Fourth Disaster Management Practitioners' Workshop for Southeast Asia

8-10 March 2006
Bangkok, Thailand

Learning from Community-Based Practices:
Strengthening Policy and Partnerships
The Disaster Management Practitioners’ Workshop for Southeast Asia (DMP SEA) provides an opportunity for disaster management practitioners to gather on a periodic basis to share experiences and lessons, identify emerging issues and strategies, and develop partnerships to promote community-based approaches to disaster risk management on a regional basis. To date, three DMP SEA workshops have been held, the first in Hanoi, October 1999, the second in Da Nang, Vietnam and the third in Bangkok. Participants at the workshop are traditionally, practitioners from Governments, NGOs, International organizations, UN agencies and Donors from the South East Asian region.

The 4th DMP SEA Workshop is being held in the aftermath of the great Asian tsunami and other large scale disasters in the region and worldwide; e.g. the earthquakes in the Nias Island, Indonesia and Pakistan, and the hurricane Katrina in the United States of America. Such events have significantly changed perceptions about vulnerability, risk and capacity to reduce risks. Simultaneously, several encouraging developments have taken place both in policy and practice of disaster risk management. An illustration of the new commitment of Governments to protect their populations and livelihoods against natural disasters was the adoption of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: “Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (HFA)” at the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction, as a global framework to guide disaster reduction efforts and provide the practical principles, priority actions and means to achieve disaster resilience for vulnerable communities. Countries affected by the tsunami and other major disasters are going through a process of review and reform in the disaster related policies and institutional mechanisms. The relevance of community-based approaches to disaster risk reduction has been underlined both by the disastrous events and the response needs. Likewise is the increasing need for establishing and strengthening multi-sectoral partnerships and networking to promote integration of community based approaches into broader socio-economic development processes.

In this context, a number of innovative programs have been and are being implemented in South East Asian countries by NGOs and international organizations to promote community based approaches and strengthen partnerships with support from the European Commission, General Directorate for Humanitarian Aid. One important initiative being implemented by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, in partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, is the Partnerships for Disaster Reduction Southeast Asia, currently in its third phase (PDRSEA 3). It seeks to promote National Strategic Planning for Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) in five South East Asian countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Timor Leste and Viet Nam. The 4th DMP SEA Workshop is one of the many activities being implemented under PDRSEA 3 and it provides a forum to discuss experiences from the PDRSEA 3 activities as well as other regional and national CBDRM programs as part of regional collaborative efforts.

workshop theme

“Learning from Community Based Practices: Strengthening Policy and Partnerships”, the theme for this year’s workshop, emphasizes the need for continued learning about community based approaches to disaster risk reduction and underlines the importance of formulating policy and strengthening partnerships for wider integration of CBDRM into the social and economic development processes.

workshop objectives

In the longer term the Southeast Asia Regional Disaster Management Practitioners’ Workshop aims to serve as a multi-sectoral regional forum on community based approaches to disaster risk management. Within this broader context, the Fourth Workshop intends to:

• Share innovative experiences of DIPECHO partners and other key stakeholders on community based approaches;
• Discuss frameworks and tools to enhance CBDRM practice; e.g. strategic planning, accountability, building capacity, and mapping good practices;
• Review activities and measures already undertaken in recent years to strengthen networking on CBDRM;
• Identify strategies to strengthen multi-sectoral partnerships to integrate CBDRM into social and economic development processes; and
• Establish priority program of actions to further strengthen regional networking of CBDRM practitioners.

expected outcome

Regional strategies and priority programs of action for the development of long-term and strategic partnerships amongst CBDRM practitioners, relevant government agencies, international organizations, media and other sectors to advocate the integration of CBDRM into broader socio-economic development processes along the lines of HFA.
Innovative Approaches to Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction: Experiences of DIPECHO Partners and Other Stakeholders

- Policy and strategy options for effective dissemination and expansion of CBDRM;
- Financial and institutional mechanisms to support community initiatives for disaster reduction;
- Mechanisms for continued technical assistance for community disaster reduction initiatives;
- Community level information systems for disaster reduction;
- Community based early warning systems; and
- Integrating CBDRM in tsunami recovery process.

Integrating CBDRM into the Social and Economic Development Process

- Strategic collaborative action planning and its outputs;
- Standards on community based disaster risk management;
- Mapping good practices: Regional database;
- National capacities to implement CBDRM;
- Training curriculum for local government officials;
- Financial mechanisms for sustainability of community initiatives for disaster reduction; and
- Sustaining stakeholders’ participation in CBDRM.

Partnerships and Networking to Enhance CBDRM: Regional Strategies and Priority Programs of Action

- National and regional networking initiatives and opportunities;
- Review of activities and measures undertaken to strengthen networking on CBDRM;
- Establish program of action to further strengthen regional networking of CBDRM practitioners.
To register for the Fourth Southeast Asia Disaster Management Practitioners’ Workshop, please complete this form and mail or fax it to Kai Kim Chiang, ADPC, PO Box 4, Klong Luang, Pathumthani 12120, Thailand. Phone: +662-5165900 ext. 411 Fax: +662-5245350/5245360 by 17 February 2006, if possible.
The Third Phase of the Partnerships for Disaster Reduction (PDRSEA3) project, funded by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) under the DIPECHO Fourth Action Plan for Southeast Asia, and implemented through the partnership of ADPC and UNESCAP, focusses on institutionalizing Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) in government policy, planning and implementation.

PDRSEA3 works closely with National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs), local government and other key ministries and departments, and assisting government agencies in developing strategies and action plans to support and mobilize community action for disaster risk management.

The project also works closely with international donors, the media, and business entities in selected countries to mobilize support for community based approaches and activities.

The project is being implemented from February 2005 to April 2006, in five countries: Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Lao PDR and Vietnam.
building partnerships and promoting community based approaches for disaster risk reduction in southeast asia