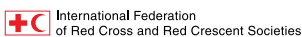




Practitioners'  
Workshop on  
**RISK REDUCTION &  
RESILIENCE IN ASIA**

**23-25 November 2015**  
Hotel Swissotel Nai Lert Park  
Bangkok, Thailand





## BACKGROUND

Since 1999, disaster risk management practitioners in Asia have gathered every two years with the objectives of sharing lessons learned in disaster risk reduction (DRR), stocktaking and consolidating good practices, and creating professional networks. The Practitioners' Workshops are organized with the financial support of the European Commission's Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG-ECHO), and other contributors. Seven events have been hosted to date, organized in inter-agency collaboration between the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

In order to sustain the momentum of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction which took place in Sendai, Japan in March 2015, the *8<sup>th</sup> Practitioners' Workshop on Risk Reduction and Resilience* in Asia will focus on the outcomes of this conference, and especially the Sendai Framework of Disaster Risk Reduction.

During the 8th Practitioners' Workshop, participants will identify ways to translate the Sendai commitments into practice and implement the framework on the ground – putting policy debates aside.

The outcomes of the workshop will be harnessed to support regional and global disaster risk reduction efforts in support of the motto "DRR is everyone's business". The workshop will be organized by and for practitioners with relevant technical expertise and knowledge of risk reduction in Asia.

### **The upcoming Practitioners' Workshop will provide an opportunity for discussions and regional learning among participants on:**

- Sendai framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) implementation opportunities for partnerships and interventions to reduce risk and enhance resilience
- Innovative risk-informed development practices
- Multi-sectoral mainstreaming of DRR to strengthen resilience

### **The outcome of the Practitioners' Workshop is expected as:**

- Increased understanding of practitioners on how SFDRR can be implemented at the local level
- Collective mapping of practitioners' contributions in Asia to implementation of SFDRR
- Contribution to on-going discussions on SFDRR such as the development of indicators

## THE THREE DAYS OF THE WORKSHOP WILL BE STRUCTURED AS FOLLOWS:

- DAY 1**     Getting Started
- DAY 2**     Transition from HFA to SFDRR
- DAY 3**     Putting Words into Action



### DAY 1

will allow participants to familiarize themselves with the key themes of the Practitioners' Workshop. In addition, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030 will be unpacked and discussed with experts.



### DAY 2

will focus on the four key themes of the Practitioners' Workshop. Participants will share their experience and knowledge in smaller working groups and discuss their work in the context of the SFDRR.



### DAY 3

will revolve around combining and connecting the information that has been shared during the first two days. Participants will also identify their possible contributions to the implementation of the SFDRR in Asia.



## THEMATIC AREAS

### THEME 1: ENHANCING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

The impacts of disasters are most immediately and intensely felt at the local level - this places communities at the frontline of attempts to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the effects of disasters. Meanwhile, many top-down approaches have failed to recognize the important role of communities, addressing insufficiently the specific local needs of vulnerable people, ignoring the potential of local resources and capacities and may even increase people's vulnerability to hazards. Invariably, local people possess a better understanding of their surrounding areas, the culture, fragility of the local environment and its natural resource base and can contribute to the process of development in a more sustainable and long lasting manner. Therefore, it is imperative that communities are engaged in processes designed to enhance their own local development and reduce levels of disaster risk.

There have been considerable efforts undertaken in the area of local level disaster risk reduction in Asia, under the guidance of several international and regional agreements and frameworks. The importance of local level DRR has first been stressed during the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) conference in Yokohama, Japan in May 1994, where the international community reached a broad consensus to put more emphasis on Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) programs. Since then, all regional and international frameworks and agreements related to DRR have stressed the important role of local level stakeholders in building more resilient communities and nations.

With more than 10 years of experience in providing community disaster risk reduction in the region, it is now time to discuss the best practices as well as innovative solutions that can be replicated and scaled up in the future to support the development of resilient communities in the region under the guidance of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR).

*EXPECTED RESULTS:*

- Participants have identified best practices and approaches for local level resilience
- Participants have discussed possibilities to support the implementation of SFDRR in order to increase local level resilience





## THEME 2: DIVERSIFYING/EXPANDING PREPAREDNESS FOR RESPONSE

There is the common understanding that in the future the number of small and medium-scale disasters is likely to increase. At the same time, it has been stressed (e.g. in the GAR2015), that both mortality rates as well as economic losses associated with these smaller-scale disasters are continuously increasing. These recurrent localized disasters are a central concern for low-income households and small businesses as their livelihoods can be directly impacted by these events. Despite the increasing impact of small and medium-scale events, the majority of existing tools and structures for disaster response and management are solely oriented toward large-scale disasters.

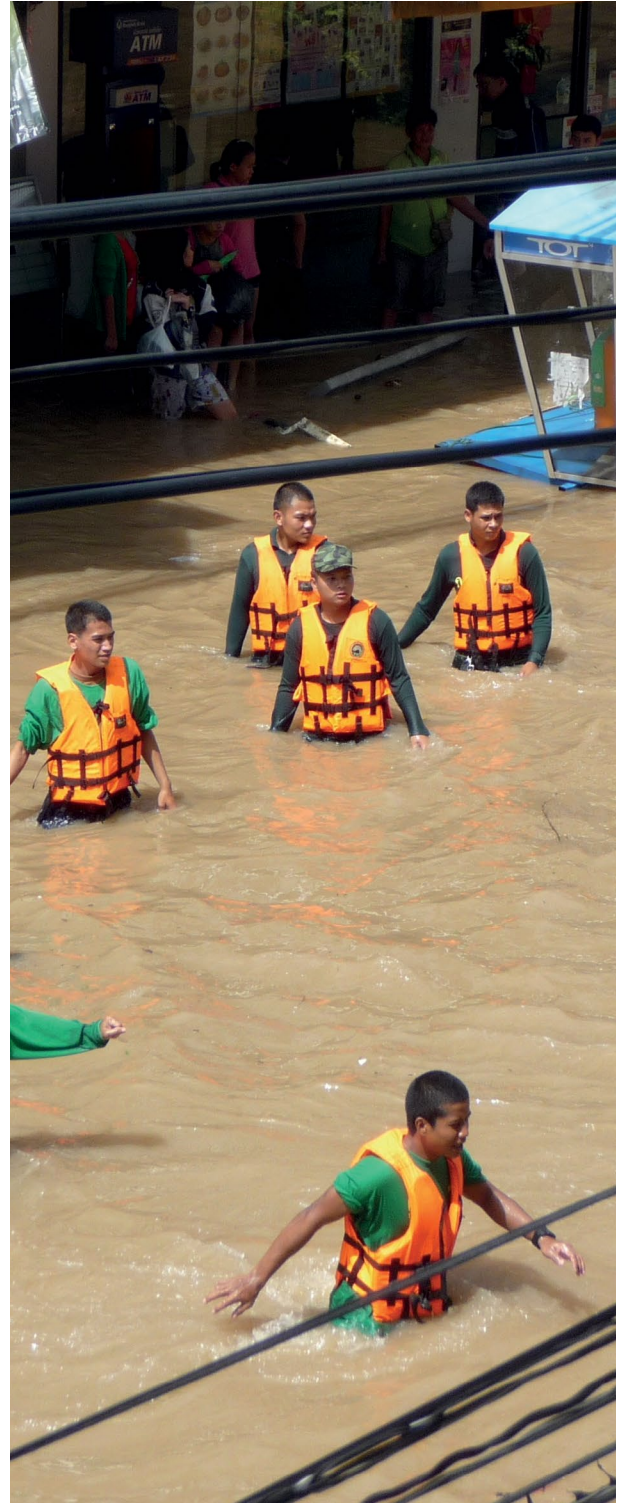
This leads to the need to diversify/expand preparedness for response at all levels. One of the key priorities of the SFDRR isto “enhance disaster preparedness for effective response and to ‘build back better’ in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction”. The SFDRR furthermore stresses the importance of strengthening disaster preparedness for response, taking action in anticipation of events, integrating disaster risk reduction in response preparedness and ensuring that capacities are in place for effective response and recovery at all levels.

Disaster preparedness should therefore not only consider the immediate response activities, but efforts should be taken to also prepare for disaster recovery, given the important role of recovery activities in contributing to resilience building and sustainable development.

Practitioners are therefore encouraged to discuss the role of various stakeholders with regard to disaster preparedness and to identify ways to engage stakeholders at all levels in disaster response and recovery planning.

*EXPECTED RESULTS:*

- ▣ Participants have identified the key local level stakeholders responsible for preparing for disaster response and recovery
- ▣ Participants have identified how local level stakeholders can be engaged in disaster response and recovery planning





## THEME 3: INNOVATION AND RISK-INFORMED DEVELOPMENT

Disaster risk reduction is fundamentally about doing development right. When development is not risk-informed, thus does not include disaster risk reduction aspects, development will never be sustainable. Disaster risk reduction should therefore not be regarded as an initiative in itself, but as an integral part of good governance and sustainable development. During the review of the HFA it was acknowledged that “in particular, economic growth and an improvement in development conditions ... have contributed to a downward trend in mortality risk”. Given the strong linkages between sustainable development and disaster risk reduction, it is therefore pivotal to discuss possible ways to ensure risk-informed development through mainstreaming of DRR, good risk governance and suitable financing approaches.

Risk-informed development requires an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment. As stated in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, risk information should be applied to develop and implement disaster risk reduction policies.

Theme 3 will therefore focus on how innovation and information can be harnessed to enhance risk informed development.

The topics will include the important roles of practitioners in:

*(i) accountabilities under the Sendai Framework; (ii) enhancing quality of data on damages and losses; (iii) application of big data for trend analysis.*

*EXPECTED RESULTS:*

- ▣ Participants are aware of the importance of risk information and its dissemination in order to achieve sustainable development
- ▣ Participants have identified and committed to identify innovative ways to ensure that risk reduction is included in all aspects of development





## THEME 4: MAINSTREAMING DRR WITHIN AND ACROSS SECTORS – FOCUSING ON AGRICULTURE AND RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS

As stated in the SFDRR, one way of investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience is to mainstream DRR within and across relevant sectors. Mainstreaming of DRR has become more prominent in recent years, leading to various initiatives focusing especially on the mainstreaming of DRR into cross-sectoral development planning and poverty alleviation strategies. However, there is only limited practical experience available on how to mainstream proactive planning for risk reduction and replication of disaster risk reduction measures in agriculture and some other sectors, which is fundamental to support the development of resilient livelihoods.

In many countries, agriculture is among the most important economic sectors. As an example, in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Nepal, agriculture accounts for over 30% of GDP. Disasters have a disproportionate effect on agriculture. Disasters often destroy crops and livestock, physical capital and livelihood assets, market infrastructure and productive inputs. To cope, rural families will often use their savings or increase borrowing to meet basic needs, depleting their resource base even further, increasing levels of indebtedness and eroding livelihoods

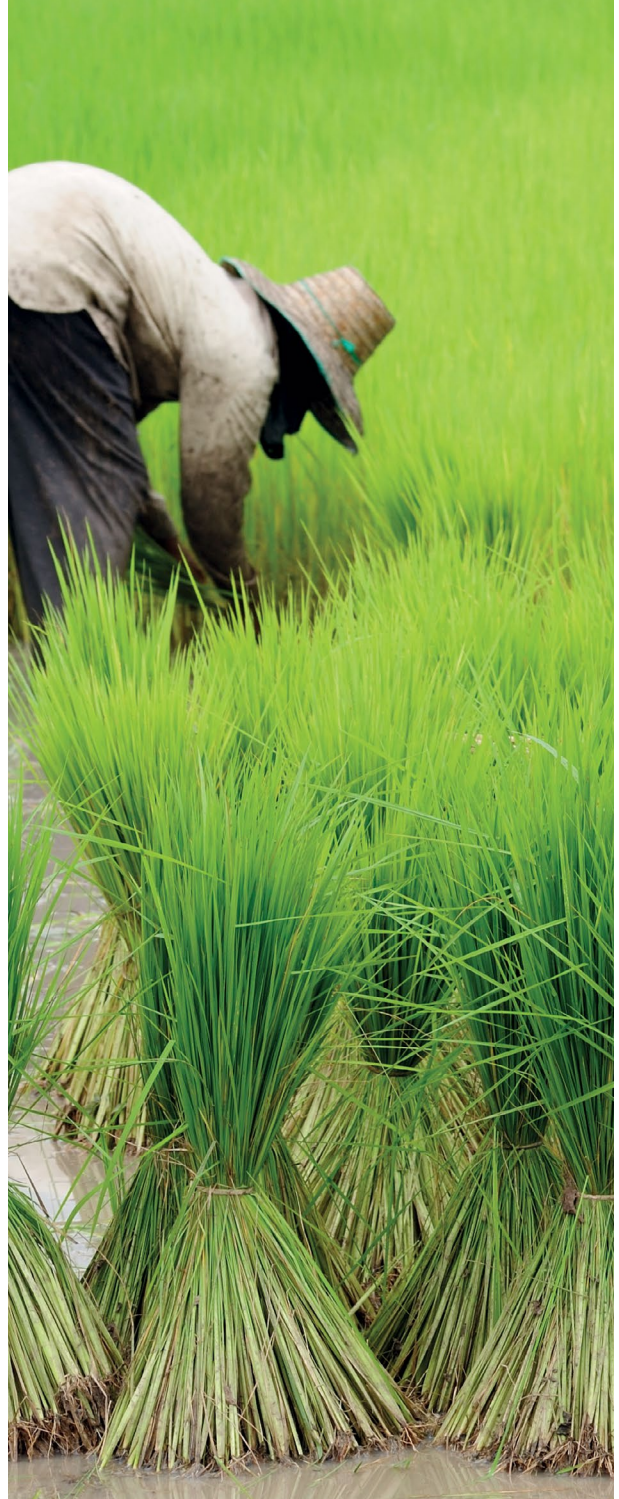
over time. In some cases, disasters destroy critical infrastructure and disrupt market access and trade. However, the agricultural sector is not merely a victim of disasters; farmers, fishermen and forest dependent communities are also active stakeholders, as are agricultural, forestry and fisheries planners. Through their ways of working/living they can promote resilience, but these actions may also enhance risks and vulnerabilities: e.g. unsustainable agricultural, forestry or fishing practices may destabilize agro-ecosystems and enhance the risk of flooding, landslides, storms, sea surges etc. This dual perspective underlines the importance of building enhanced DRR systems within agriculture, forestry and fisheries to promote resilient livelihoods, maintain sustainable agro-ecosystems and reduce new risk.

Topics under theme 4 will therefore discuss:

(i) mainstreaming of DRR in agriculture and other sectors; (ii) building of resilient livelihoods; (iii) the role and responsibilities of sectoral agencies and practitioners in facilitating resilient livelihood activities; (iv) cross-sectoral issues for DRR mainstreaming.

*EXPECTED RESULTS:*

- Participants are aware of the importance of mainstreaming DRR in sectors including agriculture, health, gender, education, also with regard to sustainable development
- Participants have shared experiences and identified success stories of DRR mainstreaming within and across different sectors, including on upscaling of local good practices
- Recommendations formulated on how to mainstream/ implement SFDRR across various sectoral contexts





## ***DRR Workshop Secretariat***

**Mr. Aslam Perwaiz**  
Department Head  
Disaster Risk Management Systems (DRMS)  
Tel: +66-2-298-0681 Ext 309, Fax: +66-2-298-0012  
Email: [aslam@adpc.net](mailto:aslam@adpc.net)

**Ms. Mareike Bentfeld**  
Project Coordinator  
Disaster Risk Management Systems (DRMS)  
Tel: +66-2-298-0681 Ext 302, Fax: +66-2-298-0012  
Email: [mareike@adpc.net](mailto:mareike@adpc.net)

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)  
979/66-70, 24th Floor, SM Tower, Paholyotin Rd., Samsen Nai, Phayathai, Bangkok 10400, Thailand

For more information and updates on the workshop, please visit this website: <http://www.adpc.net>