooperation in flood preparedness and management, and subsequent discussion in sub-regional groups, and reports from the groups.

The objectives of this session were to

- To review reports on initiatives taken at the sub-regional levels on flood preparedness
- To identify other flood management related initiatives in the Asian region
- To identify ways in which these initiatives can be supported by member countries and ADPC given that several of the initiatives involve working with water-related ministries other than those responsible for disaster management.

35. Flood Management and Mitigation in the Lower Mekong River Basin (MRC)

This presentation was made by Ms Frauke Newmann-Silkow, Expert in Land Use Planning with the Mekong River Commission's Flood Mitigation and Management (FMM) Taskforce, on behalf of Mr Lieven Geerinck, the Chairman of the FMM Taskforce. The MRC's role is to promote cooperation in all fields of sustainable development, utilization, management and conservation of water and related resources of the Basin. Its priorities are formulation and agreement on rules for water utilization; basin development planning; and environmental management.

In the field of flood preparedness, MRC has been active in four riparian countries (Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam) since the early 1970s, and now has 15 hydrological stations along the river. Recent initiatives have been the development of a flood forecasting webpage (<http://www.mrcmekong.org>); improved rainfall estimates resulting from collaboration with USGS and NOAA; and improved capacity for flood extent mapping both at MRC and in its partner countries.

In 2000, following extensive flooding in Cambodia and Vietnam, the MRC Council requested the Secretariat to formulate a strategy for flood management and mitigation. The taskforce took as its development objective to serve member States to prevent, minimize or mitigate people's suffering while preserving the benefits of flooding. The approach taken was thus *holistic*, taking account of both structural and non-structural measures, and *balanced*, seeking to preserve benefits (fish; fertilization) whilst minimizing damage. The approach, being regional, was also highly participatory, involving regional workshops, national consultations and full MRC Council meetings.

The strategy for flood management and mitigation brings together four aspects of flood management mechanisms: land-use planning (keeping people away from floodwaters); structural measures (keeping floodwaters away from people); flood preparedness; and emergency response. MRC's strategic roles are *providing technical assistance* (repository of flood data and information, provision of analytic services and standards, and flood forecasting and warning); *addressing difference and facilitation* (acting as an arbitrator in disputes, coordinating floodplain management); and *capacity building and technology transfer* (fostering training programs and technology transfer to riparian countries). In this last role, MRC itself still needs to build its own capacity and develop appropriate technologies.

The priorities of MRC member countries, identified in the Taskforce's regional workshop were:

1. Capacity building for flood emergency measures, including training of emergency managers to bridge gap between scientific study and practical tools
2. Providing technical products and services for both structural measures and flood preparedness, and
3. Addressing differences by acting as a facilitator in trans-boundary issues caused by structural measures

Possible roles for ADPC are under 1 on training and 2 to support dissemination of flood forecasts. Next year, MRC will formulate an implementation plan for the strategy, with implementation focusing on the identified priority areas over the six-year period of 2002 – 2008.

36. Developing a Regional Framework on Flood Forecasting in the Hind Kush-Himalayan Region (ICIMOD)

Representing Dr Gabriel Campbell, Director General of ICIMOD, Ms Mandira Shrestha, Water Resources Specialist with ICIMOD, made a presentation on the development of a regional framework for flood forecasting and information sharing. ICIMOD's mission is to help promote the development of an economically and environmentally sound mountain ecosystem and to improve the living standards of mountain populations in the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region, and to promote sustainable mountain development in that region. Its member countries are India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Bhutan, China, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Devastating floods are an annual occurrence in the HKH region, impeding development, causing millions of USD worth of damage, and destroying cultivated land in all HKH countries. Much damage could be mitigated by improved regional cooperation. One critical area is in the exchange of real-time hydrological and meteorological data and information for developing strategies to mitigate effects. Technology such as the WHYCOS (World Hydrological Cycle Observing System) concept formulated by WMO, better quality data and careful planning using the latest flood forecasting technology, equipment and communication systems, such as those envisaged in the World hydrological Cycle Observing Systems of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO-WHYCOS), is needed to share information and data on a real time basis.

At the 2nd Steering Committee meeting of the HKH-FRIEND (Flow Regime from International Experimental Network Data), a regional flood forecasting project was agreed upon. Phase 1 involved a subsequent consultative meeting in May 2001 developing a framework for regional cooperation, at which country case studies were presented, technical concepts for flood forecasting discussed, and an action plan endorsed. Phase 2 aims to continue the dialogue and develop a project proposal for facilitating the establishment of an operational HKH Flood Forecasting System, namely the HKH-HYCOS System. Projected activities include constituting a consultative panel, facilitating regional flood information exchange, including a website; preparation of technical papers on flood information exchange; formulation of the HKH-HYCOS

concept; and a 2nd consultative meeting to explore operationalizing the project, tentatively scheduled for July 2002.

37. Discussion on Para 35 and Para 36

Ms de Leon raised a concern on dredging, a particular concern in the Philippines at the moment. Is dredging of the Mekong environmentally sound? Ms Newmann-Silkow noted that this is dependent on particular conditions prevailing in any place. The MRC itself is not involved in dredging, which is being carried out by countries.

Mr Tinh found the MRC's presentation very instructive for Vietnam. What happens upstream is particularly important, and developing long-term flood forecasting would be particularly beneficial for Vietnam — in fact a requirement.

Mr Pradhan enquired whether there was a timeframe for implementation of flood forecasting mechanisms discussed by Ms Shrestha. This will in fact be discussed at the July 2002 consultative meeting. ICIMOD is the facilitating organization, but it is the countries themselves that will develop the strategy.

A question was raised by Mr Zapparov concerning responsibility: if floods were being forecast, who bore responsibility for deaths caused by floods? Ms Newmann-Silkow noted that efficient dissemination of information on floods remained a great challenge. This was the responsibility of line agencies, and MRC cooperated with those agencies. A large majority of deaths caused by flooding, perhaps 80 – 90% of those who died in Vietnam, according to Mr Tinh, were of children. Teaching children and even babies to swim is now a priority and is happening in Vietnamese schools and kindergartens.

38. ADPC Flood Preparedness Information Network (FINE) Project for India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka – funded by ECHO under its Regional Action Plan for South Asia

The paper on FINE was presented on behalf of ADPC by Mr Kishore. Forecasting itself is not a panacea; it assumes warning systems, and that someone is paying attention to the warning systems. In Bangladesh, only 5% of the target population have used a highly sophisticated system that was 20 years in development. The FINE project is an initial step towards developing a complementary alternative approach that is essentially bottom up; it has just been approved for DIPECHO-SA funding. FINE's objectives are to identify and to build a network of significant flood preparedness agencies (NDMOs, water resource and flood forecasting agencies, and NGOs); initiate a database on current methods and on case studies of successful community-based flood preparedness and mitigation approaches; provide a platform for sharing information and experiences, identifying information gaps and addressing those gaps; develop a regional strategy to institutionalize a dialogue mechanism; support the development of two pilot national networks; and promote cooperation, coordination and information exchange between NDMOs and SAARC.

FINE's activities also include visiting identified agencies, sharing methodologies for documenting activities, seeking inputs on the development of the network, compiling case studies on best practices and lessons learned for flood preparedness and mitigation; holding a regional meeting to discuss case studies and systems for networking; designing the networking system; identifying next steps for implementation of sustainable information networking; surveying agencies on how FINE can be improved, and on their own commitment to it; and conducting regional meeting of NDMOs and SAARC to share experiences and identify future opportunities for cooperation.

Mr Sinha questioned the necessity for such a project given existing regional mechanisms like MRC and ICIMOD. Is it not an impact study rather than a network?

Mr Kishore clarified that it was indeed a network in the sense of promoting dialogue on understanding community level information systems, and complementary to the work of the other regional initiatives in South Asia.

39. Report on the UNESCAP/DESA/ISDR Inter-Regional Symposium on Water-Related Disaster Reduction and Response

Mr Kishore reported briefly on the Inter-Regional Symposium on Water-Related Disaster Reduction and Response, held in Bangkok 27-31 August, 2001, and co-organized by DESA, UNESCAP and UNISDR in cooperation with NOAA; unfortunately, representatives of UNESCAP were not able to be present due to pre-scheduled participation in other meetings. The written report provides a summary of deliberations of the symposium, which brought together 100 experts to discuss the further development of Guidelines for Reducing Flood Losses, a document shortly to be published. The report of the meeting was circulated to all members.

The report provided an overview of the Global Water Partnership (GWP) describing the recent formation and potential activities associated with the Associate Programme (AP) on Flood Management of the GWP. It is expected that this AP will seek flexible solutions suited to each area. Most presentations at the symposium indicated the necessity to deal with floods in the context of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), an approach that is advocated by the Associated Programme on Flood Management implemented through WMO in association with the Global Water Partnership (GWP).

40. Training on Urban Flood Mitigation (ADPC)

A presentation on ADPC's Urban Flood Mitigation (UFM) Course was made by Mr Arambepola, Project Manager. This course which has now been run twice, using the curriculum which has been developed under the Training and Resource Materials Component of ADPC's Asian Urban Disaster Mitigation Program (AUDMP). It aims to use an in-country and regional ToT approach to passing on technical skills and to institutionalize training programs by establishing partnerships with national training institutions. The approach advocated in the course is essentially holistic — integrating engineering, settlements development and public administration — and aims at developing managers of flood mitigation programs, rather than technical specialists.

Ms Newmann-Silkow noted that the holistic approach advocated in this course is practiced by MRC. Land use planning does not exist in many countries, so getting it established is challenging; when places are identified as risk areas, land prices drop. This complicates issues.

41. Community-based Flood Preparedness & Mitigation in Cambodia (ADPC)

The presentation on the Cambodian Community Based Flood Mitigation and Preparedness Project, one of ADPC's national demonstration projects under AUDMP, was made by Mr Josh Moga. Many Cambodian communities are vulnerable to the effects of recurrent flooding, especially in the east along the Mekong and around the Tonle Sap. The goal of this project is to reduce the vulnerability of communities to floods through an integrated, community-based disaster preparedness and mitigation process at the village level. The process addresses the susceptibility of the population as well as the susceptibility of critical facilities, infrastructure, livelihoods, and shelter. The project targeted several communities in three highly flood-prone provinces — Kompong Cham, Prey Veng, and Kandal — and was implemented by the Cambodian Red Cross in partnership with IFRC and PACT Cambodia.

The project's objectives were to develop a range of practical, low-cost, community-based preparedness and mitigation strategies using an integrated community-based approach to identify flood related development needs; to establish a sustainable institutional framework for identifying and implementing those strategies during and after the demonstration project, and to identify sustainable sources of funds (international, national and community resources) that support community-based preparedness and mitigation and can be applied at the village level in flood-prone communities. The project is now being expanded and replicated by IFRC to all 10 flood affected provinces in Cambodia with additional support from ECHO.

42. Discussion on Para 38 – Para 41

Mr Barzi had a question and a comment on flood forecasting and prevention. In 1991, Iran suffered a devastating flood in a province bordering Afghanistan. Despite no early warning system, the number of deaths was small. On August 10, 2001, there was a devastating flood in the north of Iran leaving 214 people dead. A warning had been issued a day or two earlier, but still such a large number died. All factors need to be taken into account therefore in an integrated plan.

Ms de Leon noted the strong advocacy for preparedness in all presentations.

43. Regional and sub-regional cooperation in flooding

The final part of Session VI involved delegates and observers breaking into groups. The groups were composed on a regional basis, viz.

1. **Southeast Asia** (Cambodia, Laos, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam)
2. **South Asia** (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Nepal)
3. **East Asia and other regions** (China, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Papua New Guinea, East Timor and Iran)

For **Southeast Asia**, the discussion questions were

- What initiatives have been taken at the sub-regional levels on flood preparedness and management (especially MRC's FMM and CBFMP)?
- How can those initiatives be strengthened by RCC member countries and by ADPC?
- How can ADPC and RCC members collaborate with MRC and ASEAN in mobilizing flood preparedness and management programs in the region?
- How should RCC members and ADPC collaborate with ASEAN and AEGDM in promoting disaster management in the ASEAN region?

For **South Asia**, the discussion questions were:

- What initiatives have been taken at the sub-regional levels on flood preparedness and management (especially ICIMOD, HKH-FRIEND and FINE)?
- How can those initiatives be strengthened by RCC member countries and by ADPC?
- How can ADPC collaborate with SAARC in following up on last year's recommendation, especially the ADPC and IMD proposals to SAARC?

For the **other regions** working group, the discussion questions were:

- What are the existing mechanisms for flood preparedness and management in your regions?
- What further programs could be implemented to strengthen those mechanisms?
- What actions should ADPC take?

An ADPC staff member assisted each group's discussions with facilitation and note taking. Time for addressing these questions in detail was limited, and each group had only five minutes to present their deliberations.

44. Working Group Discussion & Plenary Presentation

The Southeast Asia working group's presentation was made by Atty Priscilla Duque of the Philippines. The group identified both structural and non-structural areas of concern. Structural areas of concern included flood mitigation, slow drainage, siltation and barrages. ADPC was requested to conduct a feasibility study in collaboration with MRC

into the building of a diversion canal in Cambodia as a mechanism for controlling flooding on the Mekong.

The countries also welcomed the MRC's Flood Management and Mitigation (FMM) Strategy encouraged ADPC-MRC cooperation in the development and implementation of concrete programs in pursuit of the strategy.

Under non-structural concerns, the group identified coping mechanisms (how people adapt to the hazard), and early warning systems for dissemination and translation into ordinary language for making forecasting work at the local community level. Current initiatives include training for public awareness raising and housing program design, and network design. In terms of preparedness, ADPC should replicate in Southeast Asian countries the CBDM and AUDMP programs.

The group welcomed the initiative of ADPC and ASEAN and an extensive discussions on the development of the ASEAN Regional Program on Disaster Management had taken place in the Southeast Asia Working Group meeting held on 29-30 October (see Para 11), and recommended that this needed to be pursued in 2002 as a priority.

For the MRC, Ms Newmann-Silkow noted that a diversion channel had been discussed, and a feasibility study was presently being carried out. This need not necessarily however involve ADPC.

From the Vietnamese position, Mr Tinh questioned the diversion channel because it might deprive downstream countries of the benefits of flooding. There would also be the issue of saline flow. For this reason, barrages had been proposed as a possible solution appropriate to Vietnam, which being downstream is more vulnerable to saltwater penetration. Resources and funding were needed for this feasibility study. Meetings would have to be organized to carry out topographical and geological surveys. The group felt that ADPC could assist the MRC and that NGOs should be invited to participate.

The South Asian working group's presentation was made by Mr Zakaria. In terms of flood mitigation and preparedness, the group noted the commendable benefits to the region of both the HKH-HYCOS and FINE projects. South Asian NDMOs should be included in next year's consultative meeting being convened by ICIMOD. For the future, the group felt that it could learn from the experience of MRC as a mechanism for institutionalized cooperation on flood management and more broadly water resource development for river basins in the South Asian region spanning national boundaries. Many countries have bilateral collaborations, but these could be supplemented at the sub-regional level.

Ms Shrestha questioned whether ICIMOD did not already function as proposed. However, it was felt that ICIMOD's mandate specifically addresses the needs of the HKH, rather than issues of flood preparedness and mitigation throughout the sub-region. For example, Sri Lanka needed to be included in deliberations, and would be part of the grouping proposed.

It was also recognized that the poverty of South Asian countries militates against mitigation efforts, as sufficient funding is rarely available from national resources. So countries need to be more pro-active in working to identify external funding and resources for projects, in addition to greater allocations from national budgets.

Other issues raised were the need to promote dialogue between hydro-met offices, NDMOs and other disaster management agencies, and support for dialogue between sub-regional agencies and linkages.

It was felt that an institutionalized framework for sub-regional countries to meet regularly with each other, possibly three times a year, with delegates being heads of NDMOs. In this context, the group endorsed the idea mooted at RCC1 to convene a South Asian meeting of NDMOs and other technical experts. This would be of particular benefit in conducting technical studies, and developing practical cooperation.

The delegates noted that Sri Lanka had conveyed in writing in May 2001 that it could not implement the offer made at RCC1 to host this meeting in June 2001, but would consider this during 2002. As Sri Lanka was not present, this offer would have to be pursued through correspondence. The delegates from India and Nepal offered to consider hosting such a meeting during 2002, and would confirm their offers after consultation with their respective governments and after clarification from ADPC on the costs involved.

In the context of SAARC, the delegates endorsed the recognition of the value of establishing institutionalized mechanisms as done by ASEAN through its ASEAN Experts Group on Disaster Management. The delegates also welcomed the dialogue established between the SAARC Secretariat and ADPC, discussed at RCC1, and appreciated the Secretariat facilitating discussion on disaster management in both the Technical Committee on Meteorology, Environment and Forestry in March 2001, and the SAARC Standing Committee in August 2001.

The delegates reviewed the concept paper on “SAARC Cooperation in Disaster Management and Mitigation” prepared by ADPC and submitted in February 2001 to the SAARC Secretariat, and the paper on “SAARC Japan Special Fund Workshop to Examine the Mechanisms for Sharing Information on Disaster Preparation and Management” submitted by the Indian Meteorological Department and forwarded by the SAARC Secretariat to ADPC in July 2001 for review. The delegates strongly endorsed the hosting of workshops along the lines proposed in the papers, and requested ADPC to pursue this with the SAARC Secretariat. Delegates would also take up these issues with their governments.

For the **other regions working group** Mr Mose presented. This group’s discussions had centered on current mechanisms for hazard management. The group would like ADPC to assist in enabling countries in these regions to establish NDMCs where needed through advocacy at the highest level, marketing and networking.

The group conveyed the message that they expect ADPC to design training programs to assist in enabling the effective establishment of NDMCs at local, provincial and national levels, not least in enabling donor funding.

Georgia and Khazakhstan requested that ADPC design training programs to assist in enabling the effective establishment of NDMCs at local, provincial and national levels, and in enabling donor funding.

In particular, Georgia affirmed its request made at RCC-1 for collaboration from ADPC and RCC members in its efforts to establish a regional disaster management center for Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia.

Jordan and Iran would like ADPC to assist in enabling countries in this region to establish NDMCs where needed through advocacy at the highest level, and networking and requested that ADPC to design training programs to assist in enabling the effective establishment of NDMCs at local, provincial and national levels, and in enabling donor funding.

Jordan welcomed collaboration from ADPC and RCC members in its efforts to establish national and regional disaster management centers and appreciated programs made since RCC-1 with ADPC beginning a dialogue with Jordanian Civil Defence and the Jordanian Red Crescent Society.

Iran, participating for the first time, also sought closer bilateral cooperation with ADPC and consolidation of the dialogue began at the IDNDR-ESCAP Asia meeting in February 1999. It proposed that drought be an issue that could be addressed at RCC3. Iran is presently in the third year of a severe drought affecting much of central Asia as far away as China and Mongolia. Iran offered to contribute actively to the development of a program to be discusses at the next RCC-3.

Delegates welcome the MoU signed between SOPAC and ADPC in March 2001 and ADPC participated in the annual meeting of NDMOs in the South Pacific held in Auckland in September 2001. The cooperative programs initiated and recommended that ADPC deepen this cooperation with SOPAC to consolidate a partnership for the benefit of Pacific nations' disaster management needs.

The meeting expressed appreciation of the SOPAC-ADPC cooperative endeavor for accredited training in CBDM for Pacific countries and for the further development of a cooperative course on Public Safety Management.

Particular emphasis was placed on continuing the collaboration with SOPAC in the South Pacific context, and of supporting Jordan and Georgia in their efforts to establish national and regional disaster management centers in West and Central Asian contexts.

VII. Consolidation of the RCC Mechanism

The final session of the meeting was chaired by Dr Suvit Yodmani and facilitated by Mr Aloysius Rego.

45. Discussion on RCC2 Draft Statement

The Chair elaborated on the mechanism proposed by the RCC2 Steering Committee to achieve a degree of consensus on the way forward. In the mid-morning session, a draft statement on *Future Directions of the ADPC Consultative Committee on Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management* was distributed. This had been prepared in consultation with the Steering Committee, and reviewed by the Steering Committee at its breakfast meeting that morning. This statement took into consideration the substantive directions for disaster management in the region discussed at RCC2 and the future directions for the RCC mechanism at RCC1. Delegates and observers were requested to give their opinions, and following agreement on the statement, one delegate would be requested to read the revised statement at the closing ceremony.

Mr Pradhan noted with approval the addition of man-made disasters to the statement, and suggested that perhaps this should be elaborated by specific forms of hazards, such as industrial accidents at chemical plants. Dr Brennan suggested that technological would be a more appropriate descriptor than man-made. Mr Pradhan argued that capacity needed to be advanced in all hazard areas, and hence man-made is a useful descriptor. The statement was amended accordingly.

Mr Rego suggested that a more explicit linkage between Paragraphs 1 and 2 ('to advance the Total Risk Approach in the coming years in four broad categories') would reflect this concern.

Mr Phetsavang sought clarification on representation, proposing that if delegates were to speak on these issues, then authorization of their respective governments should be sought and obtained first. This concern, the Chair proposed, could be dealt with in the next sub-section.

Mr Sinha, complimenting the draft as amended, proposed at this point that the statement be endorsed. The meeting then endorsed the statement as amended. Mr Anil Sinha was nominated to read the statement at the closing ceremony on behalf of all delegates and observers.

46. Feedback

From the Chair, Dr Suvit acknowledged the importance of the proposal that RCC members be authorized to speak on behalf of their governments. ADPC was aware that given their positions in their respective national disaster management systems, delegates spoke with the weight of substantial experience. However, Mr Phetsavang's proposal would mean that letters inviting participation would be sent to relevant government agencies, inviting the government to send a delegate.

Mr Sinha noted that, under the present arrangement, being delegated to attend the RCC meeting implied some authority to speak on behalf of the government. But all decisions requiring actions by countries required that decisions be taken by appropriate government agencies in each country. Mr Pradhan made the point that many decisions, especially those requiring financial commitment or delegation of authority, required government level decisions, and would require consultation after delegates' return to their countries.

Dr Suvit noted these concerns, and added that, in the process of establishing the RCC in 2000, the heads of NDMOs in each country had been invited to join the RCC and subsequently participate in meetings.

Mr Bala pointed out that the normal course transfers occur in all government system and especially when governments change, personnel change too. Relevant officials may work for different agencies under different ministries. For example, if we are discussing flood management, the most relevant officer may work in a ministry responsible for water resources, and they might be more well informed on important issues than those working for NDMOs. However, RCC members should be identified as focal points, able to propose other representation.

Dr Suvit noted that since acceptance of the initial invitation, and even in the one year since RCC1, there had been changes in personnel in many countries, and that present incumbents had been invited and participated as delegates in RCC2.

For Iran, Mr Barzi approved fully of the present arrangements, adding that for RCC3 and subsequent meetings, RCC members and previous delegates should be invited as they would be more knowledgeable of issues than a newcomer.

Noting the various positions, Dr Suvit proposed that ADPC would continue the practice of inviting office holders, but would try to ensure continuity by inviting individuals whose opinions and contributions would benefit RCC deliberations. This would guarantee that RCC would at all times have the right people in attendance.

The proposed approach was endorsed.

47. Proposed Agenda for RCC3

The Chair invited suggestions for the agenda of the next meeting.

Mr Zakaria complimented ADPC on the conduct of RCC2, which had provided real substantive guidance to members. The present format should be maintained, he proposed. This was supported by Mr Bala, who complimented the organizers on the activities and execution. He noted that floods and flood control are broad subjects, and perhaps more focus could be given to mitigation — sharing experiences, discussing how problems have been solved, how relief operations have been and might be carried out, how relief is distributed, assessment of damage, and so on. These subjects should be given greater prominence.

For Kazakhstan, Mr Zapparov complimented ADPC's organization of RCC2. In future, more discussion on the particular issues affecting on Central Asia would be welcome. Furthermore, translation would be beneficial to participants from Central Asia.

Seconding the thoughts expressed by Mr Zakaria, the Jordanian delegates similarly thanked ADPC and RCC for an enriching experience.

The Iranian delegation proposed that drought be an issue that could be addressed at RCC3. Iran is presently in the third year of a severe drought affecting much of central Asia as far away as China and Mongolia. Discussion on drought would draw international attention to this issue.

The Chair thanked delegates for their inputs, and proposed that, maintaining the present format, a specific issue be taken up for RCC-3.

The proposal was broadly supported by Mr Poudyal, who suggested the need to continue addressing the development of structures to deal with all kinds of disasters.

Ms de Leon proposed that each RCC meeting needed to pursue hazards and issues that had been predominant during the past year. We could then focus our discussions on immediately relevant hazards, focusing on case studies and bringing in contributions of academics. This would result in the compilation of compendia of information. The Philippines, for example, would like to apply lessons learned in the Mekong. If we train people in urban flood mitigation, we have to tell stories about the application of that knowledge.

Mr Sinha fully endorsed this. Recent acts of terrorism in the USA have made it very clear that we cannot know what will happen next. We have to look closely at events and address those concerns. For example, global warming, extreme climatic events, may need to be studied more. With Mr Pradhan, he expressed the appreciation of the Government of India for the contributions of this meeting.

Mr Sinha drew attention to the decision at the 1st RCC meeting to undertake a regional South Asia study in drought and its management document the successful approaches adopted in recent and past drought by India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The Chair, noting the various expressions of appreciation thanked delegates and observers. Having listened carefully to various suggestions, he suggested that RCC3 plans to address the specific issue of drought, perhaps inviting specific expertise, while reviewing follow-up on actions regarding flood management discussed at RCC2.

Ms Shrestha thanked ADPC for organizing the meeting, which had enhanced her understanding of many issues. ICIMOD looked forward to further collaborations with ADPC. Concerning global warming and extreme climate events, she noted that the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH), UK and ICIMOD are working on the Project Snow and Glacier Aspects of Water Resource Management in the Himalaya (SAGARAMATHA). The objective of the project is to assess the seasonal and long-term water resources in snow and glacier-fed rivers originating in the Hindu-Kush Himalayan region and to determine strategies or coping with impacts of climate-change-induced deglaciation on the livelihood of people in the region. The study will be completed in October 2003.

For ADRC, Mr Nishikawa congratulated ADPC for a successful meeting; RCC has become an important forum for breeding new ideas. An important point, he felt, was that issues are most frequently country-specific. We need therefore to differentiate clearly between regional and national level approaches. According to the different conditions by countries and there is a need to always identify what should be solved by national efforts and what should be approached with the advise of regional organizations.

On behalf of ECHO, Ms Michotte expressed appreciation for the tremendous work done in organizing this meeting. She noted in particular the ever increasing awareness of the need to deal with political will and awareness as the basis for action on capacity building.

Mr Zapparov proposed that Kazakhstan would be willing to work with ADPC to establish a Central Asian office. Dr Suvit thanked him for this proposal, and noted the very real present financial constraints involved in accomplishing such a move. Perhaps this could be examined at a later date.

The Chair next sought reconfirmation for meetings to continue to be organized on an annual basis, as proposed at RCC1. ADPC was very much of the opinion that it would be useful to continue to share perspectives and experiences across sub-regions.

Mr Pradhan suggested that annual meetings were very much in order, and that this was reflected in the statement. Mr Zakaria endorsed this view, but noted that different venues would be desirable.

48. Host and Venue for RCC3

The Chair called for proposals on the host and venue for RCC3, to be held in 2002. Following discussion of alternatives, Mr Pradhan proposed that India would be willing to host the next meeting. A confirmation of this offer would be made after his return to Delhi. (This has subsequently been made during his visit to ADPC on 11 January 2002.)

Mr. Nishikawa of ADRC pointed out that with the World Forum on Water in 2003, the theme of drought would be highly relevant. India, Pakistan and Iran have all had recent experience of severe drought, and therefore the venue and theme were appropriate.

The meeting therefore endorsed the proposal that RCC3 be held in India, and that the theme of drought be the specific focus for RCC3, as floods had been for RCC2.

Mr Kishore responded by noting that this was a priority concern of ADPC's ECE program, which is currently preparing a background paper. This paper should initiate discussion on measures and further study. The need for a South Asian drought study, as proposed at RCC1, with a still broader focus in light of Iran's suggestion, was recognized. ADPC would consider how to pursue this.

Delegates mentioned several other hazards requiring recognition, deliberation and study, including debris flow, landslides and tornadoes. These will be addressed as appropriate, and are not excluded from consideration at any RCC meeting.

49. Closing ceremony

Dr Suvit Yodmani delivered the report on the meeting ([Annex VIII.a](#)). He noted with appreciation the great enthusiasm of all delegates and observers, and thanked ADPC staff and the RCC Steering Committee members for working so hard to ensure the smooth execution of the meeting's business.

At the previous meeting, i.e. RCC-1, an ambitious and forward-looking agenda had been laid out, sufficient to keep ADPC very busy for the next 20 years. This year's meeting has tried to identify priorities and next steps. ADPC has benefited from a chance to enhance its understanding of the work and expectations of members. This year, RCC has had the opportunity to benefit from participation from East Timor, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Iran all participating for the first time. Perhaps the single most notable theme emerging from this meeting has been the importance of political support and leadership to the concrete actions we take in disaster risk reduction. This meeting had enabled the institutionalization of the RCC mechanism, and on behalf of ADPC, he thanked all delegates and observers for their contributions in enabling this significant achievement.

Mr Anil Sinha then read the statement on future directions of the RCC on behalf of the delegates and observers at the meeting. The full text is given in [Annex VII](#).

Mr Stephen Walker, the First Secretary at the Australian Embassy, Bangkok, read an address on behalf of AusAID ([Annex VIII.b](#)). Mr Walker's address noted that Australia had a special interest in the matters deliberated at this meeting, and a special commitment to poverty reduction as a development strategy for promoting growth, productivity and accountability, and for reducing vulnerability. AusAID's Poverty Reduction Framework articulates the goal of achieving sustainable poverty reduction through four means: promoting growth, productivity, accountability, and reducing vulnerability. Disasters threaten everything AusAID is trying to achieve in development, and hence AusAID's commitment — articulated in the Australian Government's Humanitarian Program Strategy — to developing international capacity to help mitigate both crises and suffering. By supporting regional and international organizations, networks and activities, including this meeting, AusAID contributes to starting to address the emerging challenges posed by disasters. For AusAID, the RCC is more than an event: it is a process — of learning, sharing ideas, creating networks, and shaping actions for regional disaster preparedness that transcend national boundaries.

The closing address (Annex VIII.c) was delivered by Mr Bhairote Brohmsan, Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Interior. On behalf of the Royal Thai Government, Mr Bhairote expressed gratitude to ADPC for its continuing and unwavering support in preventing and mitigating disasters. Partnership between public and private sectors, he noted, was crucial to the success of NDMOs in every country in the region. The Royal Thai Government conveyed its appreciation for the role played by the RCC in enhancing mutual understanding and cooperation between member countries in dealing with disasters.

VIII. Annexes

Annex I RCC-2 Delegates and Observers

Second Meeting of the ADPC Consultative Committee on Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management (October 31 — November 2, 2001)

DELEGATES

Bangladesh	Mr Hiralal Bala	Secretary Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief People's Republic of Bangladesh
Cambodia	Mr Peou Samy	Secretary General National Committee for Disaster Management Kingdom of Cambodia
China	Mr Li Cheng	Section Chief Disaster Relief Section Department of Disaster and Social Relief Ministry of Civil Affairs People's Republic of China
East Timor	Mr Francisco F. M. de Rosario	Deputy Head National Disaster Management Office United Nations Transitional Administration of East Timor
Georgia	Mr Otar Tavelishvili	Head Department of Extreme Situation and Civil Defence Ministry of Internal Affairs Republic of Georgia
India	Mr Ashok Pradhan	Special Secretary and Central Relief Commissioner Ministry of Agriculture Republic of India
India	Mr Anil Sinha	Head National Centre for Disaster Management Indian Institute of Public Administration Republic of India
Iran	Mr Sadreddin Ismaili Barzi	Deputy Director General Bureau for Coordination of Safety and Reconstruction Affairs (BCSRA) Ministry of Interior Islamic Republic of Iran
Iran	Mr Azadeth Hasan	Expert National Disaster Taskforce and Iranian National Committee for Natural Disaster Reduction (NCNDR) Ministry of Interior Islamic Republic of Iran
Jordan	Col. Ahmed Mahmoud Al Mefleh	Secretary of Civil Defence Jordan Civil Defence Ministry of Interior

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Jordan	Major Alzabet Abdel Hadi	The General Directorate of Jordanian Civil Defence Training Department Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Kazakhstan	Mr Medetkhan Zapparov	Chief Debris Flow Protection Service “Kazselezaschita” Emergency Agency Republic of Kazakhstan
Laos	Mr Phetsavang Sounalath	Director National Disaster Management Office Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare Lao People’s Democratic Republic
Nepal	Mr Kumar Prasad Poudyal	Director General Department of Narcotics Control & Disaster Management Kingdom of Nepal
Pakistan	Mr M. Nafees Zakaria	Counsellor and DPR to UNESCAP Embassy of Pakistan, Bangkok
Papua New Guinea	Mr Martin Mose	Assistant Director Community and Government Liaison National Disaster Management Office Department of Village Services and Provincial Affairs Independent State of Papua New Guinea
Philippines	Maj. Gen. Melchor P. Rosales	Administrator OCD and Executive Officer NDCC Office of Civil Defence Department of National Defence Republic of The Philippines
Philippines	Atty Priscilla P. Duque	Director I Office of Civil Defence Department of National Defence Republic of The Philippines
Thailand	Mr Charnchai Soontaramut	Deputy Director General Department of Local Administration Ministry of Interior Kingdom of Thailand
Thailand	Mr Chalothorn Phakoat	Director Civil Defence Division Department of Local Administration Ministry of Interior Kingdom of Thailand
Thailand	Dr. Tairjing Siriphanich	Director Medical Institute of Accidents and Disasters Department of Medical Services Ministry of Public Health Kingdom of Thailand

Thailand	Mr Yanak it Wongwatcharadet	Director Disaster Relief Division Department of Public Welfare Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare Kingdom of Thailand
Thailand	Mr Sompot Kongrod	Chief of Foreign Affairs Section Division of Civil Defence Department of Local Administration Ministry of Interior Kingdom of Thailand
Vietnam	Mr Dang Quang Tinh	Director Department of Dike Management, Flood and Storm Control Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Socialist Republic of Vietnam
ADPC	Ms Corazon Alma G. de Leon	Vice Chairman ADPC Board of Trustees
ADPC	Dr. Suvit Yodmani	Executive Director
ADPC	Col. Brian Ward	Director Emeritus
ADPC	Mr David Hollister	Deputy Executive Director
ADPC	Mr Aloysius Rego	Director Planning, Development and Partner Relations
ADPC	Ms Zenaida Delica Willison	Director Training and Education
ADPC	Mr Phornchai Chiravinijnandh	Director Finance, Administration and Human Resources
ADPC	Mr Kamal Kishore	Director Information, Research and Network Support
ADPC	Mr Robin Willison	Director Technical Services

OBSERVERS

ADB	Dr. Joseph A. Weinstock	Senior Environment Specialist & Focal Point for Disaster Management Asian Development Bank, Manila
ADRC	Mr Satoru Nishikawa	Deputy Executive Director Asian Disaster Reduction Center Kobe, Japan
ASEAN	Mr Yong Chanthalangsy	Senior Officer ASEAN Secretariat Jakarta, Indonesia
AusAID	Mr Stephen Walker	First Secretary Technical and Economic Cooperation Australian Agency for International Development Bangkok
AusAID	Mr Paul Kelly	Humanitarian and Emergencies Section Australian Agency for International Development Canberra
DFID	Ms Fenella Frost	Assistant Humanitarian Advisor Department for International Development United Kingdom
ECHO	Ms Karin Michotte	Technical Assistant for Laos, Vietnam and DIPECHO Programs European Community Humanitarian Office European Commission Bangkok
ICIMOD	Ms Mandira Shrestha	Water Resources Specialist International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development Kathmandu Nepal
MRC	Ms Frauke Newmann-Silkow	Expert, Land Use Planning Flood Mitigation and Management Taskforce Mekong River Commission Phnom Penh
OFDA	Mr Thomas Brennan	Senior Regional Advisor Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, USAID Manila, Philippines
OFDA	Mr William S. Berger	Regional Advisor Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, USAID Kathmandu, Nepal
UNDP	Mr J. K. Robert England	UN Resident Coordinator UNDP Resident Coordinator

Bangkok
Thailand

UNESCAP Dr Pak Sum Low

Regional Advisor
United Nations Economic and Social Commission
for the Asia-Pacific
Bangkok
Thailand

UNTAET Mr Kevin Austin

Disaster Mitigation Officer
UN Transitional Administration of East Timor

Annex II RCC members

(As on 31 October 2001)

Bangladesh	Mr Hiralal Bala	Secretary Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh	Mr K. C. Kundu	Director General Disaster Management Bureau Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bhutan	Mr Dasho Pema Wangchhuk	Secretary Ministry of Home Affairs Kingdom of Bhutan
Brunei	Haji Awang Zaidi bin Haji Md Daud	Director of Fire Services Ministry of Home Affairs State of Brunei Darussalam
Brunei	Haji Mohd Zakaria Haji Sarudin	Head of Environment Unit Ministry of Development State of Brunei Darussalam
Cambodia	H.E Mr Nhim Vanda	1 st Vice President National Committee for Disaster Management of Cambodia Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Cambodia	Mr Peou Samy	Secretary General National Committee for Disaster Management Kingdom of Cambodia
China	Mr Wang Zhen Yao	Director General Department of Disaster and Social Relief Ministry of Civil Affairs People's Republic of China
Chinese Taipei	Ms Cheng Chung Hsia	Director General Urban and Housing Development Department Council for Economic Planning and Development Chinese Taipei
East Timor	Mr Francisco F. M. do Rosario	Deputy Head National Disaster Management Office United Nations Transitional Administration of East Timor
Georgia	Mr Otar Tavelishvili	Head Department of Extreme Situation and Civil Defence Ministry of Internal Affairs Republic of Georgia
India	Mr Ashok Pradhan	Special Secretary and Central Relief Commissioner Ministry of Agriculture Republic of India

Indonesia	Mr H. B. Burhanuddin	Secretary Bakornas PB National Coordination Board for Disaster Management Republic of Indonesia
Iran	Mr Abbas Syed Jazeri	Director General Coordination of Safety and Reconstruction Affairs Ministry of Interior Islamic Republic of Iran
Jordan	Major General Mahmoud Abbadi	Director General of Civil Defence Jordanian Civil Defence Ministry of Interior Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Kazakhstan	Mr Zamambek Nurkadilov	Chairman Emergency Agency Republic of Kazakhstan
Korea	Mr Song Jeong	Director Disaster Prevention Planning Division Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs Republic of Korea
Laos	Mr Phetsavang Sounalath	Director National Disaster Management Office Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare Lao People's Democratic Republic
Mongolia	Maj. Gen. Odhkuu Urjin	Chief State Board for Civil Defence of Mongolia Mongolia
Nepal	Mr Kumar Prasad Poudyal	Director General Department of Narcotics Control and Disaster Management Kingdom of Nepal
Pakistan	Brigadier Mohammad Ilyas Khan	Director General Emergency Relief Cell Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Papua New Guinea	Henry J. Mokono	Director General National Disaster Management Office Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs Independent State of Papua New Guinea
Philippines	Maj. Gen. Melchor P. Rosales	Administrator OCD and Executive Officer NDCC Office of Civil Defence Department of National Defence Republic of The Philippines
Sri Lanka	Mrs. V.Jegarasingham	Secretary Ministry of Social Services Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
Sri Lanka	Mr M.B.C. De Silva	Secretary

Ministry of Social Services and Housing Development for
Fishing Community
Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri
Lanka

Sri Lanka	Mr W. B. J. Fernando	Director National Disaster Management Centre Ministry of Health, Indigenous Medicine and Social Services Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
Thailand	Mr Charnchai Soonthararmut	Deputy Director General Department of Local Administration Ministry of Interior Kingdom of Thailand
Thailand	Mr Chalothorn Phakoat	Director Civil Defence Division Department of Local Administration Ministry of Interior Kingdom of Thailand
Vietnam	Mr Dang Quang Tinh	Director Department of Dike Management, Flood and Storm Control Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Annex III RCC-2 Opening Ceremony Attendees

Board of Trustees

1. H.E Prof. Krasae Chanawongse
Minister to the Prime Minister Office and Chairman, ADPC BoT
2. Madame Corazon Alma G. De Leon
Vice Chairman, ADPC BoT
3. Col. Brian Ward
Special Advisor, ADPC
4. H.E Mr. S. Palihakkara
Ambassador, Embassy of Democratic Socialist republic of Sri Lanka
5. H.E. Mrs. Leela Ponappa
Ambassador, Indian Embassy
6. Prof. Jean-Louis Armand
President, AIT

Diplomatic Corps

7. H.E. Mr. Hemayet Uddin
Ambassador, Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
8. H.E Mr. Lyonpo Chenkyab Dorji
Ambassador, Royal Bhutanese Emabssy
9. H.E Mr. U Myo Myint
Ambassador, Embassy of Union of Myanmar
10. H.E Mr. Janak Bahadur Singh
Ambassador, Royal Nepalese Embassy
11. H.E. Mr. Do Ngoc Son
Ambassador, Embassy of Vietnam
12. Mr. Stephen Walker
First Secretary, Australian Embassy
13. Mr. Rashit Rakhimbekov
Charge D' Affaires, Embassy of Republic of Kazakhstan
14. Mr. Masahiro Mikami
First Secretary, Embassy of Japan
15. Mr. Phouangkeo Langsy
Counsellor, Emabssy of Lao PDR
16. Mr. Damdinjav Jargalsaikhan
Charge D' Affaires, Embassy of Mongolia
17. Mr. Romeo L Manalo
Charge D' Affaires, Embassy of Republic of Philippines
18. Mr. Tom Elam
Country Program Coordinator, USAID, Embassy of United States of America

UN and International Agencies

19. Ms. Keiko Okaido
Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCAP
20. Mr. Robert J.K England
Resident Representative, UNDP
21. Mr. Bjorn Melgaard
Regional Representative, WHO
22. Mr. Dong Qingsong
Deputy Regional Representative, FAO
23. Mr. Lal Kurukulasuriya
Chief, Regional Environmental Law Program, UNEP

24. Mr. David Jzeph
Chief, Water Resources Section, ENRD, ESCAP

Thai Government Agencies

25. Mr. Elawat Chandraprasert
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and ADPC Advisory Council
26. Dr. Prapansak Buranapraba
Director General, Thai Meteorological Dept., Ministry of Transportation and Communications
27. Mr. Manop Mekpraporthons
Director, International Development Affairs Division, Department of International Organization, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
28. Mr. Chalothorn Phakoat
Director, Civil Defence Division, Dept. of Local Administration, Ministry of Interior and ADPC Advisory Council
29. Mr. Yanakit Wongwatcharadet
Director, Disaster Relief Division, Dept. of Public Welfare, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare
30. Dr. Tairjing Siripanich
Director, Medical Institute of Accident and Disaster and ADPC Advisory Council
31. Lt. Gen. Lertrat Raranacanich
Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Royal Thai Army, Ministry of Defence and ADPC Advisory Council
32. Dr. Jingjai Hanchalash
First Senior Vice President, Loxley Public Co. Ltd., and ADPC Advisory Council
33. Major Totsatep Bunsila
Royal Thai Army
34. Mrs. Wachana Chariyawatwanna
Office of the National Safety of Thailand
35. Mrs. Korawin Silaphan
Office of the National Safety of Thailand

AIT Faculty

36. Dr. Karl E. Weber, M.A
AIT, GTZ

Media

37. Mr. Patchalack Kabrapakul
Radio Thailand
38. Mr. Khunchai Karaphun
Nation
39. Ms. Praphen Pehnrakul
Nation Channel

Annex IV Addresses at the RCC-2 Opening Ceremony

(a) Welcome Address by Dr. Suvit Yodmani, Executive Director, ADPC

Venue: Imperial Queen's Park Hotel

Date: 31 October 2001

Excellency Prof. Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, Minister to the Prime Minister's Office of the Royal Thai Government and Chairman of the ADPC Board of Trustees, Ambassador Nitya

Pibulsonggram, Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Royal Thai Government, Excellencies, Honorable Corazon Alma De Leon, the Philippine's former Secretary of Department of Social Welfare and Development and Vice-Chairman of the ADPC Board of Trustees, ADPC Advisory Council members, Delegate members of ADPC Consultative Committee on Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management, distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very good morning to you.

It is my privilege and pleasure to welcome you on behalf of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center to the second meeting of the ADPC Consultative Committee on Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management (RCC). We appreciate very much Prof. Dr. Krasae's gracious agreement to deliver the inaugural address to open this important meeting of senior officials in charge of disaster management from 18 Asia-Pacific countries. We would like to thank Ambassador Nitya for agreeing to deliver the keynote address on behalf of Dr. Surakiart Sathiarathai, Minister of Foreign Affairs who has to attend an urgent meeting with the Prime Minister. We would also like to thank RCC member countries and delegates for agreeing to participate in this important meeting, and distinguished guests from Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), Asian Development Bank (ADB), ASEAN Secretariat, Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), the British Department for International Development (DFID), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO), International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the Mekong River Commission, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for their keen interest in the meeting.

The major objectives of this important meeting are: First, to take stock of how much ground we have covered in terms of the action areas suggested by the 1st RCC meeting last November and identify priority action areas to be taken up in the coming years. Secondly, to assess and share the disaster management experiences of countries of the Asia-Pacific region and in particular learn from lessons of disasters in the past year. Thirdly, to identify mechanisms to promote sustainable regional cooperation among countries of Asia-Pacific region in the area of flood preparedness and management.

Asia is the most disaster prone region in the world with more than 50% of the world's disasters taking place in this continent. The 2nd RCC meeting is taking place against the backdrop of recent devastating floods in Northern Thailand, the Mekong delta and South Asian countries, as well as the Gujarat earthquake earlier this year, and growing recognition that disasters are becoming obstacles and setbacks to sustainable development due to the devastation they cause and to their increase in frequency and severity. Since the last RCC meeting in November 2000, this region has been at the receiving end of quite unfortunate, unprecedented and untimely floods. I believe not only ADPC but other organizations have also been inundated with work to tackle and manage these floods. It's been a busy year. Our team here at ADPC, while formulating the agenda for this meeting have rightly identified the need to discuss and share the lessons learnt during the past year of floods and review new sub-regional initiatives in South and South East Asia on flood management; and have therefore planned a 3 hour session on regional cooperation in flood preparedness and management.

So far, I have spoken only of natural disasters. Increasingly, however, Asia is experiencing man-made disasters in the shape of industrial accidents and population displaced by strife. Just over a month ago the world was shaken by a horrific explosion of terrorist activities. I do not propose to enlarge now on these new developments save to say that whatever the cause of the disaster may have been, the needs of the victims are usually very similar.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I would like to take this opportunity to briefly report on what ADPC has been able to achieve in the last year as mandated by the RCC member countries during the 1st Meeting in November 2000. As I said a moment ago, the past year has really been an extremely busy one and the tasks assigned to ADPC by member countries has been very challenging. I am happy to inform you that

although we may not have completed all the tasks, whatever work we have undertaken we made sure that it has long lasting impacts. While working to complete the tasks ahead, ADPC will continue to follow up on projects already completed.

Early this year we published the summary report of the 1st RCC meeting and distributed it to a wide audience. We also have published the report on the ADPC website in order to bring it to a still wider audience. The key suggested action areas in the report by RCC member countries during the first meeting represents the priority needs of our region and have triggered interest among many other countries both in the developed and the developing world. In March this year, ADPC signed an MoU with South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) which will help strengthen national disaster management capacities and to integrate risk management practices into national development planning processes within Pacific Island countries and organizations. We have initiated dialogue with SAARC and ASEAN Secretariats and collaborations with Mekong River Commission and International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). We have also expanded the RCC membership by three countries (East Timor, Pakistan and Turkey) and this year we have invited several more Observers out of which at least 7 are present in this meeting. ADPC has also promoted the agenda and shared the outcomes of the RCC in several of the international meetings and conferences it has attended. As part of the proposed regional initiatives of the 1st RCC meeting, ADPC has developed a number of concept and discussion papers on organizing a high level Asian Conference to mobilize political support for Disaster Management and developing an Asian State of Disaster Management Report. All these proposals will be tabled during this RCC Meeting.

ADPC considers it imperative to be able to provide a forum for countries in the region to exchange ideas and experiences with a view to enhancing regional cooperation in the vital areas of disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness. This meeting is an important part of the mechanism for sustainable regional cooperation. I want to assure you that ADPC takes your recommendations very seriously. They are discussed at our periodic Strategy Sessions and help to guide us in developing our future programs.

I would specially like to thank AusAID and the Australian Government for their continuing generous support to the institutional development of ADPC and specifically to organizing this meeting. Also allow me to extend ADPC's appreciation to the Royal Thai Government and to all RCC members for joining ADPC in our effort to enhance regional cooperation to promote sustainable development of communities and nations in Asia and the Pacific.

Finally, I would like to thank all ADPC staff members particularly the Planning, Development and Partner Relations team at ADPC for their effort in preparation of and assistance in this significant RCC meeting.

Thank you very much.

(b) Inaugural Address by Prof. Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, Minister to the Prime Minister's Office, Royal Thai Government & Chairman, Board of Trustees, ADPC

Venue: Imperial Queen's Park Hotel

Date: 31 October 2001

Ambassador Nitya Pibulsonggram, Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Royal Thai Government, Excellencies, Honorable Corazon Alma De Leon, Vice-Chairman of the ADPC Board of Trustees, Dr. Suvit Yodmani, Executive Director, ADPC, ADPC Advisory Council members, Delegate members of ADPC Consultative Committee on Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management and Observers, Ladies and Gentleman,

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to join all of you this morning at the opening ceremony of the second RCC meeting of ADPC. On behalf of the ADPC Board of Trustees and our host country Thailand, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the members of the RCC, and other distinguished invitees from the Asia-Pacific region as well as representatives from other

countries attending this meeting. I would also like to then members of the diplomatic corps and officials from international organizations who have kindly honored us by your presence this morning.

I have derives immense pleasure and pride in supporting this important organization, the ADPC, as the Chairman of its Board of Trustees. Disaster Management is indeed a very important concern. As a medical doctor and a public health specialist I have been involved with practicing community health throughout my career. This is very similar to the work all of you so in disaster prevention and reduction. Over the last 16 years ADPC has done a remarkable job in raising awareness, in helping build capacities for disaster management, and in promoting disaster reduction through regional cooperation. I am confident that in the years to come ADPC will continue to serve the needs of this region even better through various forums such as this meeting of the RCC.

As we stand at the start of a new millennium, with the increased concentration of population in hazard prone areas and unprecedented rates of industrialization and environmental degradation, the problems of disasters are likely to become more and more complex. Disaster Managers in Asia will have to evolve innovative strategies to deal with the emerging challenges. Strong “partnerships” cutting across different disciplines and across different geographical areas and even regions will play a key role in evolving such innovative strategies. Having personally participated in the first RCC meeting and having read the report, I am convinced that the establishment of the Regional Consultative Committee and the annual meetings of the RCC member countries fulfill an invaluable function. I am sure that the consultation process started by the first meeting and continued in this second meeting will go a long way in charging new directions for the disaster management agenda in the Asia-Pacific region in the coming years.

The key action areas suggested by the first RC meeting were presented at the 2nd Annual Meeting of the ADPC Board of Trustees in January 2001. I am happy to sat that the ADPC Board feels strongly that the RCC is an important forum which provides a consultative mechanism for development of action strategies for disaster reduction in the region and for promoting cooperative programs on a regional and sub-regional basis. Our Board strongly supports the initiatives you have proposed. Your recommendations also help ADPC to design its program structure so as to better serve the needs of the region.

I would like to share with you two recent examples of the effectiveness of ADPC. Early on Saturday, 11 August 2001, a flash flood triggered by heavy rains swept through villages in northern Thailand (Phetchabun province, 185 miles north of Bangkok) killing at least 120 people and displacing more than 1,000 residents. Although ADPC is not a relief organization, it was quick to respond. In partnership with the Thai Department of Local Administration (DoLA) in the Ministry of Interior, ADPC fielded a damage assessment mission to undertake a comprehensive technical assessment of the damage and underlying causes as well as to provide recommendations on development of a mitigation plan. The report was submitted and the Thai Cabinet discussed the ways to implement the recommendations. Similarly after the devastating earthquake in India on 26th January 2001, ADPC sent a team to work with the Governments of India and Gujarat, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and USAID in developing the reconstruction program package. As the chairman of the ADPC Board of Trustees, I felt very proud about the relevance, timeliness and, therefore, value of this work.

I am also glad that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, which I was privileged to have headed as Minister a few years ago, has shown keen interest in last year's meeting, and in the work of ADPC, and expressed the Government's willingness to support disaster management initiatives. This proves the importance of this cooperative effort initiated by ADPC.

Before I conclude, I would like to tell you of ADPC's delight that, earlier this month, our Director Emeritus, Colonel Brian Ward, received a Certificate of Distinction from the United Nations Sasakawa Award fro Disaster Reduction. The award was a tribute to his work as the Founding Father of ADPC and, implicitly, international recognition of the important role being played by our Center.

Inclosing, I wish to encourage you to have a free and frank exchange of views and come up with better and more effective ways and mechanisms to enhance and promote disaster reduction cooperation in the sub-regions and in the whole of Asia. I look forward to hearing the results of your deliberations.

I sincerely hope that all the delegates will have a very pleasant stay in Bangkok and hope that this annual meeting will set the direction and pace for enhanced collaboration among countries in the Asia-Pacific region, and for strengthened partnership between Asian and Pacific countries and ADPC. This will help to reduce the impact of disasters, the loss of lives and property, and lead to safer communities and sustainable development.

Thank you.

**(c) Keynote Address by His Excellency Ambassador Nitya Pibulsonggram, Advisor to the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Royal Thai Government**

Venue : Imperial Queen's Park Hotel

Date: 31 October 2001

Excellency Minister Krasea Chanawongse, Chairman of the ADPC Board of Trustees, Excellencies, Honorable Corazon Alma De Leon, Vice-Chairman of the ADPC Board of Trustees, Dr. Suvit Yodmani, Executive Director, ADPC Advisory Council members, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Royal Thai Government and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, Dr. Surakiat Sathirathai, I would like to extend to you a warm welcome to all RCC members and other invitees attending this meeting. I indeed feel honored to have had the opportunity in two successive years to address this prestigious international meeting and to be amongst the distinguished people whose main task is to save lives of others.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to reiterate what I said in my opening address last year that it was a privilege for Thailand that ADPC has chosen Bangkok as the venue for the international meeting of disaster management leaders from the Asian region. I would like to congratulate ADPC for coordinating such an important event for the second time. I am also delighted to note that Thailand has been the host country of ADPC since its establishment 16 years ago. Over the years, ADPC has played an important role as a resource centre for disaster management at the regional and international levels.

Mr. Chairman,

As we are all well aware, the Asian region has been widely considered as one of the world's most disaster-prone areas. Heavy losses from natural disasters have become a common phenomenon for our region. According to ESCAP's report, in 1997 alone, Asia suffered 33 percent of the world's worst catastrophes, 67 per cent of the casualties, and 28 per cent of the economic losses. In this respect, I would like to commend ADPC for playing an important role in mitigating such disasters. It is, in fact, through its vision of "disaster reduction for safer communities and sustainable development" that all ADPC's activities are well organized.

I am heartened to learn that ADPC has taken an important initiative in establishing a forum like the RCC to facilitate the Asia-wide cooperation, particularly in complementing the work of two other regional for a, namely ASEAN and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). The RCC emphasizes sub-regional cooperation and supports the work of SAARC and ASEAN, so as to encourage region-wide cooperation. Disasters have become a fact of life. Even with the best preventive measures we cannot stop natural disasters from occurring. But of we are successful in promoting a culture of disaster preparedness to make people aware of the risks, well informed and ready to face any potential calamity, the impact of disasters can be largely reduced. One such example of the preventive measures is the "Early Warning System", which is in place in various scientific communities. The system operates through the understanding and capability to react to warning signals by central governments, at the regional and district levels, and finally to the local communities, and can lead to better preparedness. Some crucial pre-requisites for generating a high level of preparedness are: political awareness, a structured multi-sectoral program, partnership with the private sector, self reliance and participation of communities, encouragement and sharing of local wisdom and knowledge, promotion of local ownership, and leadership. Prevention saves not only lives but also money and property. Through deliberations and consensus reached at the RCC forum, member countries can help each other both at the national and regional levels by sharing problems, best practices and lessons learned.

Mr. Chairman,

I personally feel that annual meetings of all the key disaster management leaders and practitioners from Asia are vital for developing action strategies for disaster reduction and for promoting cooperation. Recalling some of the recent natural disasters in Thailand like floods in the North and some of the very recent manmade disasters such as the hazardous chemical spills on the Bangkok Expressway and the disastrous fire in the weapons warehouses near Korat. I am convinced that preventive measures are not only necessary, but also imperative. In this context, the annual meeting of disaster management leaders and practitioners will be important further to develop necessary preventive measures not only for Thailand, but also for the region as a whole. I truly believe that Thailand, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant Ministries, will be able to continue its supporting role as a facilitator of the regular annual meeting, in order to promote disaster management in the development process.

Mr. Chairman,

I wish this meeting and all the participants a fruitful and successful meeting and a very safe and pleasant stay in Thailand.

Thank you very much for your attention.

(d) Vote of Thanks by Madam Corazon Alma G De Leon, Vice Chairman, Board of Trustees, ADPC

Venue: Imperial Queen's Park Hotel

Date: 31 October 2001

Excellency Prof. Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, Minister to the Prime Minister's Office of the Royal Thai Government, and Chairman of the ADPC Board of Trustees, Ambassador Nitya Pibulsonggram, Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Royal Thai Government, Excellencies, Members of ADPC Board of Trustees, ADPC Advisory Council members, Dr. Suvit Yodmani, Executive Director, ADPC, Delegate members of ADPC Consultative Committee on Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management and Observers, Directors and Staff of ADPC.

I have been entrusted with the pleasant duty of delivering the vote of thanks at this opening ceremony of the 2nd meeting of the ADPC Consultative Committee on Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management, which I have accepted with great pleasure.

Excellencies, Prof. Dr. Krasae Chanawongse and Ambassador Nitya Pibulsonggram.

It's a great honour for all of us to have you here at this important event, despite your busy schedule. I wish to express the gratitude of the Board of Trustees and ADPC management to you and to the Royal Thai Government, for supporting this event and for being here to grace this occasion.

I wish to express our sincere thanks to H.E. Ambassadors, Senior Officials of the Royal Thai Government and U.N. agencies for joining us today at this ceremony and giving encouragement through your presence.

In the Philippines, we celebrate tomorrow, Nov 1st All Souls day. Indeed, we have lost many souls because of disasters and our limited capacity to reduce their risks. They need to be remembered and so our mandate to save lives and build safer communities become more symbolic and relevant. We must make sure that in our world, people matter most.

Like a tale of two cities, it is the worst of all times but it can be the best of all times for today.

Today, we have delegates from 18 countries representing South, South East and East Asia, as well as Central and West Asia and the Pacific countries. We are gratified that all governments of respective countries have supported their senior officials to participate in this important event and you, all participants, for being with us on this occasion. I am sure the deliberations during the next three days will give us a great opportunity to discuss the challenges faced by the member countries in management of disasters and to decide on future directions in sub-regional and regional cooperation.

Last but not least, I wish to thank all the Board members of the Board of Trustees of the ADPC, Dr. Suvit Yodmani, Executive Director of ADPC, all the Directors and staff of ADPC for your tireless efforts in disaster reduction for safer communities and sustainable development. This meeting shows your dedication to the vision and I wish you all great success in your efforts. The measure of its success may be summed up in three words illumination, imagination and empowerment.

Thank you.

Annex V Agenda of the 2nd Meeting of the ADPC Consultative Committee on Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management (RCC-2)

Tuesday, 30 October 2001

- 1630 – 1730 Registration *Momji Room, 37F*
1830 – 2000 Cocktail reception and informal review of agenda *Imperial China Room 11, 4F*

Wednesday, 31 October 2001

- 0800 – 0845 Registration for RCC delegates *Momji Room, 37F*
0830 – 0900 Registration for Opening Ceremony guests *Foyer, Queen's Park I, 2F*

0900 – 0945 **OPENING CEREMONY** *Queen's Park I, 2F*

- Welcome address Suvit Yodmani, Executive Director, ADPC
- Inaugural address Prof. Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, Minister to the Prime Minister's Office, Royal Thai Government
- Opening address H.E. Ambassador Nitya Pibulsonggram, Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Royal Thai Government
- Vote of Thanks Ms Corazon Alma G de Leon, Vice Chairman, ADPC Board of Trustees.

0945 – 1030 Tea/Coffee

1030 – 1200 **SESSION I: INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA** *Sakura Room, 37F*

Chair: Ms Corazon Alma de Leon

Facilitator: Mr David Hollister

- Role of RCC and purpose of the meeting (Dr Suvit Yodmani)
- Self-introduction by all participants and observers
- Adoption of the agenda
- Constitution of the Steering Committee for the meeting.

1200 – 1300 Lunch Park View Coffee Shop, Ground floor
First meeting of the Steering Committee

1300 – 1415 **SESSION II: INTRODUCTION TO ADPC** *Sakura Room, 37F*

*Co-Chairs: Mr Charnchai Soontaramut and
Maj. Gen. Melchor Rosales*

*Facilitator: Ms Zenaida
Delica*

1300 – 1330 Overview of ADPC activities and future directions (Mr David Hollister)

1330 – 1345 ADPC Strategic Plan (Mr Loy Rego)

1345 – 1415 Discussion

1415 – 1700 **SESSION III: FOLLOW-UP ON SUGGESTED ACTION AREAS OF RCC1** *Sakura Room, 37F*

*Co-Chairs: Mr Ashok Pradhan, Col. Ahmed
Mahnoud Al Mefleh and Maj. Alzabet
Abdelhadi*

*Facilitator: Mr David
Hollister*

- 1415 – 1435 Action areas suggested by RCC1 (Mr Loy Rego)
1435 – 1500 Actions taken by ADPC since RCC1 (Mr Loy Rego)
1500 – 1515 Tea/Coffee
1515 – 1530 Report on Southeast Asian Working Group Meeting on Regional Cooperation (Mr Yong Chantalangsy)
1530 – 1700 Concept papers and proposals for discussion
- Organizing of Asian regional multi-stakeholder conference on disaster reduction and support to national conferences
 - Creating awareness, political will and support for disaster management and mitigation
 - Asian regional report on disaster reduction
 - Vulnerability Atlas for Asia Development of risk maps and local level 'referencing' for countries in the Asian region
- 1700 – 1800 2nd Meeting of the Steering Committee
1900 – 2130 Welcome dinner *Les Nymphes, 4F*

Thursday, 1 November 2001

0845 – 1030 **SESSION IVA: LESSONS LEARNED FROM RECENT DISASTERS AND PROGRAMS** *Sakura Room, 37F*

Co-Chairs: Mr Peou Samy and Mr Hiralal Bala

*Facilitator: Ms Zenaida
Delica*

Presentations by RCC members

- Lessons learned from recent disasters: Gujarat earthquake (Mr Ashok Pradhan)
- Lessons learned from recent disasters: Jordan (Maj. Alzabet Abdelhadi)
- Vietnam: Flood control and management of large rivers in (Mr Dang Quang Tinh)
- China: Preplan for disaster relief (Mr Li Cheng)
- Philippines Case analysis of Typhoon Feriea (international code Typhoon Utor) (Maj. Gen. Melchor Rosales).

1030 – 1045 Tea/Coffee

1045 – 1200 **SESSION IVB: LESSONS LEARNED FROM RECENT DISASTERS AND PROGRAMS**

*Co-Chairs: Mr Li Cheng and Mr Dang Quang
Tinh*

*Facilitator: Mr Robin
Willison*

Presentations by RCC members

- Kazakhstan: Natural disasters and disaster reduction activities (Mr Medathan Zapparov)
- Cambodia: Capacity building of disaster management systems (Mr Peou Samy)

- Disaster management: the Nepal scenario (Mr Kumar P. Poudyal)
- Bangladesh: floods and their impacts in 2001 (Mr . Hiralal Bala)
- Lao PDR's experience in disaster management: floods in 2000 and early warning activities in Lao PDR (Mr Phetsavang Sounnalath)

1200 – 1300 Lunch *Park View Coffee Shop, Ground floor*

1300 – 1400 **SESSION IVB: LESSONS LEARNED FROM RECENT DISASTERS AND PROGRAMS (continued)** *Sakura Room, 37F*

Co-Chairs: Mr Li Cheng and Mr Dang Quang Tinh **Facilitator: Mr Robin Willison**

Presentations by RCC members

- Thailand: The work of the Civil Defence Secretariat on action areas (Mr Chalotorn Pacoat)
- Disaster response planning in India: the work of the High Power Committee (Mr Anil Sinha)
- Georgia: Population and territorial protection in emergency situations (Mr Otar Tavelishvili)
- Pakistan: Brief on the Emergency Relief Cell (Mr M. Nafees Zakaria)

1400 – 1415 Tea/Coffee

1415 – 1800 **SESSION V: IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITY ACTION AREAS** *Sakura Room, 37F*

Co-Chairs: Col. Brian Ward and Mr Martin Mose **Facilitator: Mr Loy Rego**

- Discussion in working groups
- Plenary presentations
- Plenary discussion.

1800 – 1830 3rd meeting of the Steering Committee

Friday, 2 November 2001

0815 - 0900 4th meeting of the Steering Committee

0900 – 1200 **SESSION VI: REGIONAL COOPERATION IN FLOOD PREPAREDNESS AND MANAGEMENT** *Sakura Room, 37F*

Co-Chairs: Mr Phetsavang Sounnalath and Mr Kumar P. Poudyal **Facilitator: Mr Kamal Kishore**

Introductory remarks by Co-Chairs

- Flood Management and Mitigation in the Lower Mekong River Basin (Ms Frauke Newmann-Silkow, Mekong River Commission)
- Report on Consultative Meeting on Developing a Regional Framework on Flood Forecasting in the Hind Kush-Himalayan Region (Ms Mandira Shrestha, ICIMOD)
- Discussion

- Report on the ADPC Flood Preparedness Information Network (FINE) Project for India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka (Mr Kamal Kishore)
 - Report on the Inter-Regional Symposium on Water-Related Disaster Reduction and Response (Mr Kamal Kishore)
 - Cambodian Community-based Flood Mitigation Project (Mr Josh Moga, ADPC)
 - Discussion
- 1000 – 1015 Tea/Coffee
- 1015 – 1200
- Working Group discussions on regional cooperation in flooding
 - Plenary discussion.
- 1200 – 1300 Lunch *Park View Coffee Shop, Ground floor*
- 1300 – 1430 **SESSION VII: FUTURE DIRECTION OF RCC** *Sakura Room, 37F*
Co-Chair: Dr Suvit Yodmani **Facilitator: Mr Loy Rego**
- Discussion on draft statement of the meeting
 - Feedback on this meeting and suggested agenda for RCC3
 - Host and venue for RCC3.
- 1430 – 1500 **CLOSING CEREMONY** *Sakura Room, 37F*
- Summary report of the meeting (Dr Suvit Yodmani)
 - Statement on future directions of RCC
 - Address by Mr Stephen Walker, First Secretary AusAID, The Australian Embassy, Bangkok
 - Closing address by Mr Bhairote Brohmsan, Deputy Permanent Secretary for the Interior, Ministry of Interior
 - Photographs.
- 1500 – 1515 Tea/Coffee
- 1530 Departure from hotel lobby to ADPC
- 1630 – 1730 **Visit to ADPC**
- 1730 Leave for dinner
- 1900 – 2100 Closing dinner *Suanthip Restaurant, Nonthabur*

Annex VI Prioritization of ADPC and RCC Action Areas

Action Area numbers refer to RCC1 Executive Summary ([Annex X](#)).

CAPACITY BUILDING OF NATIONAL SYSTEMS

1. Integrating disaster management into national planning

(Action Area xii)

- Members to provide ADPC with information on national practices
- ADPC to develop and disseminate guidelines
- Members to develop instruments and mechanisms for financial allocation and insurance regulation

- Members to build incentives and disincentives for disaster mitigation and information sharing.
- 2. Strengthening national disaster management committees or agencies**
(Action Area vi)
- ADPC to organize a regional level workshop
 - Members to endorse workshop
 - Members to define lines of command in the event of a disaster
 - Members to strengthen emergency response agencies, search-and-rescue.
- 3. Developing disaster management plans**
(Action Area viii)
- Members to provide prioritized needs
 - ADPC to provide assistance
 - ADPC to promote sharing of plans among countries
 - ADPC and members to train resource people for preparing plans.
- 4. Exchanging experience on legal and institutional arrangements**
(Action Area vii)
- ADPC to disseminate best practices
 - ADPC to survey countries' legal and institutional arrangements
 - Members and ADPC to convene meetings and hold workshops.
- 5. Creating awareness and political support**
(Action Area xv)
- Political support at all levels helps to implement initiatives for disaster management
 - Members and ADPC to brief parliamentarians more frequently and more intensely
 - Members and ADPC to provide information to parliamentarians and other key people on economic impacts of disasters
 - Members and ADPC to highlight economic costs of disasters for specific countries.
- 5. Building national disaster management information systems**
(Action Area ix)
- ADPC to promote sharing among countries
 - ADPC to provide guidelines for an information system network
 - Members and ADPC to document previous disasters and responses.
- 5. Improving disaster management training and capacity building**
(Action Area x)
- ADPC to organize ToT
 - Members to provide ADPC with their national training needs
 - Members to ensure that lessons learned from previous pilot projects are disseminated
 - Members and ADPC to help create and train national training institutions
 - Members and ADPC to help build district level institutions
 - Members and ADPC to identify and build on existing institutional mechanisms
 - Members to involve NGOs and media.

8. Public awareness and media

(Action Area xi)

- Members to provide ADPC with their needs
- ADPC to provide materials
- Members to disseminate information at local levels (such as RAGASA) in easily accessible formats, like posters
- Members to involve schools and develop disaster management curricula and teaching materials.

9. Enhancing scientific and technical cooperation in disaster management

(Action Area xiii)

- ADPC to compile inventory of disaster management experts in the region
- Members and ADPC to identify experts outside the region.

10. Mapping strengths and capacities of RCC member countries

(Action Area xiv)

- More importantly, members and ADPC to identify weaknesses of RCC member countries.

REGIONAL INITIATIVES

1. Creating awareness, political will and support for disaster management and mitigation

(Action Area xv)

- Members to submit to ADPC national reports
- ADPC to compile and publish.

2. Organizing an Asian regional multi-stakeholder conferences on disaster reduction and support to national conferences

(Action Area xvii)

- Members to identify national stakeholders
- ADPC to confirm dates and sources of financial support.

3. Asian regional report on disaster reduction

(Action Area xviii)

- Members to submit risk maps to ADPC
- ADPC to compile and publish.

3. Vulnerability Atlas for Asia: development of risk maps and local level referencing for countries in the Asian region

(Action Area xix).

NEW AREAS

11. Fostering of sub-regional cooperation through periodic sub-regional meetings
12. Strengthening of Regional Networking
13. Formation of neighborly Search & Rescue Team (across-borders), that is transportable from one country to another in the event of emergency
14. Organizing field trips to impact areas for post disaster assessments
15. Exchange of information, knowledge and mechanisms on Community-Based Disaster Management practices
16. Extension and improvement of existing simulation exercises and development of new practical ones
17. Community Level Warning & Preparedness

18. Development of actionable early warning system
19. Promoting holistic DM approaches and capacity building at local levels by taking into climate change and variability and promoting information dissemination and warning networks among countries.

Annex VII RCC-2 Statement on Future Directions of the ADPC Consultative Committee of Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management

(As approved in Session VI of the 2nd RCC meeting and presented at the Closing Ceremony on 2 November 2001.)

23 delegates from 16 countries and 12 observers from multi-lateral and bilateral agencies met in Bangkok for the 2nd Meeting of the ADPC Consultative Committee on Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management (RCC-2). Taking into consideration the recommendations and action areas identified at this meeting and the 1st Meeting held in November 2000, the meeting endorsed the future directions for Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management and for the RCC as follows:

1) Total Risk Management Approach

Recognizing the increasing incidence and severity of natural, technological and manmade disaster risks in Asia and the Pacific, the meeting encouraged all RCC member countries to adopt a Total Risk Management strategy (i.e., comprehensive multi hazard disaster risk management and reduction). This strategy should cover all hazards and all phases of disaster management including prevention, mitigation and preparedness in addition to response and recovery.

2) Key Action Areas

The meeting discussed the key action areas for the RCC to advance the Total Risk Management approach in the coming years in 4 broad categories:

- Building Community Level Programs for Preparedness and Mitigation
- Capacity Building of National Disaster Management Systems
- Cooperation with Sub-Regional Mechanisms such as ASEAN, SAARC, SOPAC, MRC & ICIMOD
- Regional Initiatives to Create Awareness and Promote Political Will

Details of the recommended next steps to pursue these initiatives were discussed during the meeting and are more fully described in the meeting minutes.

3) Role of RCC

The meeting concluded that the RCC is a very useful and beneficial platform for dialogue, exchange of experience and lessons learned. It also serves as an important means of conceptualizing and developing practical cooperative programs between member countries at the regional and sub-regional levels. The meeting recommends that the RCC mechanism should be institutionalized.

4) RCC Membership and Observers

The meeting endorsed the principle of inviting the senior official of the member countries' national disaster coordinating body and that it was appropriate to expand the RCC to include other countries in Asia. The meeting appreciated the presence and participation of observers from multilateral and bilateral organizations and encouraged them and other organizations to take note of the outputs of the meeting and to continue participating in future meetings.

5) Future RCC Meetings

Future RCC meetings should be organized annually and, as much as possible, at different venues in the region. Ideally meetings should have a thematic focus and a field visit to see how the host country organizes its disaster management systems.

6) Costs of the Meeting

The meeting appreciated Australia's contribution in providing financial support for hosting a significant portion of the costs of the 1st and 2nd meetings. The meeting requested ADPC to find funds and/or donors to support the 3rd and 4th meetings.

7) Role of ADPC

ADPC was requested to continue as a facilitator and convener of this consultative mechanism and serve as the regional focal point and a technical resource for the RCC in disaster management.

8) International Organization Status for ADPC in Thailand

The meeting noted the decision of the ADPC Board of Trustees to work towards achieving the status of an international (intergovernmental) organization and supported this direction.

Annex VIII Addresses at RCC-2 Closing Ceremony

(a) Report of the Meeting from Dr. Suvit Yodmani, Executive Director ADPC

Venue: Imperial Queen's Park Hotel

Date: 2 November 2001

Khun Bhairote Brohmsan, Deputy Permanent Secretary for Interior, Ministry of Interior, Honorable Corazon Alma de Leon, former Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development of the Philippines and Vice-Chairman of the ADPC Board of Trustees, Mr. Stephen Walker, First Secretary, AusAID and representative of the Australian Embassy Mr. Paul Kelly from AusAID, Canberra, Delegate members of ADPC Consultative Committee on Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management, Dr. Joseph Weinstock of Asian Development Bank, Mr. Satoru Nishikawa from Asian Disaster Reduction Center, Ms. Fenella Frost from DFID, Ms. Karin Michotte from ECHO, Dr. Pak Sum Low from ESCAP, Mrs. Mandira Shrestha from ICIMOD, Ms. Frauke Newmann-Silkow from MRC, Dr. Thomas Brennan and Mr. William Berger from OFDA, Directors of ADPC, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank Khun Bhairote Brohmsan for honoring us with his presence at the closing ceremony of this very important second RCC meeting of ADPC. Very special thanks to Honorable Corazon Alma de Leon for being with us for all the three days of the meeting using her depth and wealth of experience in guiding us through the deliberations and chairing the meeting. I greatly appreciate the enthusiasm and keen interest shown by the RCC members during the various sessions of the meeting. I also thank the Steering Committee for their invaluable work. Last but not the least I would like to thank all ADPC staff for the smooth running of this meeting.

Last year during the 1st RCC meeting, the members charted a very ambitious and forward looking agenda for the region as well as for ADPC which we recognise will keep us busy for at least the coming 20 years, if not more. This year by way of the detailed deliberations we have been able to identify priorities and next steps to be taken. It is hoped that our discussions in the plenary as well as individual interactions outside the meeting have benefited participants whose roles are to formulate and implement their national disaster management strategies. At the same time, ADPC has benefited from enhanced understanding of the work and the expectations of the members, which have helped to indicate the directions we should pursue together.

Over the past three days we have learned from and discussed the experiences, knowledge and information shared by the 16 participating countries, particularly the countries like East Timor, Iran, Kazakhstan and Pakistan who are participating for the first time. We also had the opportunity to hear many of our Observers, who have given us significant comments. We have heard about the lessons learned from the recent disasters specially the Gujarat earthquake, the floods in the Mekong river and in Thailand, and the typhoon 'Feria' of the Philippines. We have learnt about the innovative directions and holistic approach implemented in India by the Government of India and its High Powered Committee, and in the Philippines by the NDCC. We have heard of the successful story of risk reduction initiative taken in the Mount Pinatubo Lake in Philippines. We have come to know about the challenges the country of Jordan had to face in managing its complex emergency program. The RCC has received a proposal on innovative ideas for flood control and management of large rivers in Vietnam as well as for closer cooperation on early warning between Philippines, Vietnam, Lao PDR, Cambodia and Thailand. We must pursue these proposals and others made by members of the RCC.

In affirming the importance of political support and concrete action to be taken by us, we have recognized the importance of mobilising political will and leadership if we are to make significant strides in disaster risk reduction. We have a lot of hard work to do to make this a reality. In fulfillment of last year's suggested key action area on sub-regional cooperation in disaster

management, I am glad that ADPC has established a dialogue on a firm footing and is developing emerging partnerships with ASEAN, ICIMOD, MRC and SAARC as testified by the active participation of three of these agencies in our meeting.

Last year I noted that “the constitution of the RCC and the hosting of the first meeting was the realization of a long cherished dream”. By holding the 2nd meeting we have been able to take a further step in institutionalizing the RCC mechanism. It is with a sense of humility and onerous responsibility that we at ADPC accept the expectations that you have of us. We shall do our best to work in partnerships in order to work toward sustainable development and safer communities through disaster reduction.

At this meeting we have looked back, we have looked around, and we have looked ahead. It is indeed illuminating and heartwarming to realize how much is going on in all our countries in the field of disaster management. I suggest that we can be modestly proud of our achievements and intentions for the future.

I would like to especially thank the host Government, Thailand who have sent senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Public Health, Labour and Social Welfare as well as the Ministry of Interior.

I would like to conclude by saying that we are really grateful to all RCC Member Countries and Observers from donors and multi-lateral partners like ADB, ASEAN, AusAID, DFID, ESCAP, MRC, OFDA and UNDP for their active participation in the 2nd RCC meeting. We at ADPC sincerely believe that we can surely take this collaborative work of the RCC to a new and higher level.

Thank you.

**(b) Closing Address by Stephen Walker, First Secretary Technical and Economic
Cooperation (AusAID) Australian Embassy Bangkok**

Venue: Imperial Queen's Park Hotel

Date: 2 November 2001

Distinguished delegates, observers, ladies and gentlemen. Let me start by asking a question that some of you may have. Why? Specifically, why is this guy from Australia up here today giving an address? Why is Australia behind the ADPC? Why did Australia support the first and now second regional consultative meeting?

The answer is commitment. Commitment by the Australian Government; commitment by AusAID as the Australian Government's aid agency; and at heart, the commitment of the Australian people to helping mitigate the human tragedy of disasters throughout our region.

AusAID, the organisation I represent here in Bangkok has at its core, the over-arching objective of assisting countries to reduce poverty. This is our business and encapsulates everything we try to do within the region. Our Poverty Reduction Framework, released this year, spells out four areas of focus in order to achieve sustainable poverty reduction: through promoting growth, productivity, accountability and reducing vulnerability.

Vulnerability. Disasters threaten the vulnerability of people across this region. Disasters by their very nature threaten to undermine hard-won progress made toward poverty reduction across so many communities in South East Asia and the Pacific.

This aspect of disasters, this particular threat, is perhaps more widespread and far reaching than the initial localised impact of some disasters themselves. Over the medium to long term, environmental degradation from a disaster itself can readily lead to long term disruption of local food production; transportation infrastructure; loss of income generation across whole communities; localised economic downturn; mass movement of families and communities; over burdening of accessible food, water and income sources. All of these things compound the disaster itself: all of which may take a lifetime to restore.

Disasters are a fundamental and unpredictable risk to everything that we are trying to achieve in development. Disaster mitigation, disaster preparedness has, with the release of the Australian Government's Humanitarian Program Strategy earlier this year, become a corner stone of our aid program.

We are no longer just interested in providing cash contributions when an emergency strikes. We are committed to developing international capacity to help mitigate both crises and suffering. To achieve this our humanitarian program is now integrated across AusAID: permeating all of our strategies and our thinking.

I share the observations made by Dr Krasae earlier this week regarding the complex nature of today's humanitarian disasters: increasing environmental degradation; industrialisation; and rapid population growth having led to the emergence of new challenges. The frequency and intensity of disasters, natural and human initiated, are increasing and are increasingly complex. More and more disasters, whether flood, drought or landslide are labelled as being "the worst in human memory" – more and more people are affected, more and more people suffer.

So how do we address this complexity? How can we ever hope to? Certainly not as individuals or even as individual countries. I strongly believe, as does AusAID, that through supporting regional and international organisations, networks and activities including this consultative meeting, we can at least start to address these emerging challenges.

To borrow from Tony Blair recently, this meeting is more than just an event: this is a process. The networks created and built upon here – the learning and the sharing of ideas that have taken place – must continue and must be shaped into action. Regional disaster preparedness cannot be fully realised, unless we're very lucky, without going beyond national boundaries – for me, disaster preparedness is one of the better examples of where we can become greater than the sum of our parts.

I'm sure now that if I ask in turn, why are you here – as delegates, observers and even the ADPC staff? I think we'd unanimously state the same sense of commitment: Commitment by your governments and respective agencies and I'm certain an overwhelming sense of personal commitment to achieving the same basic goals – a commitment I'm sure has grown and intensified over the past few days.

I urge you to capture the past few days; to maintain the networks; to draw on and expand the learning; and to maintain the commitment that we all share.

(c) Closing Address by Mr. Bhairote Brohmsaarn, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Interior, Royal Thai Government

Venue: Imperial Queen's Park Hotel

Date: 2 November 2001

Honorable Corazon De Leon, Vice-Chairman of the ADPC Board of Trustees, Dr. Suvit Yodmani, ADPC Executive Director, ADPC Advisory Council members, Delegate members of ADPC Consultative Committee on Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management and Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen.

First of all, let me introduce myself. I am Bhairote Brohmsaarn, the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Interior Ministry. I was asked by the Permanent Secretary of the Interior Ministry, Mr. Chanasak Yuvapurna, to be his representative today since he has an urgent conference with the Prime Minister.

It is a great honor for me to join all of you this afternoon at the closing ceremony of the second RCC meeting of the ADPC. On behalf of the Royal Thai Government, I would like to express our gratitude to ADPC for its continuous and unwavering support to the Royal Thai Government in preventing and mitigating disasters on several occasions. Also, special thanks to all participants here for their high contribution and cooperation to the successful and worthwhile outcomes of the meeting.

As we have heard about the report from Dr. Suvit, I contend that the disaster management and mitigation issues considerably deserve our attention since the disaster affects not only people in a specific country but also people in our world. Although the occurrence of the disaster is not accurately predictable, its effect can be mitigated through appropriate measures. Disaster is a common threat to all mankind who are inhabitants of this world. Close cooperation among countries is therefore indispensable for the effective management of disaster, particularly of the large-scale ones that affect several countries.

As all of us have known, disaster has no boundary. Once it occurs, it affects lives and properties of all human beings in the disaster stricken areas. It is therefore our responsibilities to protect our people from the disaster and guarantee the safety of their lives and properties. Partnership between public and private sectors is a key factor to the successful tasks of National Disaster Management Organizations in every country.

For transboundary effect, only mutual assistance between the affected countries and cooperation from other countries can prevent and mitigate the disaster. Therefore, a mechanism to strengthen cooperation on disaster management is necessary. I am glad to see the presence of ADPC Consultative Committee on Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management as a mechanism, which enhance mutual understanding and cooperation between member countries in dealing with disasters. I hope that RCC will always play an important role to sustain collaboration and partnership among member countries in the future.

I sincerely hope that all the delegates and participants of this meeting have had a very pleasant stay in Bangkok and will have a nice trip back home. Bon Voyage.

Thank you very much.

Annex IX List of documents circulated at RCC2

- Document 1 Agenda of the meeting
- Document 2 List of RCC members
- Document 3 List of Delegates and Observers at RCC2

Opening ceremony

- Document 4 Welcome address by Suvit Yodmani, Executive Director, ADPC
- Document 5 Inaugural address by H.E. Prof. Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, Minister to the Prime Minister's Office, Royal Thai Government
- Document 6 Opening address by H.E. Ambassador Nitya Pibulsonggram, Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Royal Thai Government
- Document 7 Vote of Thanks by Ms Corazon Alma G de Leon, Vice Chairman, ADPC Board of Trustees

Session I

- Document 8 Role of RCC and purpose of the meeting
- Document 9 Guidelines for chairs and facilitators

Session II

- Document 10 Asian Disaster Preparedness Center: Overview and Activities
- Document 11 ADPC Draft Strategy Plan 2001 – 2005

Session III

- Document 12 Action Areas Suggested at RCC1
- Document 13 Actions taken by ADPC on Action Areas Suggested at RCC1
- Document 14 Report on South East Asia Working Group Meeting on Regional Cooperation on Disaster Management — PDR-SEA
- Document 15 ADPC Concept Paper: Organizing of Asian Regional Multi-Stakeholder Conference on Disaster Reduction and Support to National Conferences
- Document 16 ADPC Concept Paper: Creating Awareness, Political Will and support for disaster Management and Mitigation
- Document 17 ADPC concept Paper: Asian Regional Report on Disaster Reduction (ARRDR)
- Document 18 Discussion Paper: Vulnerability Atlas for Asia: Development of Risk Maps and Local Level “Referencing” for Countries in the Asian Region

Session IV

- Document 19 Lessons Learned from Recent Disasters and Programs: Gujarat Earthquake, India
- Document 20 Lessons Learned from Recent Disasters: Jordan, and Jordan's Suggestion on Activating RCC in Disaster Management
- Document 21 Flood Control and Management of Large Rivers in Vietnam: A Case Study for Red River Basin

- Document 22 China: PrePlan for Disaster Relief
- Document 23 Case Analysis: Typhoon Feria (International Code Typhoon Utor), Philippines
- Document 24 Natural Disasters and Disaster reduction Activities in Kazakhstan
- Document 25 (a) Brief Report on Actions Taken in Relation to the capacity building of Disaster Management System in Cambodia
(b) Cambodia: Flood Disaster in 2001 and its Impacts
- Document 26 Disaster Management in Nepal
- Document 27 (a) Flood in the South West Region of Bangladesh in 2000
(b) Capacity Building of National Disaster Management Systems: Bangladesh Experience
- Document 28 (a) Lao PDR's Experience in Disaster Management
(b) Flood 2000 and early warning activities in Lao PDR
- Document 29 (a) Country Report by Civil Defence Secretariat of Thailand on Action Areas
(b) Lessons learned from recent disasters and programs: the Phetchabun floods
- Document 30 Disaster Management in India — Emerging Issues and New Directions: The Work of HPC
- Document 31 Georgia: Concept Paper on Population and Territorial Protection in Emergency Situations
- Document 32 Pakistan: Briefing on the Emergency Relief Cell

Session V

- Document 33 RCC2 Guidelines for Working Groups in Session V
- Document 34 Proforma for Prioritizing Action Areas

Session VI

- Document 35 Mekong River Commission: Flood Management and Mitigation in the Lower Mekong Basin
- Document 36 (a) Report on Consultative Meeting on Developing a Regional Framework on Flood Forecasting in the Hindu Kush – Himalayan Region Organized by the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and WMO
(b) Developing a Framework for Flood Forecasting and Information Sharing
- Document 37 Flood Preparedness Information Network (FINE) for India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka
- Document 38 Report of the Interregional Symposium on Water-related Disaster Reduction and Response. Bangkok, Thailand, 27-31 August 2001
- Document 39 ADPC's Urban Flood Mitigation Course
- Document 40 RCC2 Instructions for Working Groups in Session VI

Session VII

Document 41 Statement on Future Directions on the ADPC Consultative Committee of Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management

Closing Ceremony

Document 42 Report on the meeting by Suvit Yodmani, Executive Director, ADPC

Document 43 Address by Stephen Walker, First Secretary, AusAID, The Australian Embassy, Bangkok

Document 44 Closing Address by Mr Bhairote Brohmsan, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Interior

Annex X Executive Summary of the first meeting of the ADPC Consultative Committee on Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management (RCC-1)

The first meeting of the ADPC Consultative Committee on Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management (RCC) was held from 20-22 November 2000 in Bangkok. The RCC, set up within the framework of ADPC Advisory Council (AC), is one of ADPC's governance mechanisms, and comprises Board of Trustees (BoT) or AC members working in key government positions in the national disaster management systems of the countries of the Asian region. RCC provides a consultative mechanism for development of action strategies for disaster reduction in the region; promotion of cooperative programs on a regional and sub-regional level; and providing guidance to the work of ADPC and its future directions.

Ambassador Nitya Pibulsonggram, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand presided over the opening ceremony attended by dignitaries comprising Ambassadors and Minister-Counsellors from embassies in Bangkok, senior officials from UN agencies and international organizations including FAO, UNHCR, UNEP, ESCAP, AIT, ICRC, ADPC partner organizations, international NGOs, members of the ADPC BoT, and the media. In his opening address Ambassador Nitya expressed keen interest and willingness of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand to support the RCC meeting and said that "it is a privilege for Thailand that ADPC has chosen Bangkok to organize this prestigious international meeting of disaster management leaders and congratulated ADPC for coordinating such an important event which corresponds with Thailand's policy of encouraging and promoting regional cooperation in prevention and mitigation of disasters."

The meeting comprised six working sessions and was attended by 35 RCC delegates from 17 countries and territories (East Asia: China, Chinese Taipei, Mongolia; South East Asia: Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam; South Asia: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka; West Asia: Jordan; Central Asia: Georgia; Pacific: Papua New Guinea) and 3 observers (AusAID, DANIDA and UNESCAP) besides ADPC officials. The meeting identified the needs and priorities of Asian countries developed recommendations for action to promote regional cooperation in following thematic areas:

- Building capacity, training and public support for disaster management and mitigation
- Development of national disaster management plans and information systems
- Improving legislative and institutional arrangements and enhancing political will for disaster management and mitigation
- Integration of disaster risk reduction into national development process
- Scientific and technical inputs for disaster management (including early warning)

Reviewing the working of the existing international, regional and sub-regional cooperative mechanisms, members identified further opportunities and made specific recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of these mechanisms and improving disaster management cooperation in the three sub-regions of East, Southeast and South Asia. Representatives of Jordan, Georgia and Papua New Guinea made recommendations for enhanced cooperation with reference to West and Central Asia and the Pacific respectively. While reviewing the future directions of the RCC, "the meeting endorsed the utility and benefit of the RCC mechanism as a useful platform for dialogue, exchange of experience and means of developing practical cooperative programs between member countries at the regional and sub-regional levels.

The meeting confirmed the need to convene this RCC meeting periodically about once a year, and requested ADPC to continue its role as convener and secretariat of these meetings. It was decided to hold the next meeting at a suitable date in October or November 2001 in Thailand.

In his closing remarks, Prof. Dr Krasae Chanawongse, Chairman of the ADPC BoT, thanked all the delegates for their active participation, and emphasized the importance of building partnerships through the RCC consultation process.

Action areas and future directions of RCC

i RCC mechanism: roles and functioning

The meeting endorsed the utility and benefit of the RCC mechanism as a platform for dialogue, for exchange of experiences, and as a means for developing practical cooperative programs between member countries at the regional and sub-regional levels.

ii Future RCC meetings

The representatives agreed that future RCC meetings should be organized annually at different venues in the Asia-Pacific region and may have a thematic focus. A field visit or conference could be organized in tandem to enable member countries to see how different countries organize their disaster management systems and to 'learn by seeing'. Nepal and China were mentioned as possible venues for future RCC meetings.

The meeting noted the principle used by ARF and other ASEAN meetings whereby participating member countries cover costs of international travel and local stay, while costs of the venue and local hospitality are covered by the meeting host, and recognized that this principle could be the basis for future RCC meetings.

The meeting recognized the need for a significant consultative process with greater involvement of the RCC members to be undertaken in preparation of the agenda about 2 months in advance.

iii Expansion of RCC membership and observers

The meeting agreed that it was appropriate to expand the RCC to include countries with which ADPC has been working while maintaining the principle of inviting the senior official of the national disaster coordinating body to be the member. Leading scientific and research organizations from the region and representatives of the ISDR Secretariat, the World Bank's ProVention Consortium and ADB may be invited as observers to future meetings.

iv RCC cooperation with sub-regional mechanisms

The meeting recommended that RCC should continue interaction with SAARC, ASEAN, ESCAP, SOPAC and CAREC to consolidate initiatives in regional cooperation, and requested ADPC to inform these bodies of the RCC and its outcomes.

v Role of ADPC

The meeting recognized that ADPC should act as facilitator and convener of this consultative mechanism and serve as the regional focal point and a technical resource for the RCC in disaster management. ADPC is playing an important role in the region in capability building for disaster management, providing expertise and resources, and facilitating the exchange of experiences.

Vietnam, which has served as Co-chair of ARF-ISMDR and Vice-Chair of AEGDM, appreciated the useful work done by ADPC in assisting both forums. Sri Lanka appreciated the role of ADPC both in Sri Lanka and regionally, and suggested that member countries might consider paying an annual contribution to ADPC, in a similar way as contributions are made to international or regional organizations or membership fees are paid to professional organizations.

vi National Disaster Management Agencies/Committees

Disaster management capability building requires building a national disaster management agency in every country, developing human resources and enacting national disaster management legislation. National Disaster Management Committees (NDMCs) and regional and local Disaster Management Committees (DMCs) can be strengthened by locating them in the office of the Prime Minister, Mayor, Governor or important departments at the national, regional and provincial levels. These committees should meet on a regular basis, and discuss programs and technical cooperation. DMCs at local and district levels need to be established formally, and have an institutional sanctity, through force of mandate through law or administrative order, and strengthened through the participation of NGOs, voluntary groups, extension workers, and mass media.

vii Legal and institutional arrangements

In the last few years, significant institutional restructuring and reform has been undertaken in several Asian countries. The countries requested ADPC to support these efforts through technical assistance, as well as to compile and to disseminate information on the experiences of different countries. This would enable countries developing new or modified legislation or institutional arrangements to learn from the positive and negative experiences of others.

viii Development of disaster management plans

The development of a national disaster management plan (DMP) is the cornerstone of a national disaster management system. It must be backed up by national legislation, and prepared at national, state and district levels.

ADPC was requested to have a system to record, archive and disseminate information of countries which have developed and need to formulate such disaster management plans.

ix National disaster management information systems

Each country should have a Disaster Management Information System (DMIS). Data collection and updating must be undertaken on a regular basis. All the data related to hazards and vulnerabilities, resources and organizations must also be included in the information system.

ADPC was requested to develop a generic DMIS, and assist all member countries in the development of DMIS. The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)s should have their own web sites which may be linked to ADPC's website. Other media channels such as newsletters, magazines, and brochures

should be used to disseminate information. Networks should be built, through discussion forums and list serves.

ADPC should serve as a knowledge and information bank, assisting the national governments in capacity building.

x Disaster management training and capacity building

The members recognized that each country has its own specific training needs, depending upon the nature of hazards and regulatory and legal aspects of disaster management. Weaknesses in national training systems need to be addressed through initiative in country and at the regional level. The Apex-level national institution should prepare an annual training program and have a budget line for an annual schedule of training programs. These training programs could be strengthened through regional networking and exchange of expertise. Curricula for disaster management needs to be developed for schools, communities, public/private officials, journalists, and NGOs, and need to be revised periodically.

xi Public awareness and media

A greater constituency for disaster preparedness and mitigation needs to be mobilized through public awareness campaigns. The media coverage of disaster management must be improved by imparting training to the print and audio-visual journalists.

xii Disaster mitigation in national planning

To integrate a disaster management and mitigation focus into regular national development processes, it is necessary to constitute expert groups on disaster management to influence decisions of the planning bodies at the national and sub-national levels. Housing is an important sector for enforcing mitigation measures. Housing finance institutions can help in better land use planning and insist upon the enforcement of building codes, while advancing loans for housing. Housing in coastal or seismically active areas should be built to higher risk resistant standards and should not be located in the proximity of chemical factories or hazardous landfill areas.

Recognizing the important role that international, regional and national institutions play in promoting mitigation measures as part of the regular development process, the meeting suggested:

- Advocacy of incentives for mitigation
- Dialogue with insurance regulatory authorities and tariff advisory bodies on differential tariffs
- Dialogue with donors and development banks on advocacy for pre-project disaster risk assessment as part of project development processes and inclusion of mitigation conditionally in all loan allotment
- That ADPC capture best practices in disaster management in Asia.

xiii Scientific and technical cooperation in disaster management

It is necessary to bring existing information on scientific and technical issues into public domain. This can be done by dialoguing with those national and regional institutions that have hazard, risk and disaster management information. The scientific information regarding risk must be conveyed in a media-friendly language. It is important to take into account socio-economic and cultural factors, while implementing scientific measures and research on risk reduction. A key aspect is the involvement of the community who is the ultimate beneficiary and

all intermediate users including administrators in the start up and design phase of science and technology research projects, so that these orientations and results are more user friendly. A great deal of excess observational capacity of satellites can be utilized for risk communication and improved prediction capacities.

xiv Mapping strengths and capacities of RCC member countries

Each participant country has areas of strengths that could be utilized to build a better complementary relationship in the region. The RCC proposed to undertake a stocktaking of capacities of all member countries.

xv Creating awareness and political support

The meeting recognized that relief activities have always received political attention, but that it is necessary to create awareness among the political class about the risk and vulnerability to natural hazards and importance of pro-active disaster management and mitigation. ADPC has promoted awareness about disaster management among the decision-makers in the region on an informal basis. The RCC meeting represents the first formal effort in the direction of creating a political constituency for disaster management in the Asia-Pacific region.

ADPC can help initiate dialogue among parliamentarians by organizing sessions on disaster management at meetings of the International Parliamentary Union and the Asian Parliamentary Forum, consider induction sessions for parliamentarians in country and conduct study tours and involve politicians and senior administrators in all the important disaster management activities so as to orient them to the subject and have their support.

xvi Proposed Asian ministerial meeting

The meeting recommended organizing a high level Asian ministerial meeting on disaster management in about two years' time to secure political support for disaster management, and requested ADPC to develop a proposal in this regard.

xvii Proposed multi-stakeholder conference

The meeting recognized the benefit of holding a large multi-stakeholder conference at the Asian level with cross-sectoral participation. ADPC was requested to prepare a concept paper for circulation to RCC members.

xviii Proposed Asian State of Disaster Management Report 2002

The meeting endorsed the concept of the publication of an *Asian State Disaster Management Report 2002*, and requested ADPC to place a concept paper for its consideration at the next meeting. It was recognized that this effort should build on current international initiatives, such as the *World Vulnerability Report* being prepared by UNDP and ISDR and the *World Disasters Report* published annually by IFRC.

The need to support publication of national disaster management reports was emphasized, and ADPC was requested to develop a standard format for the same which would be useful to all member countries.

xix Proposed Vulnerability Atlas for Asia

Members recommended preparing a Vulnerability Atlas for Asia mapping hazards, vulnerabilities and risks in countries of the Asian region.

xx Periodic information dissemination in the region

ADPC was requested to initiate the operation of a regional information documentation and dissemination center for better information exchange online and through other media. ADPC should initiate dialogue with member countries to send policy, plans and reports as inputs. By way of follow-up, it was suggested that an informal communication mechanism be set up through an email/list serve for RCC members, and that ADPC should provide a periodic update to all RCC members on its activities.

xxi Sub-regional cooperation on hazard management

The proposal for cooperation among Lao PDR, Cambodia, Vietnam, China, Thailand on the water management of river Mekong is an important example of regional cooperation on scientific and technical aspects of disaster risk reduction. ADPC was requested to support the development of a sub-regional joint scientific research proposal on water management in the Mekong Sub-Region by initiating a dialogue with GMS countries and other regional organizations like MRC and UNESCAP's Water Resources Division. In future, ADPC should consider taking up similar initiatives in other sub-regions and with respect to other hazards as well.

xxii East Asia: Improving sub-regional cooperation

To improve cooperation in East Asia, the following steps were suggested:

- To increase the exchange of information and expertise
- To add a dialogue group in APEC on disaster management
- To form working groups on specific disasters based on cooperation among scientists
- To implement exchanges of scientists and managers.

xxiii Southeast Asia: Enhancing work of existing mechanisms

RCC can contribute to making existing mechanisms in Southeast Asia more effective by:

- Helping AEGDM in the preparation of an ASEAN Disaster Management Program
- Assisting in the preparation of an ASEAN strategy for ARF-ISMDR
- With MRC, facilitating information sharing on rainfall and river flow data, and promoting flood control management on the MRC Agenda
- Helping to finalize SAGIP protocol for international disaster response and humanitarian relief
- Enhancing the capacity of member countries to operationalize the SRFA plan to develop ASEAN agreement on trans-boundary haze pollution and forest fire prevention and suppression.
- Enhancing early warning information sharing and development of practical programs through Typhoon Committee.

xxiv South Asia: promoting sub-regional cooperation

The meeting recognized that SAARC does not as yet have a well developed arrangement for collaboration in disaster management, although disaster mitigation has been on SAARC's agenda since 1987 and the need for a renewed dialogue among the South Asian countries leading towards establishment of an effective mechanism(s) like ASEAN.

A stocktaking of existing agreements and past experiences of cooperation should be undertaken, and areas where disaster management cooperation could be enhanced should be identified.

Sri Lanka offered to host a South Asian meeting of NDMOs, key government departments, scientific organizations and others in Colombo in June next year. Cooperation from the SAARC Secretariat would be sought.

ADPC was requested to act as a facilitator and technical advisor to this and subsequent meetings, as well as to follow-up on other ideas for South Asian cooperation.

xxv Central Asia

There is certainly a need for stronger regional cooperation in disaster management in the Central Asian region, particularly with respect to neighboring countries, such as Azerbaijan and Armenia. A request was made for ADPC to visit Georgia to study the feasibility of setting up a regional center and supporting efforts at improving its disaster management systems.

xxvi West Asia

Jordan has proposed to set up a national disaster management center. It sought a closer collaboration with ADPC, and welcomed a visit of an ADPC representative to the country and the West Asia Region.

xxvii Pacific

Regional cooperation in the South Pacific region has a strong basis. PNG appreciated past cooperation with ADPC and its continued involvement with Pacific countries, and recommended that ADPC cooperate more closely with SOPAC in developing a partnership for the benefit of Pacific nations.

xxviii Partnership with the private sector

The meeting advocated partnership with the private sector to encourage it to invest and become more involved in disaster management, and requested member countries to undertake more initiatives in this regard, with ADPC serving as facilitator.

xxix Proposed research and demonstration projects

Bangladesh asked for a greater commitment of the ADPC to research activities. India and China suggested that ADPC increase its involvement in the entire region by promoting small demonstration projects. While flooding is a serious problem in certain parts of India and South Asia, it is also true that groundwater exploitation has caused the depletion of water sources in many other areas, making them more prone to drought. Water resource management is therefore a major component of effective disaster management. India proposed a regional study on drought considering the recent experiences of the country and neighboring countries and the challenges of management in water shortages in the future. The study should also look at ground water and aquifer recharge as a solution. India was requested to develop a proposal in this regard.

Annex XI Actions taken by ADPC since RCC1

(Presentation at 2nd meeting of RCC on 31 October 2001.)

A. Capacity Building of National Systems

SUGGESTED ACTION AREAS	ACTION BY ADPC
<p>1. Strengthening National Disaster Management Agencies/ Committees</p> <p>2. Exchanging Experience on Legal & Institutional Arrangements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADPC is collaborating with NDMOs of S.E Asia under its PDR-SEA project through needs analysis and identifying areas for sub-regional cooperation. • ADPC organized training for mid-level officials from NDMOs of 6 S.E Asian countries. • ADPC working with State Government of Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal for improving Institutional Arrangements. • Initiating new DANIDA funded program in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. • Under PDR-SEA, study of legal and institutional arrangements in 4 countries underway. • Regional workshop planned in 2002 • ADPC maintaining copies of documents in its library. RCC members registered to provide where not already done.
<p>3. Development of Disaster Management Plans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADPC involvement in finalizing National Disaster Management Plan of Sri Lanka. • ADPC participated in consultation with HPC in India in April 2001. • ADPC supporting development of state and pilot district plans in UP & UA States in India under ADB project. • Conducted 3 training courses in “Planning for Disaster Management” in India in collaboration with NDMC, India. • RCC members’ countries requested to provide copies for maintaining in ADPC library. • ADPC to collect information, propose holding W/S for exchange of experience.
<p>4. Building National Disaster Management Information Systems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADPC presented paper on “National DM Information Systems in Asia” at 4th GDIN Conference in Canberra 2001. • Support development of Risk Mapping as outlined in concept paper. • Willing to develop new project to support pilot development of national systems.
<p>5. Improving Disaster Management Training &</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted national training courses on Community Based Disaster Management (CBDM) and Urban

<p>Capacity Building</p> <p>6. Public Awareness Campaign & Media Coverage</p>	<p>Disaster Mitigation (UDM) in Nepal, Sri Lanka, India, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Philippines and Thailand in collaboration with national partner training institutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted DM training for 5 provinces of China. • Collaborating with SOPAC on development in new training course on “Public Safety Risk Management”. • Supporting NDMOs Training Capacity Building under PRD-SEA project. • Developing partnerships with national training institutions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the Royal Thai Government Department of Local Administration on development of Public Awareness Material on Flood Preparedness. • Working in Thailand on Mine Awareness Campaign in Province of Sae Kaew. • Working in AUDMP project on Public Awareness Campaign in Nepal, Sri Lanka and Indonesia.
<p>7. Enhancing Scientific & Technical Cooperation in Disaster Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADPC through ECE & Climate Forecasting Application in Bangladesh (CFAB) project is promoting dialogue among scientists & users in Indonesia, Philippines, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Thailand. • Drought study of RCC-1
<p>8. Sub-regional Cooperation on Hazard Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADPC in dialogue with Mekong River Commission (MRC) to identify collaboration on Flood Management & Mitigation Project • ADPC participated in ICIMOD-WMO meeting on South Asian Cooperation in Flood Management and is in dialogue on further collaboration.
<p>9. Proposed Research & Demonstration Projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the last RCC meeting, India proposed regional study on drought in South Asia. • ADPC is trying to identify resources.

B. Regional Initiatives

SUGGESTED ACTION AREAS	ACTION BY ADPC
1. Mapping Strengths and Capacities of RCC Member Countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ADPC has consolidated responses to questionnaire and published it in Annex of 1st RCC report.
2. Periodic Information Dissemination in the Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ADPC sends newsletter to all RCC members and will develop email/ list serve.
3. Planning Asian Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management, Promoting Political will & support for Disaster Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ADPC prepared concept paper Creating Awareness, Political Will and Support for Disaster Management & Mitigation”.
4. Organizing Multi-Stakeholder Conference	<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”
5. Developing Asian State of Disaster Management Report 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ADPC prepared concept paper on “Asian Regional Report on Disaster Reduction”.ADPC contributed to the ISDR Global Report on Disaster Reduction.
6. Developing Vulnerability Atlas for Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ADPC prepared concept paper on “Vulnerability Atlas for Asia: Development of Risk maps and Local Level “Referencing” for countries of the Asian Region”.

C. Sub-Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management

SUGGESTED ACTION AREAS	ACTION BY ADPC
1. East Asia: Improving Sub-regional Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close cooperation with Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs on working program.
2. South East Asia: Enhancing Work of Existing Mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with ASEAN Secretariat & AEGDM in supporting preparation of ASEAN DM Program (under PDR SEA). • Dialogue with Typhoon Committee & Regional Haze Plan of ASEAN Sec
3. South Asia; Promoting Sub-regional Cooperation (SAARC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADPC held 2 meetings with SAARC Secretariat and on their request, prepared concept paper on “South Asian Cooperation in Disaster Management”. This 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 Sectt supports Collaboration between Member countries and ADPC. • RCC members for South Asia should discuss the paper by Indian Meteorological Dept on proposed meeting • Sri Lanka to consider willingness to host meeting in 2002.
4. Central Asia: Setting up of Regional Center (Georgia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADPC in consultation with Georgia to do feasibility study. • ADPC has initiated talks with USAID to support this initiative.
5. West Asia: Setting up of National Disaster Management Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jordan has invited ADPC to participate in West Asian regional consultation 27-30 Oct 2001.
6. Pacific: Development of Partnerships with SOPAC	<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. • Curriculum development underway for new course on Public Safety Risk Management. • Delivery of CBDM course planned for 2002.

D. Future of RCC and Its Role

SUGGESTED ACTION AREAS	ACTION BY ADPC
1. RCC Mechanism: Role & Functioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ADPC to continue as convener & secretariat. Has requested OFDA for funding of one meeting as part of its proposal on “Strengthening ADPC’s Regional Mandate”.
2. Expansion of RCC Membership & Observers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• During 2001, Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia and Kazakhstan confirmed their membership.• As decided, ISDR, World Bank, ADB, UN Agencies and bilateral donors invited to 2nd RCC Meeting.
3. RCC Cooperation with Sub-regional Mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continued interaction with SAARC, ASEAN, ESCAP, SOPAC, MRC, ICIMOD; several of who, are attending this meeting.• ADPC signed MOU with EMA in December 2000 and with ADRC in June 2001.
4. Dissemination of RCC outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Widely circulated RCC report as well as posted on the ADPC website.• Presented outcomes of RCC to ADPC Board (June 2001), Pre Meeting of World Congress On Disaster Reduction organized by ASCE (August 2001), and ADRC/OCHA Meeting (July 2001).• Integration in ADPC Strategic Plan