



REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT (RCC)

Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC)



RCC MEMBERSHIP

The Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC) comprises of members who are working in key Government positions in the national disaster management systems of countries of the Asia and the Pacific region and was established at the initiative of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) in 2000. Its role as a consultative mechanism for regional cooperation is recognized and affirmed by the Charter of ADPC.

To date, 26 countries are represented by 30 RCC Members from Asia and the Pacific region namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia,

of national disaster management offices from 26 countries in Asia and Pacific region and observers from UN Agencies, donors and ADPC partners. To date, all RCC meetings have been supported by the Government of Australia. ADPC serves as the secretariat to the RCC.

- RCC 1: Bangkok, Thailand, November 2000
- RCC 2: Bangkok, Thailand, October 2001
- RCC 3: New Delhi, India, October 2002.
- RCC 4: Dhaka, Bangladesh, March 2004
- RCC 5: Hanoi, Vietnam, May 2005
- RCC 6: Kunming, China, November 2006
- RCC 7: Colombo, Sri Lanka, May 2008
- RCC 8: Manila, The Philippines, February 2010



REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

China, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam. The RCC has established a system of Chair and Vice Chair in the intervening period between the two meetings. The host country of the meeting assumes chairmanship and the incoming host country acts as the vice-chair and takes over when it hosts.

ROLES OF RCC

- Identification of disaster-related needs and priorities of Asia and the Pacific countries
- Promotion of regional and sub-regional cooperative programs
- Development of regional action strategies for disaster reduction

RCC MEETINGS

Annual meetings of the RCC are convened by the Government of a host member country in collaboration with ADPC. RCC Meetings are attended by more than 50 RCC delegates comprising of heads

RCC MEETING STRUCTURE

Each meeting of the RCC has a special theme as selected by the host country. In this theme session, presentations are made by selected member countries, on achievements, challenges, good practices in the countries on the said theme.

The meeting also has a separate session showcasing the achievements, practices on disaster risk reduction (DRR) of the host country. Lessons learned by the member countries from the recent disasters in the region, in terms of providing response as well as planning for recovery and reconstruction are presented at the meeting.

In the context of strengthening regional cooperation, RCC also has been organizing a special session on progress on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) in Asia.

Apart from the presentations by the countries, group discussions are also held on various issues related to regional cooperation for disaster risk reduction.

RCC 1: Bangkok, Thailand, 20-22 Nov 2000

The meeting attended by 17 member countries, identified the needs and priorities of Asian countries and developed recommendations for action to promote regional cooperation in the following thematic areas:

- Building capacity, training and public support for disaster management and mitigation
- Development of national disaster management plans and information systems

- Improving legislative and institutional arrangements and enhancing political will for disaster management and mitigation
- Integration of DRR into national development process
- Scientific and technical inputs for disaster management (including early warning)

While reviewing the future directions of the RCC, the meeting endorsed the utility and benefit of the RCC as useful mechanism for dialogue, exchange of experience and means of developing practical cooperative programs between member countries at the regional and sub-regional levels.



CONFERENCE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT (RCC)

RCC 2: Bangkok, Thailand, 31 Oct-02 Nov 2001

Theme: Flood Preparedness and Mitigation

The second meeting of the RCC, attended by 16 countries, adopted the Bangkok Declaration and recognized the importance of all RCC member countries to adopt a comprehensive risk management approach, involving multi-hazard risk management including prevention, mitigation, preparedness along with response and recovery.

The Bangkok RCC 2 Declaration prioritized the following action areas:

- Comprehensive disaster risk management approach to be adopted by all countries;

- Community level risk mapping and community based disaster risk management piloted in all countries;
- Capacity building of national disaster management systems;
- Creating awareness, political will and support for disaster management;
- Cooperation with sub-regional bodies;
- Asian regional conference;
- Asian regional report on disaster reduction;
- Vulnerability Atlas for Asia; and
- Building capacity for management of man-made disasters

RCC 3: New Delhi, India, 29-31 Oct 2002

Theme: Drought Risk Management

Organized in collaboration with Government of India, the third meeting of the RCC was graced by the presence of the Deputy Prime Minister; H.E. L.K Advani. The meeting demonstrated political will for adopting a proactive and synergetic approach towards disaster risk management. With the special theme as Drought Management, the meeting discussed in detail the trends, advances and regional cooperation on drought preparedness and management.

Bangkok RCC 2 Declaration of 2001 on Future Directions

Twenty-three delegates from 16 RCC member countries and 12 observers from multi-lateral and bilateral agencies met in Bangkok for the 2nd Meeting of the RCC. The meeting endorsed the key further directions for the regional cooperation in disaster management and for the RCC as follows:



Key Action Areas

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

- Building community level programs for preparedness and mitigation
- Capacity building of national disaster management systems (See box for details)
- Cooperation with Sub-Regional Mechanisms such as ASEAN, SAARC, SOPAC, MRC and ICIMOD
- Regional initiatives to create awareness and promote political will (See box for details)

Comprehensive Risk Management Approach

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



The meeting concluded that the RCC is a very useful and beneficial platform for dialogue, exchange of experience and lessons learned. It also serves as an important means of conceptualizing and developing practical cooperative programs between member countries at the regional and sub-regional levels. The meeting recommended that the RCC mechanism should be institutionalized and be organized annually and as far as possible different venues in the region. The meeting requested ADPC to continue as a facilitator and convener of this consultative mechanism and to serve as a regional focal point and technical resource for the RCC in disaster management.

for Regional Cooperation and RCC

Prioritized Action Areas for RCC in the decade 2001 to 2010

(As prioritized during RCC 1 and RCC 2, for implementation by RCC Member countries and ADPC)

Priorities for capacity building for national systems

- Integrating disaster management 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
- Building national disaster management information systems
- Improving disaster management training and capacity building
- Promoting public awareness and media coverage of DRR
- Enhancing scientific and technical cooperation in disaster management
- Mapping strengths and capacities of RCC member countries

Priorities for Regional initiatives

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



RCC 4: Dhaka, Bangladesh, 29-31 Mar 2004

Theme: Urban Disaster Risk Management

Organized in collaboration with Government of Bangladesh, the fourth meeting of the RCC served as a preparatory event in Asia for the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) 2005. The meeting demonstrated the support and commitment of political leaders by the presence of

the Honorable President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, H.E. Professor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed and the active participation of the Honorable Minister and Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management and Relief. The meeting proved a turning point to the consolidation of the RCC mechanism towards a more action-oriented approach by launching the RCC Program on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development Policy, Planning and Implementation in Asia.

RCC 5: Hanoi, Vietnam, 18-20 May 2005

Theme: Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development

The fifth meeting was organized in collaboration with the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The opening day of the meeting was held concurrently with the 59th celebration ceremony for the Traditional Day for Disaster Reduction in Vietnam. Honorable Deputy President H.E. Vu Khoan inaugurated the meeting and highlighted the need for international cooperation in order to effectively prevent and mitigate the damage caused by the increasing occurrence of global disasters. The meeting adopted the Hanoi RCC 5 Statement

on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development in Asian Countries, which exhorts all member countries to take up mainstreaming as a key priority for action consistent with the globally adopted Hyogo Framework for Action 2005- 2015 (HFA).

RCC 5 also served as an important follow up event in Asia to the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) 2005. The deliberations amongst the participants served to guide national action on implementation of the HFA and stated expectation from RCC members about action by regional and international entities in support of the member country initiatives on HFA.

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

Theme: Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development

The sixth meeting of the RCC was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Civil Affairs, Government of People's Republic of China. Honored by a special message from the Vice Premier of the State Council of P.R China, Chairman of National Commission for Disaster Reduction H.E. Hui Liang-Yu the meeting demonstrated the highest level of

support to DRR initiatives. The meeting established a system of RCC Chair and Vice Chair in the intervening period between the two meetings with the host country of the meeting assuming chairmanship when they host; and the incoming host country acting as the vice chair and taking over the chair when it hosts. Confirming the importance the RCC member countries attached to the RCC Program on Mainstreaming DRR into development, the meeting decided on the approach for the future phases of the program.

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

Theme: Rights based community led disaster risk reduction

The seventh meeting of the RCC was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Government of Sri Lanka. The meeting was graced by the presence of Honorable Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights H.E. Mr. Mahinda Samarasinghe and attended by 28 delegates from 19 RCC member countries including 10 representatives from Ministries of Planning and Sectoral Ministries from six RCC

member countries. The key outcomes of the theme session included the commitment of RCC members to take up national programs on community-based DRR in all high risk communities. The RCC and ADPC, as its Secretariat, offered to lead a Technical Session and High Level Round Table on community-based DRR at the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR, to be held in Kuala Lumpur, December 2008.



In order to prepare and facilitate the discussions during the theme session of the seventh RCC meeting, the RCC members were requested to submit a brief country paper on initiatives on community-based DRR in the country. The information provided in the country paper was summarized to develop the RCC Working Paper on 'Implementing national programs on community-based DRR in high risk communities': Lessons learned, challenges and way ahead. The first version of this Working Paper was circulated at the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR, Kuala Lumpur, December 2008 and was presented by the RCC Chair, Government of Sri Lanka and RCC secretariat; ADPC at the Technical Session of the conference; Community based DRR; involvement and empowerment of local governments and non-governmental organizations.

Hanoi RCC 5 Declaration

This 5th Meeting of the RCC calls upon every RCC member country to Mainstream DRR into development over the coming decade, and to undertake Priority Implementation Partnerships in following thematic areas:

- Mainstreaming DRR into National Development Policy, Planning and Implementation,
- Mainstreaming DRR in priority sectors namely, Agriculture, Education, Health, Housing, Urban Planning and Infrastructure, Financial Services and Environment and Natural Resources

Agree that the national and local level mainstreaming in sectors will not be limited to the priority sectors or themes listed above but will involve a greater number of sectors, agencies and themes; and emphasize that the mainstreaming of enhanced disaster resilience be done in post-disaster recovery programs of all disaster prone sectors;

Welcoming the willingness of member countries to implement Priority Implementation Partnerships (PIPs) on MDRD in ongoing development programs funded from national budgets and ongoing external funding; and recognizing that the process of implementation will be an active learning experience to understand how mainstreaming can be achieved;

Recognizing the need to document and share information on good practices and initiatives undertaken by RCC member countries so that others who are only now starting may benefit and therefore calls on Governments and technical support agencies to highlight and make visible existing good practice in implementing disaster resilience and safety in development programs in various sectors by suitably documenting experiences, key success factors and lessons learned.

Recognizing the responsibility of the RCC as a mechanism, offers to serve as a useful forum and reporting mechanism through which the progress of the implementation of the HFA can be monitored by ISDR, and advocates that the 10- year HFA framework should be broken down into 2- year milestones of accomplishments to facilitate a workable implementation

of the HFA for each of the RCC Member Countries. Highlights the need for action by development partners (UN Agencies, Donors, International Financial Institutions and others) to:

- Enhance links between development and humanitarian assistance programs and budgets of their agencies;
- Incorporate disaster impact assessments into their project appraisal and review processes and;
- Include comprehensive assessments of disaster risk in their country assessments and country assistance strategies; and
- Adopt policy recommendations of the UNDP, UN/ISDR and ProVention Consortium documents on integrating DRR into development compatible with the local situation and conditions.

Requests ADPC in its capacity as secretariat of the RCC mechanism to continue to be the support agency of the RCC program on Mainstreaming DRR into development through following actions:

Developing a set of Guidelines documents for mainstreaming DRR, and

Appreciates the support of the Government of Australia and expressions of interest by other countries and UN agencies to support implementation of its program on mainstreaming DRR into development by:

- providing funding for PIPs and meetings;
- supporting development and publication of Guidelines; and
- providing active linkage with the regional and national capacity building and technical assistance initiatives of various development partners.

*For the complete version of the Hanoi RCC 5 Declaration please visit www.rccdm.net.



Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC) Members

Director General
Afghanistan National Disaster Management
Agency
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Secretary
Ministry of Food and Disaster Management
and
Director General
Disaster Management Bureau
People's Republic of Bangladesh

Secretary
Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs
Kingdom of Bhutan

Director
National Disaster Management Center
Ministry of Home Affairs
State of Brunei Darussalam

1st Vice President
and
Secretary General
National Committee for Disaster Management
(NCDM)
Kingdom of Cambodia

Director General
Department of Disaster and Social Relief
Ministry of Civil Affairs
People's Republic of China

Chief
Department of Emergency Situations and Civil
Safety Service
Ministry of Internal Affairs
Republic of Georgia

Secretary [Border Management]
Ministry of Home Affairs
Republic of India

Chief Executive
National Agency for Disaster Management
Republic of Indonesia

Head of Organisation
Organisation for State Crisis Management
Islamic Republic of Iran

Director General of Civil Defence
Jordanian Civil Defence
Ministry of Interior
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Chairman
Emergency Agency
Republic of Kazakhstan

Administrator
National Emergency Management Agency
Republic of Korea

Director
National Disaster Management Office
Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
Lao People's Democratic Republic

Director
Crisis and Disaster Management Directorate
National Security Division
Prime Minister's Department
Republic of Malaysia

State Minister
National Disaster Management Centre
Republic of Maldives

Head
National Disaster Management Agency
People's Republic of Mongolia

Director General
Relief and Resettlement Department
Ministry of Social Welfare
Union of Myanmar

Secretary
Ministry of Home Affairs
Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal

Chairman
National Disaster Management Authority
Prime Minister's Secretariat
Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Director General
National Disaster Management Office
Department of Provincial and Local
Government Affairs
Independent State of Papua New Guinea

Administrator, Office of Civil Defence and
Executive Officer
National Disaster Coordinating Council
Republic of the Philippines

Secretary
Ministry of Disaster Management and Human
Rights
and
Director General
Disaster Management Center
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Chief
National Disaster Management Directorate
Ministry of Social Solidarity
Democratic Republic of Timor Leste

Director General
Department of Disaster Prevention and
Mitigation
Ministry of Interior
Kingdom of Thailand

Director
Department of Dike Management, Flood and
Storm Control
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Socialist Republic of Vietnam

RCC Website (www.rccdm.net)

The RCC website (www.rccdm.net) provides information on the RCC mechanism; background, members, past meetings, RCC program. It acts as a hub for the RCC members on information related to the RCC and provides an archive of proceedings of previous RCC meetings, country presentations and publications. The website is supported by the Government of Australia.



RCC Secretariat



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February 2010 version. Prepared for distribution
at the RCC8 Meeting, Manila, February 2010.

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Source of Country Flags and Names: CIA
Factbook 2010)