

Summary Report

Regional Information Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction Bangkok, 6 November 2009

Background

- The present report consolidates the outputs of a Regional Information Meeting organised by the European Commission, as part of the programming process of the European Commission Disaster Preparedness Programme (DIPECHO) for South East Asia.
- The report will be used to help defining priorities for the upcoming DIPECHO South East Asia 7th Action Plan (2010-2011). However, it should not be considered as guidelines for applicants. Also, the present document does not reflect the official position of the European Commission.
- The next Call for Expression of Interest for the 7th Action Plan for DIPECHO South East Asia will have the following timeframe:
 - Publication of a Call by January 2010 - Deadline end of February 2010
 - 15 month projects to start as of May 2010 at the earliest
- The Meeting was well attended, with over 50 participants. A varied set of stakeholders from the donors, international organisations, UN agencies, NGOs participated.

Welcoming words & Meeting Orientations

- David Verboom, Head of the DG ECHO Regional Support Office for East, South East Asia and the Pacific, opened the Meeting by reminding about the devastating impact of disasters in the region and the cost-effectiveness of investment into Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).
- Samuel Cantell, Deputy Head of Operations of the European Commission (EC) Delegation, highlighted the recently approved European Union Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction for assistance to third countries. The Strategy will enhance the European Union Member State and the European Commission's approach to DRR measures through improved programming as well as *ad hoc* measures, including in support to ASEAN. In addition to DG ECHO's large contribution for disaster preparedness measures at regional, country and local levels since 1998, the EC has also provided regionally 6 million euro to the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) for post-Tsunami initiatives.
- Thearat Touch, DG ECHO Disaster Risk Reduction Assistant for South East Asia, introduced the main purpose of the Meeting, which aimed to provide main regional updates on the DRR front, as well as information on work plans of core DRR regional organisations or stakeholders for the period 2010-2011. It was noted that the Meeting did

- not intend to provide a comprehensive review on regional DRR issues, given the numerous regular actions and the very active DRR regional framework and agenda¹.
- Some of the donors and regional organisations who could not attend, in particular the ASEAN Secretariat, AusAid, the Asian Development Bank, provided written briefs.

Overview

- The high number of participants demonstrated the interest for the topic and the importance of continued reflections on DRR. The accrued DRR commitment and strategies from Government, regional organisations, donors and implementing agencies are to be appraised. The recent disasters reminded, if necessary, of the need to put into practice DRR.
- The upcoming entry into force of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) will be a cornerstone in the DRR regional agenda and ASEAN Member States' commitments. The partnerships being developed between the ASEAN Secretariat and a range of stakeholders, including civil society actors, is most welcomed.
- The International Safe Campaigns on Schools and Hospitals have started showing some results. There are obvious commitments by some agencies to continue leading processes, but most importantly by Governments and donors to put the Campaigns into practice. As noted by some participants at the Meeting, ensuring national mechanisms for quality implementation of safer education and health environment are crucial and should be advocated for. These should also relate to norms and criteria applied by donors.
- There is scope in the region for improved inclusive approaches involving - as much as addressing as beneficiary target - the most vulnerable and in particular the disabled, the elderly, women and children. Tools and approaches already developed, from national to local level, should better integrate these issues. DG ECHO will ensure inclusive approaches are ranging high in the DIPECHO priorities.
- A wide range of DRR and community-based DRR tools, products and approaches have been developed in the region. These need to be disseminated further, in particular for the ultimate benefit of communities themselves.
- A series of DRR regional actions are ongoing or planned. DIPECHO will have to closely identify the priority gaps which can be addressed in the most appropriate way given the timeframe and focused criteria of the Programme.
- Some participants highlighted the need for the European Union to put into practice swiftly the new DRR Strategy.

Key updated – DRR Regional Issues (*see also presentations*)

UN ISDR

- Key priorities of action for 2010-2011 will focus on four areas: 1) DRR accepted and applied for Climate Change Adaptation (CCA); 2) Measurable reduction of disaster losses achieved through optimal investments in DRR; 3) Schools and hospitals safe from disaster risks; 4) An effective ISDR system supported by a strengthened Secretariat.

¹ ISDR Asia Partnership including DRR regional mapping exercise supported by ADB and implemented by ADPC; Asian Inter-Ministerial DRR Conference, ADPC Regional Consultative Committee, ADRC, APEC, DRR Regional Platforms etc.

- A few targeted and realistic actions have been elaborated and partners identified. The work plan follows several reviews of ISDR system at global and regional levels.
- ISDR also presented a new initiative being finalised by ISDR, WHO and UNICEF: “**One Million Safe School and Hospitals Campaign**”. It uses a pledging campaign concept similar to the [UNEP “One billion Tree” Campaign](#). The campaign will be launched in December, using an *ad hoc* web-platform.

WHO

- Presented the main components and outcomes of the two year campaign, which will soon officially wrap up with a large event in Manila in early December. The workshop will include lessons learning, experience sharing and action planning. This will not imply the end of the campaign. A work plan is being prepared for follow-up actions at various levels. Under the follow-up plans, the Safe Hospital initiatives will be integrated into the new Safe Cities Campaign 2010-2011.
- An informal Campaign’s Task Force² has been actively engaged in steering this campaign. In the region, the campaign has been rolled out to Lao PDR, Cambodia, Vietnam and the Philippines through DIPECHO.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

- Presented a slightly changed regional set up in structure and resources. The Disaster Management programme 2010 will continue and consolidate actions in the following fields, with the aim to reduce deaths, injuries and impacts from disasters: 1) Disaster Management planning (including [International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles programme](#)); 2) Organisational preparedness (“Well Prepared National Societies”); 3) Community preparedness and DRR; 4) Disaster response; 5) National Society Programming; 6) Coordination and cooperation.
- The IFRC also introduced ongoing cost-analyses, one of them in the Philippines.

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)

- ADPC will continue developing its thematic strengths (climate variability and change; community-based disaster risk reduction; end to end multi hazard early warning system; good governance & DRM systems development; mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development policy; public health in emergencies; recovery planning & implementation; urban disaster risk management) as well as its programme servicing (disaster risk management programme development & implementation; capacity-building & training; knowledge management; development of innovative practices; public education, awareness and advocacy; strengthening regional cooperation and partnerships).
- This will be done in particular through: continued DRR mainstreaming into national planning processes and into sectors; advocacy for building awareness and political support; a knowledge management platform; capacity-development. It will also look more closely at linkages between DRR and Climate Change Adaptation. ADPC has already some experience on urban pilots and methodologies. In view of the upcoming Safe Cities campaign, this topic will be further enhanced.

² Involving UN ISDR, WHO (South East Asia Regional Office & Western Pacific Regional Office), DG ECHO, Southeast Asian Ministers of Education-Tropical Medicine and Public Health Network (SEAMEO TROPMED), ADPC, Regional NGOs (SEEDS, NSET), University Kebangsaan Malaysia, University of the Philippines: College of Architecture, Open University, IFRC, World Bank.

- Some of the initiatives implemented by ADPC with other agencies have been successfully promoted (eg integrated water resource management) and some donors (World Bank) and governments (Lower Mekong countries) are now building on this.

Disaster Management Practitioners' Workshop

- The event has been organised on a bi-annual basis, through each DIPECHO cycle, by ADPC and other partners as information and experience sharing and skill building platform. In September 2009, the Workshop was co-organised by ADPC and IFRC. It involved participants from South East Asia, but also from South Asia and the Pacific.
- A large number of recommendations were collected and a few of these presented during the Meeting. A report will be finalised soon and posted on the ADPC and IFRC websites. Key learning focused on: involvement of local authorities at all stages, promotion of private sector participation in DRR, climate change as a cross-cutting issue, need to build on existing structures and initiatives, linking DRR with sector-based development planning, partnership building, importance of "inclusive DRR".
- Main areas for improvement: better integration between climate change and DRR, monitoring & evaluation of DRR programmes, Cost Benefit Analysis, community insurance & risk transfer, skills building exercises, database of resource personnel.

ASEAN

- The ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) will enter into force shortly. This will be the first legally binding DRR agreement at regional level, making it a unique initiative and type of commitment world-wide.
- ASEAN is presently preparing a work programme for AADMER, focusing on four core strategic components (risk assessment, early warning and monitoring; prevention and mitigation; preparedness and response; recovery and rehabilitation) and three supporting, cross-cutting components (training and knowledge management; partnership and resource mobilisation). CCA and protection of the most vulnerable groups are also core focuses. The work programme is expected to be approved by early 2010.
- Partnerships have been established for guidance and technical assistance with a range of actors such as the Pacific Disaster Center (PDC), ADPC, the ASEAN Partnership Group (a consortium of INGOs – *see below*), the US Forest Service. Further partnerships will be sought for continued guidance and resource mobilisation.
- Lessons learned are also being analysed from the response and recovery process following Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar.
- The ASEAN Secretariat, UN ISDR and the World Bank have launched a five-year tripartite Memorandum of Cooperation on Disaster Risk Reduction in May 2009, including support for ASEAN to strengthen regional DRM implementation, capacity development and knowledge management, within the context AADMER and the Hyogo Framework for Action.
- The ASEAN Secretariat will also explore several DRR initiatives in 2010 and make them in line with the theme of the World Campaign on safer cities as well as strengthening collaboration with the civil society and engagement with academia and the private sector.

OXFAM-GB

- Presented a new initiative on the civil society's side: "Supporting the Implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER)". The ASEAN Partnership Group consists so far of Mercy Malaysia,

OXFAM-GB, Save the Children-UK, Plan International, ChildFund Asia, HelpAge Asia and World Vision. The group is open to other interested agencies.

- The main aim of the initiative is to partner with ASEAN to ensure the civil society's voice in structures, programmes and decisions, as well as a people's centred implementation of AADMER.
- The initiative will provide support to ongoing policy, planning and monitoring to the ASEAN Secretariat on reducing infant mortality and building resilient communities. Two staff members have been detached to the ASEAN Secretariat under this first phase, funded with own resources and a contribution from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). A 5 year programme is being prepared under a 2nd phase.

Key DRR Sub-Regional Issues (Lower Mekong)

Mekong River Commission (MRC)

- Introduced the outputs of the [Flood Management and Mitigation Programme](#) (FMMP) as well as plans for the FMMP second phase. In 2004-2009, critical achievements have been seen, with a functional Regional Flood Management and Mitigation Centre, continued improvement of data, mapping and tools, research etc. A range of products will be made available within the next half a year. MRC is also presently testing a flash flood information and guidance system.
- Overall the MRC is now producing improving quality data which is used by a wide range of actors, including at local level. Communities and local authorities are also linking up with the systems in place. The "[Component 4](#)" of the FMMP, supported by GTZ and DG ECHO through MRC and ADPC, focuses on training of local authorities and sub-national planning. This Component is considered the "human face" of the FMMP, so far a rather technical programme. The MRC Secretariat and Member States intend to continue such actions allowing for a positive interaction between decision makers and communities.
- Under the second phase, the functioning of the Regional Flood Management and Mitigation Centre, as well as some components, will fully be taken over by Member States, while additional resources will be sought for *ad hoc* programmes. A work and action plan will be prepared during 2009-2010 through participatory processes.
- Climate change is being mainstreaming into the overall MRC programmes (see [report](#) from a recent workshop on this issue). The involvement of the private sector is also an important focus.

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- The ADB provided written updates on one of their sub-regional programme being prepared, the "Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) Flood and Drought Risk Management and Mitigation Project", which will be based on the 2004-2008 earlier programme.
- Objectives: 1) Identify and prioritise flood and drought issues regionally within the GMS and within each country through regional and national road maps developed to improve flood and drought risk management; 2) Develop a prioritised programme of structural and nonstructural Flood Risk Management and Drought Risk Mitigation interventions in each country; 3) Prepare feasibility studies for proposed investment projects in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam on the basis of the national roadmaps.

It is also noted that the **World Bank** is preparing follow-up phases of the Global facility for Disaster Risk and Recovery in Lao PDR and Cambodia, focusing on DRR integrated approaches, flood and drought management, sub-national planning, institution building.

Other Donors Updates

OFDA/USAID

- Presented OFDA priorities, largely focusing on response but more and more addressing DRR issues as strategy and programming. OFDA has been supporting a wide range of DRR and disaster mitigation measures in the region for many years. A new two-year strategy for DRR has been developed, with intentions to be more engaged on this matter.
- DRR priorities focus on improving regional capacities (through regional entities and governments), as well as increase resilience of vulnerable populations.
- OFDA is also looking at a DRR-dedicated person within the regional office.

CIDA

- CIDA has been engaged in some DRR and climate change actions in the region (for instance through OXFAM-GB for the AADMER-civil society initiative mentioned above). However, further engagement is pending the approval of a regional strategic framework.
- CIDA announced an upcoming visit of the Manager, Southeast Asia region Program.

AusAid

- Provided a written update on their recently approved [DRR strategy](#) and priorities for the region. At the moment, AusAid is supporting ADPC, the Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network, UN ISDR and IFRC through DRR regional initiatives.
- Australia has also engaged in a five year commitment (2008/09 - 2012/13) to the [Australia Indonesia Facility for Disaster Reduction](#) to strengthen national and local capacity in disaster management in Indonesia and a more disaster resilient region.

DG ECHO / DIPECHO

- So far, DIPECHO regional actions have represented approximately 15% of the envelop per cycle. At the moment, DIPECHO is supporting regional initiative in DRR mainstreaming into the education and health sectors (including support to Safe Campaigns), flood management and capacity-building of the Red Cross Red Crescent Societies, in addition to information management and experience sharing.
- DIPECHO will continue regional disaster preparedness actions, as per the regional nature of the programme. These actions will focus on the implementation of the world Safe Campaigns, continued networking, information and experience sharing, capacity-building of regional actors and entities etc.
- Actions relevant to institutional- and capacity-building of Government and national structures should rather be implemented through country-based projects.
- DG ECHO also contributes largely to the humanitarian reform through *ad hoc* [capacity-building](#) and disaster preparedness measures. These are complementary to DIPECHO.
- Further details on country priorities and application process were given through an information session at the end of the Meeting.

Annexes and references

- All presentations and handouts, agenda, list of participants, speech
- Information and outputs of the DIPECHO Regional initiatives are being posted when completed on:
 - o [WHO](#) (& [ISDR](#)): [Regional Safe Hospital Campaign](#) (including assessment tools, advocacy kit etc.)
 - o UNDP & ADPC: [DRR integration into Education](#) (including safe constructions and advocacy measures)
 - o [IFRC](#): DRR tools for National Societies, including on HFA, regional platform, education, EWS etc.
 - o [Mekong River Commission / ADPC](#): Flood Management (sub-national planning and training; school safety)
 - o [DIPECHO regional project sheets](#)

Should you have any comments on this report, please send them by email to Cécile Pichon at drrc@echo-bangkok.org.

**Consolidated Strategic Priorities for Natural Disaster Risk Reduction
and Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction at Regional Level
Non Exhaustive List**

	Priority Need/Actions	Priority Actions relevant for DIPECHO Regional Projects
1	Overall	See DIPECHO presentation in annex
2	DRR & CCA	DIPECHO cannot address CCA only but DRR actions can include CCA components.
3	Safe Campaigns	The support to the implementation and follow-up of the Campaigns on Safe Schools and Safe Hospitals will remain a priority, at regional and national levels. Priorities of the Campaign on Safe Cities through DIPECHO will focus more on small and medium cities, as well as the implementation of the two previous Campaigns in urban environment. Agencies will be encouraged to link up with the “One million Safe Schools and Safe Hospitals Campaign”.
4	DRR & Sectors	Continued support to development of tools, methodologies and guidance products on DRR integration into well identified sectors. Practical pilots for national levels should be implemented through country-based actors.
5	ASEAN	Priority to assist the implementation of DRR actions through AADMER at regional and national level. DIPECHO cannot fund directly ASEAN but can support activities partnering with ASEAN or implementing its work programme at the relevant level.
6	Regional Platform	Priority to networking, sharing of experience, integration of lessons learned, ensuring participatory processes.
7	Practitioners' Workshop	All recommendations of the 6 th Workshop could be closely reviewed. Further event could involve more local actors and include more skill building components. The scope, costs and outputs of such an event would have to be clearly elaborated in a proposal.
8	DRR mapping & complementarities	Priority will be to complement gaps and to promote community-level approaches at various levels.
9	Inclusive approaches	The need for improved inclusive approaches to DRR and in particular CBDRR in models, tools, methodologies etc. has been raised systematically in country and regional discussions. In some cases, this issue is even referred to as “innovative”. As a matter of fact, DIPECHO will make requirements clearer with regards the need to address better the most vulnerable groups on one side, but also to ensure that all categories of people are properly involved in processes. The Elderly, the handicapped, children and others should be contributing through their own potentials and this should be reflected in the designs of operations. There is scope to improve inclusive approaches through dissemination of methodologies, adaptation of tools to local contexts and training.