

RCC in Review:

A Reflection on the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management



REGIONAL
CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE on
**DISASTER
MANAGEMENT**



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RCC Foreword

15 years of regional cooperation to mainstream disaster risk reduction Asia

Dear readers,

It is my great pleasure to present to you *RCC in Review: a Reflection on the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management*. This document provides an overview of the first fifteen years since the RCC's establishment – a time during which we have been able to take important steps towards a safer, disaster-resilient Asian region.

Last year, I had the opportunity to attend the 11th meeting of the RCC in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, and the experience heightened my understanding of regional cooperation and its importance to reduce disaster risk in Asia. Having the opportunity to learn from each other, share best practices and pinpoint what hinders development is a necessity when implementing effective disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts. To see so many key decision makers all in one place dedicated to creating a safer region was truly motivational.

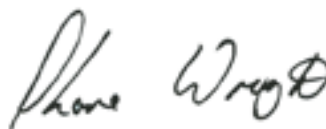
The devastating earthquake that struck Nepal and its neighboring countries on 25 April 2015 is a stark reminder of the importance of this work and the region's high vulnerability to natural hazards. These kinds of events, along with the changing climate and the resulting extreme hydro-meteorological events, only increase

our motivation to continue our long-standing work to build safer communities and sustainable development through disaster risk reduction.

It has been a privilege for me, and all of my colleagues at ADPC, to act as the secretariat of the RCC since its establishment in 2000. This year, as the disaster risk reduction community is entering a new phase by adopting the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, we decided to look back at the accomplishments of the countries in the region in building resilience to natural hazards.

This document summarizes the outcomes of the past meetings of the RCC and the impacts of the committee's work in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development planning. Asian Disaster Preparedness Center will continue to support the member countries of the RCC to reach the goals set in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, just as we did during the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015 and before.

Sincerely,



Shane Wright

Executive Director

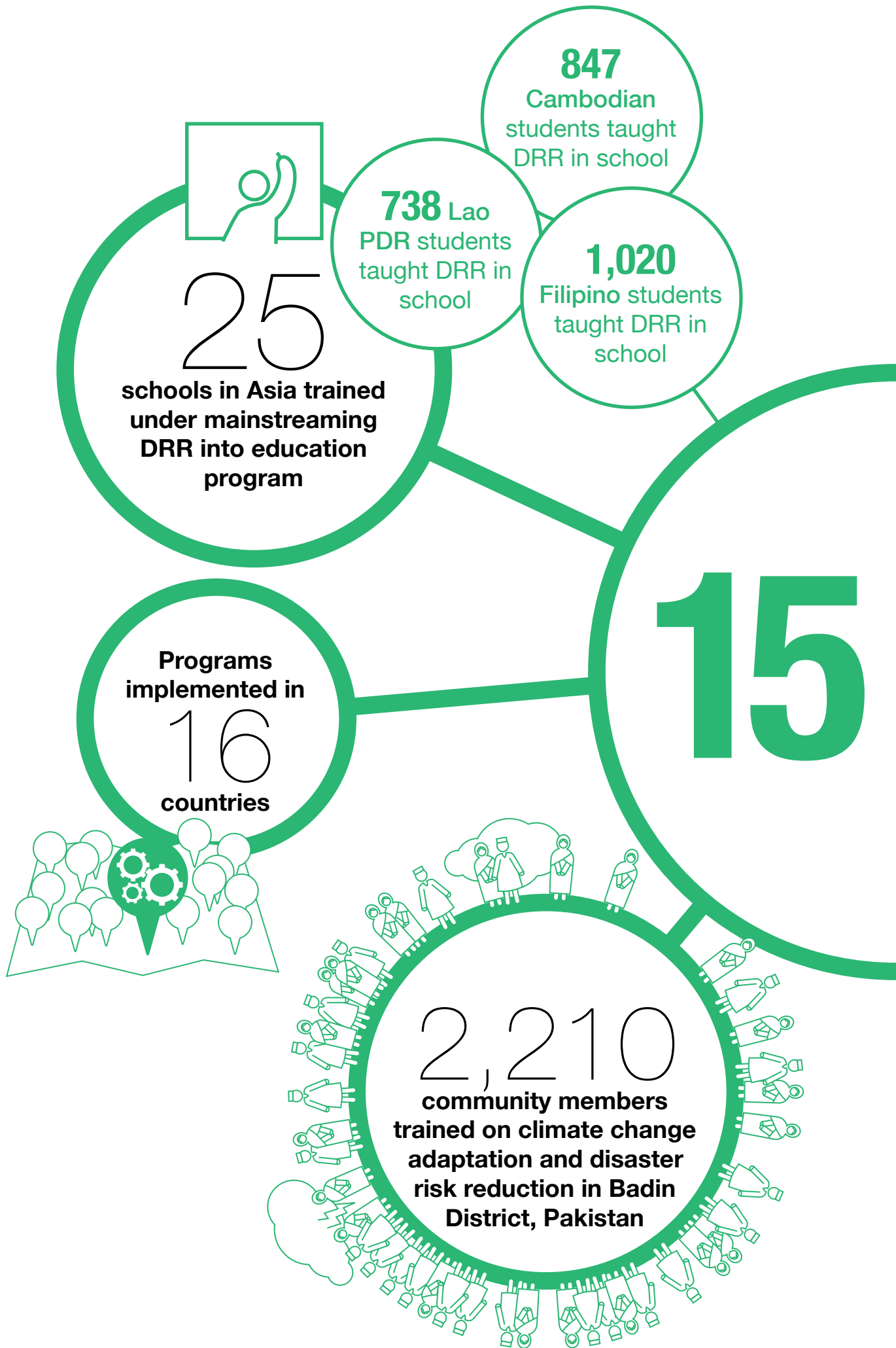
Asian Disaster Preparedness Center



Table of contents

Infographic	2	
RCC Background	4	
Introduction to RCC summaries	6	
	8	RCC1
	10	RCC2 Flood Preparedness and Mitigation
	12	RCC3 Drought Risk Management
	14	RCC4 Urban Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development
	16	RCC5 Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management in Development in Asian Countries
	18	RCC6 Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development
	20	RCC7 Rights based Community-led Disaster Risk Management
	22	RCC8 Implementing National Programs on Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction
	24	RCC9 Linking implementation of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation
	26	RCC10 Integration of DRR, CCA and Sustainable Development at the local level
	28	RCC11 Reducing Disaster Risk and Transforming Development





Years of RCC



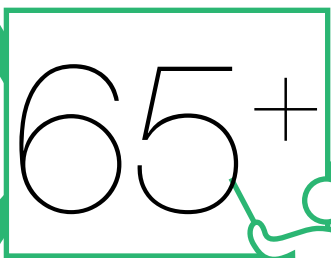
14
agencies in Sri Lanka are working to integrate DRR into the housing sector



72+
guidelines, frameworks and reports created



12
national sectors integrated disaster risk reduction into development



65+
trainings conducted under MDRD at regional, sub-regional and national level

RCC Background

Established in 2000 as one of the first regional dialogue platforms to promote consultation and cooperation on reducing disaster risk, the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) on Disaster Management encourages peer advocacy and the exchange of experiences in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Its secretariat, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), initiated the committee to bring countries in the Asian region together to achieve common goals in DRR, explore ways to transform policies into practice, and promote regional cooperation.

The RCC aims at providing a consultative mechanism for guiding implementation of DRR activities in Asia, promoting cooperative programs on a regional and sub-regional basis, and guiding ADPC's future work through an analysis of the region's needs.

For RCC's annual meetings, different themes are created to drive discussion, agenda, and later implementation in participants' respective countries. The thematic focus is usually based on three different factors: priorities/preferences of the host country; existing regional and global

priorities; and regional DRR conferences. This approach seeks to ensure that deliberations will be in sync with current DRR topics and the outputs can be used to put DRR plans into action.

The overarching theme for the 12th RCC meeting in Thimphu, Bhutan, is Risk-Sensitive Development in Asia derived from the Sendai Framework. Past topics include flood risk

"Mainstreaming DRR was a key part of the Hyogo Framework for Action, and the new Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction has continued to see mainstreaming DRR into development as a key process necessary to prepare countries for future hazards. The RCC meeting is an opportunity for countries to discuss the challenges and successes of mainstreaming DRR and work together to find solutions and opportunities to prepare for disasters."

Past RCC Meetings:

- RCC 1: Bangkok, Thailand, 20–22 NOV 2000
- RCC 2: Bangkok, Thailand, 31 OCT – 2 NOV 2001
- RCC 3: New Delhi, India, 29-31 OCT 2002
- RCC 4: Dhaka, Bangladesh, 29-31 MAR 2004
- RCC 5: Hanoi, Vietnam, 18-20 MAY 2005



**Prof. Dr. Krasae
Chanawongse,
Chairman of
ADPC**

reduction, the management of urban disaster risk, mainstreaming DRR into development, and implementing national programs on community-based disaster risk reduction among many others.

“Since the first meeting in 2000 of the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC), which I initiated and received invaluable support from the very beginning from the Australian Government, the RCC has become a very effective mechanism for the DRR, based on enhancement of regional understanding and cooperation.

I would like to congratulate all member countries and Australia for past successes in DRR, and wish the RCC and the ADPC continued and even greater success for the 12th RCC meeting and thereafter.”



**Dr. Suvit
Yodmani, Former
Executive
Director, ADPC**

RCC discussions are also directed at strategizing implementation methods for the development outcomes from noteworthy conferences related to DRR. This work has resulted in some of the cornerstone achievements of the RCC over the last fifteen years.

The RCC played a pivotal role in supporting the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in Asia over 2005–2015, and will continue this role with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

Over the years, the RCC has guided government decision makers from a variety of countries across the region helping to create a safer environment and will continue to do so in years to come.

RCC 6: Kunming, China, 9-11 NOV 2006

RCC 7: Colombo, Sri Lanka, 8-10 MAY 2008

RCC 8: Manila, Philippines, 22-24 FEB 2010

RCC 9: Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 26-28 OCT 2011

RCC10: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 25-27 MAR 2013

RCC11: Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 1- 4 APRIL 2014.

Introduction to RCC summaries

The RCC mechanism has enabled far-reaching support and interventions, including the development of mainstreaming tools and facilitation of training courses for national and local government officials from a number of countries in Asia. Similarly, the positive results that stem from the past 11 RCC meetings have taken place over a period of 15 years. They showcase the achievements of the combined efforts of government officials, NGO practitioners and development partners. As the secretariat of the RCC, ADPC is able to monitor the successes and experiences from across member countries and beyond.

This section tells the story of the RCC to-date by outlining each of the previous 11 meetings hosted by the government of different member states including their themes, objectives and outcomes. All these have a common structure, with a specific theme and key objectives agreed upon beforehand. The differing themes selected each year usually align with international discussions and frameworks. For instance, the HFA in 2005 was a fundamental tool for the RCC member countries to follow, and that year's meeting resulted in the Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development (MDRD) program. Subsequent themes have explored key HFA implementation areas such as CBDRR and integrated approaches of DRR, climate change adaptation (CCA) and sustainable development. The most recent meetings facilitated discussion and produced suggested inputs to the post-2015 framework for DRR.

By revisiting and analysing previous meetings, the long-lasting importance of the RCC mechanism becomes apparent. It is vital to take stock of our previous work associated with RCC and successes related to the HFA to ensure we are achieving its aims and objectives. This is even more relevant as we enter the post-2015 era – both the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015–2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will steer the RCC in the coming years. These international frameworks outline priorities and key implementation areas for the DRR community to adhere to. The upcoming 12th RCC meeting provides the open forum needed for member countries and DRR organizations to discuss how the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) can guide our work and create further successes in Asia and beyond, through programs such as MDRD and Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR).

The RCC mechanism is the only regional forum providing National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) from 26 countries with the environment to discuss DRR-related opportunities, challenges and best practices through open and inclusive discussion. ADPC hopes that the RCC meetings and achievements will continue long after the 12th RCC meeting in Bhutan.



“Disasters happen everywhere and Bhutan is of no exception. To confront this ever-increasing impact of the disasters, Bhutan places great emphasis on ensuring that Disaster Risk Reduction concerns are mainstreamed into development plans, policies and programs. This has been well thought and rightly in various aspects of disaster management national plans and policies. Our development guided by the concept of Gross National Happiness (GNH) has been complimentary to these efforts. The RCC Mechanism has also played a great role in bettering Bhutan’s resilience to various disasters.”



**Chhador Wangdi,
Director,
Department of Disaster
Management, MoHCA,
Thimphu, Bhutan.**

Venue: Bangkok, Thailand
Dates: 20–22 November 2000

Graced by:
Ambassador Nitya Pibulsonggram, Permanent
Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand

In partnership with:
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand

Attendance:
China, Chinese Taipei, Mongolia, Brunei, Cambodia,
Laos, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam, Bangladesh,
Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Jordan, Georgia, and
Papua New Guinea.

To celebrate the inaugural meeting of the RCC, members from 17 countries endorsed RCC as a mechanism for dialogue, exchange, and as a means for developing practical cooperative programs between member countries at the regional and sub-regional levels. The meeting provided experiences of major disasters, lessons learned, institutional initiatives and practical ways to enhance the effectiveness in disaster management including political support. The first RCC meeting constituted a greater whole, and on the last day, the forthcoming events of the RCC were discussed.

Thus, the key objectives of the RCC1 were:

- **Identify disaster-related needs and priorities of Asian Countries;**
- **Identify areas for promoting regional and sub-regional cooperation, including ways to enhance effectiveness of existing mechanisms;**
- **Review the membership and role of RCC;**
- **Provide inputs to current and planned programs of ADPC.**

Details of the meeting are as follows:

A thorough introduction of the RCC mechanism was given covering the role of the RCC, the need for regional dialogues on disaster management, the constitution of the Steering Committee and the role of ADPC in promoting the dialogue, significance of scientific findings of hazards available to the decision making community, stock taking exercises to understand disaster management capacities of countries, and importance of seeking political support for mitigation.

Discussions stressed the importance of mitigation and preparedness activities, and a suggestion was made to develop a sub-regional institutional mechanism for the sharing of information, expertise and knowledge on disaster management.

Key issues and priority needs, such as, need for effective water resource management, capacity building in disaster management and mitigation, model of disaster management legislations, and strengthening of rural infrastructure were discussed. Successful disaster management activities were highlighted to build capacity, training and public support for disaster management and mitigation. These included the establishment of disaster management committees, the importance of integrating DRR into curriculum development, improving the training and capacity across countries and improving the roles of media.

Under the future direction of RCC, the last session discussed the utility and benefit of the RCC mechanism, ADPC should be facilitator and convener of RCC consultative mechanism and its role in the next RCC meeting, issue of RCC expansion, and importance of organizing a high level Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR).



The outputs of the meeting were given through recommendations: **need for effective water resource management, ADPC to circulate the model of disaster management legislation** among all the countries, each of the participant countries has areas of strengths which could be utilized to build a better complementary relationship in the region, and promoting small demonstration projects. In addition, recommendations were also provided on the common country experiences in the area of building capacity, training and public support for disaster management and mitigation; **development of National Disaster Management Plans (DMP) 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; and scientific and technical inputs for disaster management** (including early warning).

It was agreed that the RCC meetings should take place about once a year with ADPC continuing its role as convener and secretariat. ADPC should also act as the regional focal point and technical resource for the RCC on disaster management.

Key recommendations from RCC1

- Improve capacity building in disaster management and mitigation
- Initiate disaster management committees
- Improve cooperation among regional groups
- RCC meetings should be held by rotation in different countries
- ADPC can provide technical support and regular updates

RCC1

Agreed Statements: Bangkok Declaration

Significant International Meetings and Frameworks: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and Millennium Development Goals launched

Flood Preparedness and Mitigation

Venue: Bangkok, Thailand

Dates: 31 October–2 November 2001

Graced by:

H.E. Ambassador Nitya Pibulsonggram, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Royal Thai Government

In partnership with:

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Royal Thai Government

Attendance:

Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Georgia, India, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, East Timor, and Viet Nam

The key objectives of the 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.**

Expectations raised include an increase in ADPC and RCC's attention to capacity-building efforts to address threats from manmade disasters; enhancement of bilateral and multilateral cooperation; introduction of cooperative mechanisms and joint effort to tackle flood risk.

The key suggested action areas of RCC1 discussed in this session were: capacity building, regional and sub-regional cooperation, and the future role of the RCC; ADPC concept papers on regional initiatives; and vulnerability atlas for Asia. In addition, the Association of SouthEast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat in Jakarta briefed participants on deliberations of the South East Asian Working Group Meeting on Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management.

During the RCC, a review of the recommendations of the RCC1 let participants identify priorities for the future, and suggest practical ways to achieve implementation. With reference to priorities for **capacity building for national disaster management systems**, delegates identified: integrating disaster risk management (DRM) into national planning; strengthening national disaster management committees/agencies; developing disaster management plans; exchanging experience on legal and institutional arrangements; creating awareness and political support and building national disaster management information systems. With regards to **regional initiatives for disaster management**, the following priorities were recognized: creating awareness, political will and support for disaster management and mitigation; organizing an Asian regional multi-stakeholder conference on DRR; producing an Asian regional report on DRR; and developing vulnerability atlas for Asia. Finally, delegates recognized the following new action areas: fostering of sub-regional cooperation through periodic sub-regional meetings; strengthening of regional networking; formulation of neighborly search and rescue teams and organizing field trips to impact areas for post-disaster assessments.

A key outcome of RCC2, in addition to the proposed program throughout the meeting, was the development of the **Statement on**

RCC2

Agreed Statements: RCC2 Statement on future directions of the ADPC Consultative Committee of Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management





Future Directions of the ADPC Consultative Committee of Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management.

The statement encourages RCC countries to adopt a **'Total Disaster Risk Management Strategy'**; which involves a **comprehensive approach to multi-hazard disaster risk management and reduction, and includes prevention, mitigation and preparedness in addition to response and recovery.** Key action areas were also recognized – namely building community level programs for preparedness and mitigation; capacity building of national disaster management systems; **cooperation with sub-regional mechanisms such as ASEAN, The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), South Pacific Applied Geoscience and Technology Commission (SOPAC), Mekong River Commission (MRC) and The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD);** and

regional initiatives to create awareness and promote political will. The statement served as an important **means of conceptualising and developing practical cooperative programs between member countries at the regional and sub-regional levels.** RCC meetings were agreed to be held on an annual basis with a thematic focus. 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.

Key recommendations from RCC2

- Capacity building for flood emergency measures
- Development of a regional framework for flood forecasting and information sharing
- Strengthen regional cooperation – creating awareness, political will and support for disaster mitigation, organizing an Asian regional multi-stakeholder conference on DRR

Drought Risk Management

Venue: New Delhi, India
 Dates: 29–31 October 2002

Graced by:
 H.E. Mr. L.K. Advani, Deputy Prime Minister of India

In partnership with:
 Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India

Attendance:
 Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Jordan,
 Kazakhstan, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand,
 Viet Nam, and Ambassadors and senior officials from
 Embassies of Bhutan, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia,
 Thailand and Sri Lanka

The key objectives of the RCC3 were:

- **To identify disaster-related needs and priorities of member countries;**
- **To promote regional and sub-regional cooperation and to enhance the effectiveness of the existing mechanisms;**
- **To enhance regional and sub-regional cooperation in drought management;**
- **To establish priority action areas in capacity building of national disaster management systems;**
- **To share experiences and lessons learned from recent disasters and programs;**
- **To develop proposals for consolidation of the RCC mechanism.**

As a recurrent theme of previous RCC meetings, regional cooperation was further discussed, specifically, initiatives taken under the framework of the United Nations Disaster Management Training program (UNDMTP), international and regional bodies operating in the region such as World Meteorological Organization (WMO), WMO-ESCAP Tropical Cyclone Panel, and SAARC. ADPC also provided a brief overview of RCC and other regional programs including Asian Urban Disaster Mitigation Program (AUDMP), Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center (PEER) and Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

The capacity building needs of RCC member countries were discussed, for example, emergency response and coordination, reconstruction and rehabilitation, training of trainers, disaster management orientation of different stakeholders, damage assessment and needs analysis, specialized workshops on planning, and public awareness (main target group: school children).

Based on trends and advances in drought preparedness and management provided by countries, key target groups for capacity building were identified, and priority themes for training. The South East Asian delegates identified country priorities: for Cambodia and Viet Nam: training for community leaders; Thailand: training for officers at national and provincial levels on disaster management fundamentals; and Philippines: enhanced skill training for search and rescue workers. Similarly, South Asia and Central Asia also identified their priorities. The establishment of priority action areas in capacity building of national disaster management systems and the promotion of regional and sub-regional cooperation to enhance the effectiveness of the existing mechanisms was also attained. Key recommendations were given for cooperation, for instance, capacity building in wildfire

RCC3

The establishment of priority action areas in capacity building of national disaster management systems and the promotion of regional and sub-regional cooperation to enhance the effectiveness of the existing mechanisms was attained.





management, Mekong Delta Cooperation in flood management, ASEAN cooperation in disaster management, and South Asian cooperation for making an action plan on disaster management.

On the key theme of droughts, thorough discussions yielded great ideas: **designing a common strategy and program for managing land and water resources in the region; developing a regional database of hazards, vulnerable areas and drought management practices; and recognizing river basins as a geographical unit for starting cooperation** and building on existing cooperative programs of various regional agencies. In addition, institutions including United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid-Tropics (ICRISAT), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and ADPC, showed their initiatives and

interest for partnership in the area of drought management in the region, and activities **for the improvement of drought early warning system** were also identified.

Finally, the RCC3 meeting also recommended the plan to provide a '**Primer on Urban Disaster Mitigation**' (UDM) and a primer drawing on recent experiences such as good practices, lessons learned in Urban Disaster Mitigation initiatives of AUDMP, other programs of ADPC, and from individuals and institutions dealing with aspects of UDM within and outside Asia.

Key recommendations from RCC3

- Strengthen drought early warning systems
- Find opportunities to strengthen regional cooperation and the entry points
- Need for increased public awareness, especially among children

Urban Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development

Venue: Dhaka, Bangladesh
 Dates: 29–31 March 2004

Graced by:
 Honourable President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Honourable Excellency Professor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed

In partnership with:
 the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Attendance:
 Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Iran, Jordan, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam

The key objectives of the RCC4 were:

- To seek inputs from the RCC members on the second UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) to be held in Kobe, 2005;
- Seek inputs from the RCC members and observers on the RCC Project on the Development of a Comprehensive Approach to Disaster Risk Management in Asia through Advocacy and Capacity Building for Mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Management into Development Practice;
- Gain an insight into the current status and future needs of the management of urban disaster risk in the RCC member countries;
- Learn from experiences of disaster management in Bangladesh and share experiences and lessons learned from recent disasters and programs;
- Seek inputs from the RCC Members on the ADPC Primer on Disaster Risk Management.

During RCC4 a special consultative session took place for the Asian region in preparation for the UN-ISDR Second World Conference on Disaster Reduction. Countries identified the need for the enforcement and effective implementation of policies, political commitment, lack of financial and technical resources, difficulties in involving other agencies in DRR, and a need for synergies. The RCC member countries recommended priorities for the WCDR such as mainstreaming DRM as an integral part of the development process, formulating performance indicators to measure success of DRM programs, provision of technical and financial assistance. Finally, a need for increasing coordination and capacity building was suggested for effective disaster risk management (DRM).

The discussion of the WCDR outlined the constraints faced by the various countries for effective disaster management. RCC countries identified several constraints including political commitment, need for the enforcement and effective implementation of policies, and lack of effective disaster risk assessment. In addition, the RCC members identified several priorities to be addressed at the WCDR, such as, mainstreaming disaster risk management as an integral part of development processes and formulating performance indicators to measure the success of disaster risk management programs.

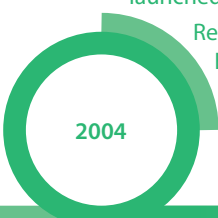
With regards to urban risk reduction issues to be addressed by ADPC, the RCC members provided suggestions to enhance and continue the CBDRM initiatives in the cities; to facilitate the effective sharing of information; and to provide support for the enforcement of legislation, regulation and codes.

The needs of city government were also highlighted by the RCC member countries and included raising the awareness of problems to seek the involvement of multiple stakeholders; human resource development

RCC4

MDRD Program Highlights: Phase 1 of the program on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development Policy, Planning and Implementation was launched (2004–2007)

Regional Meetings and Declarations:
 Establishment of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management





“The Urban Development Directorate (UDD) under the Ministry of Housing and Public Works, Bangladesh has been working with ADPC to mainstream DRR into Urban Land Use Planning processes since 2010 and has so far developed two guidelines to achieve this. Based on these guidelines, the DRR component has been successfully incorporated into Upazila level land use planning processes in Bangladesh. The MDRD program, as a result of the RCC mechanism, has provided the support needed to implement this project in Bangladesh.”



**Khondker Fowze
Muhammed
Bin Farid
Director, Urban
Development
Directorate,
Dhaka,
Bangladesh**

as a part of long term, targeted and effective training of specialized interest groups such as architects, engineers, health professionals, etc. and monitoring and evaluation. In addition, the RCC members also provided suggestions on the

Policy Chapter of the Primer on Disaster Risk Management, for instance, **the inclusion of a list of existing policies and in the absence of policy, inclusion of the procedure and guidelines for policy development and implementation and direct or generic principles of interest.**

Finally, the objective to learn from experiences of disaster management in Bangladesh and share experiences and lessons learned from recent disasters and programs was reflected upon RCC4. The institutional and legislative arrangements on disaster management in Bangladesh were also shared including a brief overview of the cyclone preparedness initiative in the country. Other countries, such as Iran and Jordan, had a chance to share their experience. In addition, The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) activities on disaster management were presented in the RCC4 meeting. RCC4 initiated the Mainstreaming DRR into Development (MDRD) program ensuring the prioritization of DRR into national sectoral planning.

Key recommendations from RCC4

- Priorities for the WCDR:
 - Mainstreaming DRR as an integral part of the development process (RCC-MDRD program)
 - Formulating performance indicators to measure successes of DRM programs
 - Provision of technical and financial assistance
 - Increased coordination and capacity building for effective DRM
- Enhance and continue CBDRM initiatives in the context of urban risk reduction
- ADPC to concentrate on advocacy among community members, implementers and policy makers
- Inclusion of gender concerns in urban risk management

Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management in Development in Asian Countries

Venue: Hanoi, Viet Nam
 Dates: 18–20 May 2005

Graced by:
 H. E. Mr. Vu Khoan, Honorable Deputy Prime Minister,
 Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

In partnership with:
 Government of Viet Nam

Attendance:
 Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran,
 Jordan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan,
 the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste and Viet
 Nam

Following discussions from RCC4, and the Hyogo Framework for Action, the main thematic area was 'Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management in Development (MDRD) in Asian Countries'. The key objectives for the dialogue were:

- **Seek inputs from RCC members and observers on the RCC Project on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development;**
- **Seek inputs from the RCC members on the their expectations on the implementation**

RCC5

Agreed Statements: RCC5 Statement on mainstreaming disaster risk management in development in Asian countries

Regional Meetings and Declarations: 1st Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Beijing, People's Republic of China

Significant International Meetings and Frameworks etc.: World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan launched the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters. The Kyoto Protocol was adopted.

2005

- of the HFA, on the draft benchmark indicators to monitor its implementation and their expectations on the provision of support on HFA implementation by ADPC, the UN-ISDR-Asia Partnership (IAP), UN Agencies and the donor community;
- **Gain an insight into the current challenges faced and lessons learned of recent disaster in RCC member countries and regional and sub-regional bodies in Asia;**
- **Learn from experiences of Disaster Management in Viet Nam;**

"During the 10 years that the RCC program has been running, Pakistan has been hit by a number of disasters including the unprecedented 2010 flood which affected over 20 million people. I find the RCC mechanism highly useful as it provides the disaster management system of Government of Pakistan with an opportunity to share its experiences with regard to various interventions on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation as well as learning from other countries. RCC's support on mainstreaming DRR into the irrigation sector has been extremely beneficial in bringing awareness and initiating the process for achieving greater DRR mainstreaming in most in the most important sector of the economy."



**Ahmed Kamal,
 Member (DRR) at
 National Disaster
 Management
 Authority
 (NDMA), Pakistan**

- **Seek inputs from RCC members on the RCC Meeting and actions for the coming year.**

Following the initiation of the MDRD program in RCC4, a special session was organized to review the progress made by MDRD. Key areas discussed were:

- The overview of RCC-MDRD, UNDP perspective on mainstreaming, and current status of MDRD and innovative program on RCC member countries; proposed approach for RCC-MDRD program and its guidelines;
- Integration of DRR into Environment Impact Assessment (EIA); and institutionalizing CBDRM in Government policy, planning, and implementation;
- Mainstreaming DRM into specific sectors; namely, urban infrastructure, urban and rural housing development, finance services, agriculture, education, and health;
- Priority areas on mainstreaming DRR into national planning processes including best practices and common challenges;
- Priority areas in mainstreaming DRR in selected sectors including high priority themes, best practices, and possible consultants. This led to the identification of 23 projects for priority implementation (PIPs) themes by 11 countries;
- Linking appropriate resources in ministries with national platforms, effective engagement with policy makers and decision makers, and creation of DRR programming capacity within individual sectoral line ministries.

A special session was conducted to discuss the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015. The session provided the overview of the HFA; the concept of National Platforms; break-out



discussion on the review of initiatives to implement HFA in RCC countries, survey of existing national platforms or initiatives to establish national platforms in RCC countries, and RCC countries expectations of UN-ISDR, the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction (IATF/DR), ADPC.

RCC5 identified actions that would be taken to support RCC members in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015. Some of the key supporting actions expected by the RCC members from the UN-ISDR, the IATF/DR, the UN Agencies, ADPC, the UN-ISDR-Asia Partnership and donor community were: to play greater role beyond supporting and monitoring, to conduct **capacity building programs for HFA implementation** and to provide guidance on the program in the key areas such as **mainstreaming DRM in development**.

Members adopted the Hanoi RCC5 Statement on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development in Asian Countries. The statement urges all countries to take up mainstreaming as a key priority for action in accordance with the globally adopted HFA. In addition, suggestions were provided for other RCC activities, such as, **dialogue with donors, study tours, electronic information sharing and knowledge management, and expansion of the scope for RCC meetings.**

Key recommendations from RCC5

- Conduct capacity building programs for HFA implementation
- Expand RCC activities: dialogue with donors, study tours, electronic information sharing and knowledge management, expansion of scope for RCC meetings, engagement with media, and engagement with parliamentarians

Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development

Venue: Kunming, PR China
 Dates: 9–11 November 2006

Graced by:
 Honourable Excellency Mr. Li Liguo, First Vice Minister of the Ministry of Civil Affairs of the P.R. China

In partnership with:
 The Government of the People's Republic of China

Attendance:
 Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, India, Jordan, Korea, Lao PDR, Maldives, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam

The key objectives of the RCC6 were:

- **Learn from the disaster reduction experience of China, the host country;**
- **Learn lessons from recent disasters and programs in member countries;**
- **Review progress made since the Hanoi RCC5 meeting of the RCC program of Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into development in Asia;**
- **Operationalize the Hanoi RCC5 declaration by preparing a plan for 2007-2008;**
- **Review the progress on the Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.**

RCC6

Regional Meetings and Declarations: SAARC Disaster Management Centre was set up.

Significant International Meetings and Frameworks etc.: The Global Platform for Disaster Reduction was established.

Regional Meetings and Declarations: Establishment of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management

2006

Themes of the meeting included mainstreaming DRR into development, initiatives for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into National Development Planning, initiatives on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development Planning of priority sectors, working group discussion on the Next Steps of Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction.

With regards to the next steps in mainstreaming DRR, it was discussed that the RCC member countries develop guidelines for mainstreaming DRR into rural housing and land use planning in line with the work already carried out by Maldives, Nepal, Afghanistan, Jordan, Mongolia, Malaysia, Brunei and Korea. In addition, the group suggested starting a pipeline project on mainstreaming DRR into the education sector in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and the Philippines.

A special session was held, which was organized in coordination with UN-ISDR, which discussed the progress on the implementation of HFA by three RCC countries: Sri Lanka, Mongolia, and India. Sri Lanka shared post-tsunami institutional changes and implementation of the road map for a safer Sri Lanka. Similarly, Mongolia provided a brief overview of institutions related to DRR including the National Emergency Management Agency. Finally, India shared its progress by providing an overview of the establishment of the Disaster Management Act 2005, and National Disaster Management Authority.

The next part of the session focused on the regional level progress of HFA, the presentation from UN-ISDR focused on three aspects, introduction to HFA and its priorities; status of HFA implementation at international, regional, sub regional and national level; proposed tools for implementation of HFA at national and community level like the Strategic National Action Plan (SNAP).



Actions for the coming year were discussed and the session commenced with a report from the Steering Committee/RCC MDRD Advisor Panel. One of the **key output of the RCC MDRD Advisory Panel was the development of “Kunming RCC6 Road Map” which operationalized Hanoi RCC5 statement on MDRD. The road map including plan for RCC-MDRD program during 2007—2008 was approved by the 6th meeting of RCC disaster management at Kunming, China. RCC undertook four ongoing PiPs with 10 pipeline PiPs to be finalized between June to September 2007.**

Finally, a review of the progress made on the implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action was attained in a special session. After the review, the RCC members and delegates called

for support from: UN-ISDR to provide guidance to implement the HFA; ADPC to provide technical assistance, advocacy, and coordination to facilitate information sharing; and the RCC to act as a monitoring mechanism that also contributes to information sharing with and between countries, thus consolidating progress of individual countries and documenting sector specific progress.

Key outputs of RCC6

- “Kunming RCC6 Road Map” was developed, which operationalized Hanoi RCC5 statement on MDRD
- RCC-MDRD program during 2007—2008 was approved
- RCC undertook fourteen Priority Implementation Projects.
- Review on the implementation process of the Hyogo Framework for Action

Rights based Community-led Disaster Risk Management

Venue: Colombo, Sri Lanka
 Dates: 8–10 May 2008

Graced by:
 H.E. Mr. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Honorable Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights of the Government of Sri Lanka

In partnership with:
 Government of Sri Lanka

Attendance:
 Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Maldives, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam

The key objectives of the RCC7 were:

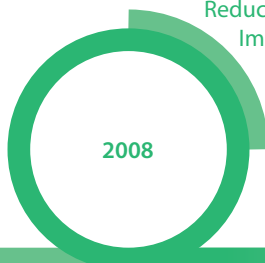
- **Learn from the DRR experience of Sri Lanka, the host country;**
- **Advance the RCC–MDRD;**
- **Take stock of Community-led Disaster Risk Management in RCC member countries;**
- **Review Implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action in Asia.**

Specific countries highlighted progress on the MDRD project, initiated in RCC4, and guidelines for mainstreaming DRR into development were reviewed. The program document on Phase II of

RCC7

MDRD Program Highlights: In Nepal, the RCC supported the integration of disaster risk reduction considerations into guidelines that help formulate district and municipal development plans. Phase 2 of the program on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development Policy, Planning and Implementation was launched (2008–2011)

Regional Meetings and Declarations: 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



the RCC MDRD project and partnerships for safe development and good governance covering the period of 2008 to 2012 were reviewed and endorsed.

“The Disaster Management Center has responded to a number of disasters which have happened in Sri Lanka over the past 10 years. We are not only involved in the response but also in risk reduction and the mainstreaming of risk reduction into development planning. For this, the RCC mechanism has been particularly useful and we would like to continue receiving the technical support.”



**Major General L.B.R. Mark (Retd.)
 Director General,
 Sri Lanka**

Implementation of the HFA in Asia for 2007—2009 was reviewed and preparations began for the 3rd AMCDRR held in Kuala Lumpur in December 2008.

RCC7 reflected the evolving perspective of CBDRM with a move towards community leadership for DRR; called for greater engagement, partnership and integration with local government mechanisms for DRR and development; **affirmed the commitment of RCC members to take up national programs on CBDRM in all high risk communities;** establishing scheme for recognition of good practices in CBDRM and utilizing experience of CBDRM award scheme in member countries.



The RCC7 showed continued and enhanced partnership between regional agencies with a full-time focus on DRR i.e. UN-ISDR, ADPC and The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC). In addition, RCC agreed to endorse greater integration of RCC into the regional and global system namely **linkages with AMCDRR and Global Platform for DRR**. Moreover, the RCC meeting encouraged UN-ISDR, ADRC and ADPC to continue their dialogue on how the RCC meeting could serve in preparing for, and following up on Regional and Global Platform meetings.

“The success of RCC in reducing the impact of disasters in Asia is a reflection of member countries’ engagement during these meetings as well as the involvement of other stakeholders including UNDP and UN-ISDR. If we are to continue to prepare Asia for disasters, all countries and actors need to work and learn together.”

Key recommendations from RCC7

- Move to community leadership for DRR
- Greater engagement, partnership and integration with local government
- Scheme for recognition of good practices in CBDRM



Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, Special Advisor, ADPC

Implementing National Programs on Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction

Venue: Manila, Philippines
 Dates: 22–24 February 2010

Graced by:
 Hon. Norberto B. Gonzales Secretary, Department of National Defense and Chairman, National Disaster Coordinating Council

In partnership with:
 Philippines Government

Attendance:
 Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Jordan, Korea, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam

The key objectives of the RCC8 were:

- Learn from DRR experience of host country, the Philippines;
- Share experiences of implementing national programs on community-based DRR in high-risk communities;
- Share experiences of linking community level actions on DRR and CCA;
- Report progress of the RCC Program on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development sectors;
- Share lessons on dealing with large scale disasters in RCC member countries and how

RCC8

Agreed Statements: RCC8 Statement on implementing national programs on community-based disaster risk reduction in high-risk communities

MDRD Program Highlights: The first Regional Training Course on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into National Development Planning Processes

Regional Meetings and Declarations: 4th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Incheon, Republic of Korea



- countries have used these as turning points in improving in-country DRR systems;
- Consultations with RCC members on the preparation for the 4th Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR;
- Review implementation progress of the Hyogo Framework for Action in Asia and review challenges and priorities for the coming year.

“The Philippines successfully hosted the 8th RCC meeting on 22—24 February 2010 in Manila with the theme of “Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction in High Risk Communities.” The meeting served as a venue to share lessons and best practices on how the community members can contribute to reducing disaster risks in the region.”



Usec. Alexander Pama,
 Administrator,
 Office of Civil Defense &
 Executive Director, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, Philippines

The National Emergency Management Agency of the Republic of Korea, hosts of the 4th AMCDRR, discussed preparations for the upcoming conference. In the same session, the National Security Council of Malaysia reviewed a key output from the the 3rd AMCDRR, the Kuala Lumpur Regional Action Plan to implement the Kuala Lumpur Declaration.



The HFA implementation status in 2005 and the progress made up to 2007 was showcased along with the HFA implementation in Asia, the Global Assessment Report and the ISDR Asia Partnership Initiative on regional stocktaking and mapping of DRR interventions in Asia and the Pacific.

The session also elaborated on UN-ISDR global campaigns on safe schools, hospitals and the upcoming global campaign on building resilient cities. ADPC presented activities to be implemented under the global campaign on building safe resilient cities which addresses urban risk.

During the meeting, the discussions from RCC7 were revisited **in addition to the working paper developed by the RCC on ‘implementing national programs on CBDRR in high-risk communities’**, which is based on the CBDRR country papers submitted during RCC7. In the session, the Governments of India, Philippines and Viet Nam presented their experiences on implementing national programs on CBDRR followed by group discussions on the components of the RCC working paper on national CBDRR programs and corresponding presentations. This session concluded with a

panel discussion on support by partners and donors in implementing national programs on CBDRR.

The main outcome of RCC8 was the adoption of the Manila RCC8 Statement on ‘Implementing national programs on CBDRR in high-risk communities.’ Similarly, the objective to share experiences of linking community level actions on DRR and CCA was also attained, which led to key outcomes, such as initiating discussions on **community resilience to climate risks, looked at ways to build resilience to current disasters and future climate change scenario and assured greater linkage and synergy between action plans on CCA and DRR.**

Key outputs of RCC8

- The adoption of the Manila RCC8 Statement on ‘Implementing national programs on CBDRR in high-risk communities’
- Sharing experiences linking community level actions on DRR and CCA was also attained, which led to key outcomes, such as initiating discussions on community resilience to climate risks

Linking Implementation of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

Venue: Phnom Penh, Cambodia
 Dates: 25–27 June 2011

Graced by:
 H.E. Mr. Nhim Vanda, First Vice President, National Committee on Disaster Management

In partnership with:
 National Committee on Disaster Management (NCDM)

Attendance:
 Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, and Viet Nam

- Consultation on follow up of 4th AMCDRR and preparation for the 5th AMCDRR;
- Review the progress of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in Asia, and challenges and priorities for the coming years.

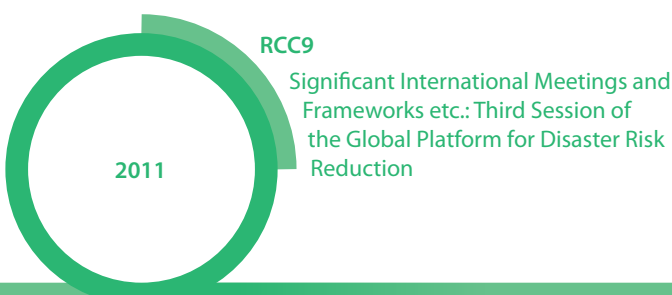
Countries such as Afghanistan, Mongolia, and Myanmar, shared their progress in implementing HFA. In terms of priority, Mongolia representative highlighted that community-based disaster reduction is a key priority in the country. Similarly, progress on the Myanmar Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (MAPDRR) was shared in this session. In addition, Afghanistan highlighted lack of capacity and limited resources as the key challenges in implementing HFA Objectives in the country. The plenary discussion focused on the ability of MAPDRR to adopt to the rapidly changing DRR landscape, and areas of disaster assessment and how that is being considered by the countries.

The key objectives of the RCC9 were:

- **Learn and share experiences of linking the implementation of DRR and CCA at the local level community based on:**
 - **Scientific information and socio-economic data required for reducing disaster and climate risk at local level**
 - **DRR institutional system at community level to advance climate risk management and CCA**
 - **Implementing community level DRR and CCA initiatives as part of local development interventions**
- **Report the progress made of the RCC–MDRD ; findings of Independent Progress Report (IPR) of the RCC–MDRD and discussions on next steps of the program;**

Discussions around the main theme fell into three sections: scientific information and socio-economic data required for reducing disaster and climate risk at the local level; DRR institutional system at community level to advance climate risk management and CCA; implementing community level DRR and CCA initiatives as part of local development interventions.

With regards to the findings of the Independent Progress Report (IPR) of the RCC-MDRD, **the program showed positive impacts on the RCC member countries.** During the next step of the MDRD program, the discussion was made on **expanding the RCC program into other important sectors, such as, agriculture and environment.** To strengthen NDMOs, the participants suggested **developing a National Level Disaster Management Fund.**





“The National Disaster Management Center, Maldives, has worked in partnership with ADPC on a number of projects in the past four years. We are working hard now to ensure that future development in Maldives reduces the risk of disasters through the mainstreaming of DRR into development.”



**Fathimath Thasneem,
Deputy Minister
of National
Disaster
Management
Center of
Maldives**

Similarly, follow up consultations regarding the 4th AMCDRR and preparations for the 5th AMCDRR were accomplished in the 3rd session which shared the progress on the Incheon Road map, one of the outputs of 4th AMCDRR. The fourth objective to review the progress of the implementation of the HFA in Asia, and the challenges and priorities for the coming years, was attained in session 4 which showed

progress in implementing HFA in RCC member countries, such as, Afghanistan, Mongolia, and Myanmar. **Lack of capacity and limited resources were identified as key challenges in making progress in implementing HFA in the RCC member countries.**

Focus was given on ADPC’s Strategy 2020 which provided an overview of future work plan of ADPC. ADPC also reported the process of development of this strategy 2020 which first looked at the past achievements of ADPC and capacity of the organization through external consultant review. In addition, suggestions were made by the RCC member countries to ensure the strategy meets the needs of the country.

Key recommendations from RCC9

- Expand the RCC program into other sectors such as agriculture and environment
- Involve the media to ensure the public will understand the information
- Develop a National Level Disaster Management Fund

RCC Meeting 2012

MDRD Program Highlights: In the Maldives: The RCC initiated a priority implementation partnership on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into the local development planning processes. Phase 3 of the program on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development Policy, Planning and Implementation was launched (2012–2015)

Regional Meetings and Declarations: 5th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Significant International Meetings and Frameworks etc.: Rio+20, United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development



Integration of Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Development at the Local Level

Venue: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
 Dates: 25–27 March 2013

Graced by:
 D. Terbishdagva, Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia

In partnership with:
 National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA),
 Government of Mongolia

Attendance:
 Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Jordan, Lao PDR,
 Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the
 Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste and Viet
 Nam

The key objectives of the RCC10 were:

- **To provide a platform for discussions among RCC Member Countries for undertaking priority actions for integrated DRR, CCA and sustainable development planning at the local level, in order to accelerate the implementation of the HFA and to follow up on the outcomes of the 5th AMCDRR held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia;**
- **To identify specific inputs from the Asia-Pacific towards global dialogues on linking a post-2015 framework for DRR with the Post-2015 sustainable development agenda;**

- **To ensure stronger linkages between DRR, CCA and development in the future;**
- **To reflect on the past achievements of RCC meetings and provide guidance on the future of RCC within the context of a post-2015 framework for DRR and post-2015 sustainable development agenda, as well as with other regional and global initiatives, including the proposed GIZ Global Initiative for Disaster Risk Management.**

Recommendations and progress of outputs from the 5th AMCDRR were shared. These points demonstrated the linkages between AMCDRR and the RCC, and the way forward including an update on the preparation for the 6th AMCDRR in Thailand.

The linkages between the recommendations stated within the outcome document from the 5th AMCDRR conference, the Yogyakarta declaration, and the objectives of RCC were also discussed.

Part of RCC10 discussions included how to accelerate the implementation of the HFA through undertaking priority actions for integrated DRR, CCA and Sustainable Development planning at the local level. These talks took place in three parts: i) identifying the issues and options related to local level integrated DRR, CCA and sustainable development planning in Asia; ii) country presentation on disaster risk assessment: local-level methodologies, issues and options; and iii) country presentation on the application of risk information for local-level integrated development planning: practice, issues and options.

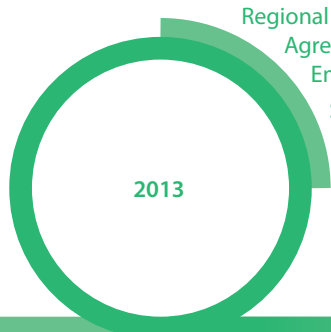
Some of the key options highlighted were: strengthening of livelihoods through promotion of employment and measures to increase agricultural productivity, promoting water and food security and marketing initiatives and improved ecosystem management.

RCC10

Agreed Statements: RCC10 regional action plan for disaster risk reduction 2013–15

Regional Meetings and Declarations: ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response was ratified.

Significant International Meetings and Frameworks etc.: Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction





Discussions during the meeting suggested specific actions that can be taken to accelerate the HFA over the next two years and identify the issues that could hinder action. Discussions highlighted some of the **key challenges in accelerating HFA implementation**, for example, **the local government authorities in the development sectors in many cases do not have the mandate for DRR-related activities and without this official mandate, doing capacity building and awareness raising is not enough**. Also, it was felt that **decentralization of DRR and development responsibilities would be a key step towards more integrated planning and action at the local level**, and referring to resource allocation mentioned that we must create the mechanisms towards achieving.

During RCC10 group discussions on key questions related to identifying the linkages between the post-2015 DRR Framework and development agenda led to the development of a Regional Action Plan for DRR 2013–2015.

During the meeting the identification of specific inputs from representatives towards global dialogues on linking post-2015 DRR framework with the post-2015 framework for DRR development agenda, to ensure stronger linkages between DRR, CCA and development in the future, led to the identification of specific inputs from RCC member countries; especially, Cambodia, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Viet Nam. They shared progress of the consultations for the post-2015 framework for DRR and development agenda and the recommendations resulting from the consultation processes held in their respective countries.

Past achievements of previous RCC meetings that can provide guidance on the future of RCC within the context of a post-2015 DRR framework and post-2015 framework for DRR, was reflected on through sharing **mile stones of previous RCC meetings**. These include: **Bangkok RCC2 declaration of 2001 on future directions for regional cooperation; Hanoi RCC5 statement on mainstreaming DRR into development; and Manila RCC8 statement on implementing national programs on CBDRR in high-risk communities.**

Key recommendations from RCC10

- Decentralization of DRR and development responsibilities would be a key step towards more integrated planning and action at the local level
- ADPC to undertake a study on the impact of RCC and present the report to RCC member countries

“The RCC mechanism is crucial for building relationships among governments on issues related to DRM. We co-hosted the 10th RCC meeting in Mongolia and since then we have been able to promote DRM quite considerably in our country in addition to learning from the experiences of other countries through cooperation and partnership with ADPC, UN and the World Bank”



Brigadier General T. Badral, Chief of National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Mongolia

RCC11

Reducing Disaster Risk and Transforming Development

Venue: Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Dates: April 1–4 2014

Graced by:
H.E. U Nyan Tun, Vice President of Myanmar

Co-hosted by:
Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD), Ministry of Social Welfare, Myanmar

Member-countries in attendance:
Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam

The key objectives of the RCC11 were:

- **Achieving mainstreaming by using risk information to transform development policy, planning and institutions;**
- **Striving for impact through improved monitoring and reflective practices on mainstreaming;**
- **Gearing regional efforts towards mainstreaming and transforming the post-2015 development agenda.**

A key discussion point of RCC11 was that risk assessments ought to consider psychosocial and disability information. There was broad agreement on the need to enhance the production of risk information, including data-sharing and risk information sharing for improved mainstreaming.

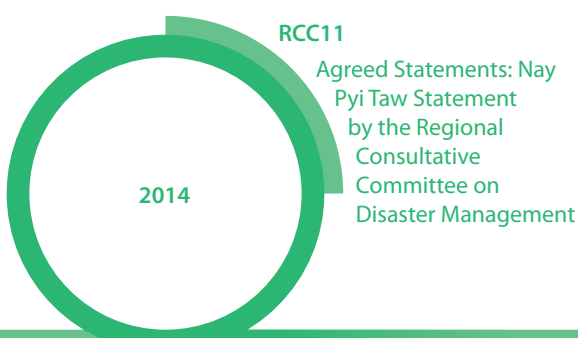
During the conference concerns were raised about how to separate budget lines for DRR. Pakistan was given as an example and discussed the importance of monitoring impacts and baseline information under the country's Disaster Management Act which seeks coherence among provincial and district authorities. Reiteration of the importance of local knowledge was also given.

"The eleventh RCC meeting was co-hosted by Myanmar in 2014, which turned out to be a great success in terms of promoting DRR in the country. I believe the RCC meetings have been a useful support mechanism to share how countries have progressed under the Hyogo Framework for Action. I hope that this mechanism continues under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction."



U Soe Aung,
Director General,
Relief and
Resettlement
Department,
Myanmar

The **absence of land use planning in the DRR discourse** was given as a concern. Participants also recognised the **need for climate-smart DRR, which integrates CCA and DRR, through institutional mechanisms**. There was general agreement expressed regarding the need for CCA and DRR concerns to be considered in future development agendas. Participants also recognised that DRR can enhance sustainable development in terms of institutional mechanisms and implementation. It was concluded that **DRR is a fundamental element to enhance sustainability and resilience**.



ADPC suggested the introduction of a government body to provide definitive disaster data. There was a call for **improved risk information sharing mechanisms and increased regional cooperation** on this. The constraints of community level information providing information to policy-level actors were also discussed.



- During the RCC, countries and development partners were able to discuss experiences, concerns, lessons and needs for mainstreaming DRR and CCA into development. ADPC as the Secretariat of the RCC drafted the *Nay Pyi Taw Statement* with input from the member countries. **This statement was endorsed in the final session of the meeting and is the principal output of RCC11, and will be utilized in subsequent regional meetings for DRR such as the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.** The statement made the following key recommendations:
 - Risk is an inherent part of development and thus needs to be addressed in development plans and strategies;
 - In order to achieve resilient nations and communities in the context of sustainable development, it is crucial that disaster risk reduction is mainstreamed into development policies, plans, programs, projects and financing;
 - Mainstreaming DRR into development has to be an integral part of the post-2015 framework for DRR and the sustainable development goals and should incorporate climate change adaptation;

- The costs associated with mainstreaming should be recognized as savings against greater future losses due to disasters.

Key recommendations from RCC11

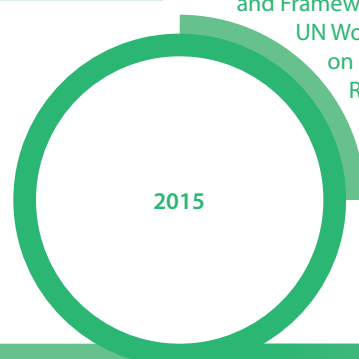
- Risk assessments should consider psycho-social and disability information
- Risk should be addressed in development plans and strategies
- DRR should be mainstreamed into development policies, plans, programs, projects and financing
- Mainstreaming DRR into development should also include climate change adaptation

RCC12

Agreed Statements: *Nay Pyi Taw Statement* by the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management

Regional Meetings and Declarations: 6th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Bangkok, Thailand

Significant International Meetings and Frameworks etc.: 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan: Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was launched





REGIONAL
CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE on
**DISASTER
MANAGEMENT**



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