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Operationalizing Global Frameworks
for Risk-Resilient Development in Asia

Meeting Report

13th Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) on Disaster Management

17-19 October 2016
Islamabad, Pakistan





RCC

REGIONAL
CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE on
**DISASTER
MANAGEMENT**

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AAAA	Addis Ababa Action Agenda
ADPC	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
AHA Center	ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management
AMCDRR	Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BRACED	Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters
CBDRM	Community-Based Disaster Risk Management
COP21	Conference of Parties 21
DM-CBM	Disaster Management Confidence Building Measures
GIZ-GIDRM	Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management - Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
HFA	Hyogo Framework for Action
HKH-HYCOS	Regional Flood Information System in the Hindu Kush Himalayan Region
HOA	Heart of Asia
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
ICVA	International Council of Voluntary Agencies
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MSB	Myndigheten För Samhällsskydd och Beredskap - Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency
NDMA	National Disaster Management Agency of Pakistan
NDMO	National Disaster Management Organizations
NEMA	Mongolia National Emergency Management Agency
PDNA	Post-Disaster Needs Assessments
RCC	Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SFDRR	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
TAF	The Asia Foundation
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
WHS	World Humanitarian Summit



Theme: Operationalizing Global Frameworks for Risk-Resilient Development in Asia

Location: Islamabad, Pakistan

Dates: October 17-19, 2016

Graced by: H.E. Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Minister of Planning, National Reforms, and Development, Pakistan; and H.E. Mr. Zahid Hamid, Minister for Climate Change, Pakistan

Co-Hosted by: National Disaster Management Agency of Pakistan (NDMA)

Member countries in attendance: Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, Indonesia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam

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PART 1: BACKGROUND

THE RCC MECHANISM

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 promotes peer advocacy and exchange of experiences in disaster risk reduction (DRR). Its Secretariat, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), initiated the committee to bring countries in the Asia region together to achieve common goals in DRR, explore ways to transform policies into practice, and promote regional cooperation. More specifically, the RCC's role is to provide a consultative mechanism for:

- Guiding implementation of DRR in the Asian region;
- Promoting cooperative DRR programs on a regional and sub-regional basis; and
- Guiding the work of ADPC and its future directions.



Figure 1. RCC Member Countries

The RCC played a pivotal role in supporting the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 – 2015 (HFA) in Asia, and will continue this role with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (SFDRR). In addition, the RCC serves as an important forum for senior government officials in preparing for and following up on the outcomes of the Asian Ministerial Conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) and other significant regional events in the field.

Table 1. RCC Timeline

#	Year	Country	Meeting Theme
1	2000	Thailand	DRR Agenda-Setting for RCC Member Countries
2	2001	Thailand	Flood Preparedness and Mitigation
3	2002	India	Drought Risk Management
4	2004	Bangladesh	Urban Risk Management

5	2005	Vietnam	Mainstreaming DRR into Development
6	2006	China	Mainstreaming DRR into Development/HFA
7	2008	Sri Lanka	Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction
8	2010	Philippines	Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction
9	2011	Cambodia	Linking Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation
10	2013	Mongolia	Integrating Planning for DRR, CCA and Sustainable Development
11	2014	Myanmar	Reducing Disaster Risk and Transforming Development
12	2015	Bhutan	Risk-Sensitive Development in Asia
13	2016	Pakistan	Operationalizing Global Frameworks for Risk Resilient Development in Asia

THE 13TH RCC MEETING

The 13th RCC meeting was held in Islamabad, Pakistan, in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority of Pakistan.

The overarching theme of the meeting was **“Operationalizing Global Frameworks for Risk-Resilient Development in Asia”**.

As a follow up to the post-2015 agenda and the 12th RCC meeting in Thimphu, Bhutan in 2015, the objectives of the 13th RCC meeting were to:

- Discuss the progress made by RCC member countries in implementing the Sendai Framework in its first year including challenges, opportunities and gaps;
- Discuss how other post-2015 agenda frameworks can assist in the disaster risk management of RCC member countries;
- Share and highlight practices on operationalizing the post-2015 DRR Agenda with a focus on partnerships, tools and innovations
- Establish synergies with regional initiatives to improve regional cooperation in disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development at the national and local level.

OVERALL THEME: OPERATIONALIZING GLOBAL FRAMEWORKS FOR RISK-RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA

The 13th RCC meeting was an opportunity for countries who have been implementing the Sendai Framework and other global mechanisms to reflect on how these mechanisms are improving disaster risk management in their countries and what opportunities there are in improving the implementation of the post 2015 agenda.

In line with the 13th RCC meeting's objectives, and in preparation for the AMCDRR meeting in Delhi, the meeting will take up four key sub-themes:

Sub-theme 1: Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction: Implementation Efforts, Challenges and Opportunities

The first sub-theme of the 13th RCC meeting focused on the SFDRR, as all aspects of the framework relate to building resilience and managing disaster risk. While the other frameworks are also crucial in guiding countries, they also include aspects which are not so relevant to disaster risk management. If Asian governments have a clear understanding of what is required of them to implement the SFDRR within their disaster risk management systems and processes, it will make the implementation of other aspects of the post-2015 agenda a lot simpler.

Sub-theme 2: Integrating Global Frameworks for Strengthened Risk Governance

The second thematic focus discussed how government agencies and non-government organizations can potentially integrate the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR)**, the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)**, the **Conference of Parties agreements on Climate Change Adaptation (COP21)**, and the **World Humanitarian Summit (WHS)** commitments to strengthen risk governance.

Sub-theme 3. Partnerships, Tools and Innovation to Operationalize the Post-2015 Agenda

The third sub-theme of the 13th RCC brought together the two previous sub- themes and highlighted practical options for operationalizing the post-2015 agenda at the national level. Science, technology, and innovation are supported by establishing a platform for countries to share their existing practices on large-scale technologies as well as focusing on appropriate local-level technologies. Options were explored to see how forums such as the Heart of Asia (HoA), and regional mechanisms such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) could assist in the implementation of the post-2015 agenda. This discussion was aimed at promoting bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the region, especially for RCC member countries.

Sub-theme-4: Supporting the Heart of Asia for Enhancing Regional Cooperation on DRR, CCA and SDGs

The fourth and final sub-theme of the 13th RCC discussed the road map and action plan of the Heart of Asia and looked for creating synergies with other regional mechanisms and options discussed under sub-theme 3. It was aimed at maximizing the impact of efforts and strengthening risk reduction capacities of HOA countries with focus on promoting regional cooperation.

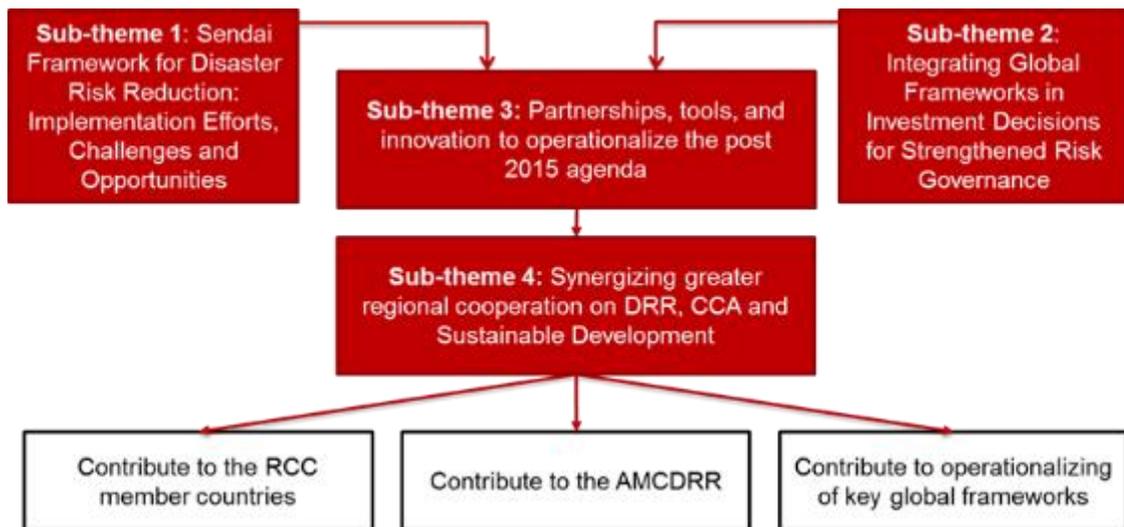


Figure 2. Thematic flow of the 13th Meeting of the RCC

OUTPUTS OF THE 13TH RCC

The key outputs from the 13th RCC meeting were:

- Feedbacks on the draft implementation plan of the SFDRR together with a set of recommendations which was shared at the AMCDRR;
- Consolidated report of findings on creating National DRM Status Review reports as part of the SFDRR implementation process;
- Identified key entry points on integrating key global frameworks in national DRM agenda in RCC countries; and
- Recommendations on enhancing sub-regional and regional cooperation for DRM among RCC countries; and
- Key actions to be implemented in RCC countries over a period 3 years to complement the ongoing DRM efforts.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE 13TH RCC MEETING TO DRR IN ASIA

The 13th RCC meeting contributed to the advancement of DRR in Asia through the following:

A. Contributions to the Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

The summary of feedback on the draft implementation plan of the SFDRR contributed to the discussions for the AMCDRR held in New Delhi, India. The 13th RCC, which is the last RCC meeting before the implementation plan for the SFDRR was set, provided a unique opportunity for RCC member countries to contribute to the Asian discussions.

B. Contributions to RCC member countries

The RCC serves its member countries as a platform for dialogue and information-sharing on the subject of DRM in Asia. The 13th RCC meeting continued this tradition by fostering the sharing of experiences on the theme and sub-themes outlined above. The meeting also supported the member countries by building their knowledge and capacity for effective implementation of the SFDRR as part of their country's development planning and implementation processes.

C. Contributions to other Key Global Frameworks

The RCC provided a platform, which initiated discussions on the potential key entry points on the integration of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Sustainable Development Goals and its financial mechanism, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Conference of Parties 21 in Climate Change (with a focus on Climate Change Adaptation), and the World Humanitarian Summit. The meeting supported the member countries, the United Nation agencies, and civil society organizations present to understand the holistic perspective, linkages, and differences, for potential country leads to optimize the outcomes for building country efforts on DRR, CCA and to contribute to resilient development.

PART 2: PROCEEDINGS OF THE 13TH RCC MEETING

OPENING CEREMONY



Welcome remarks by **Major General Asghar Nawaz**, Chairman, National Disaster Management Authority of Pakistan



Opening remarks by **Dr. Krasae Chanawongse**, Chairman, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center



Opening speech by **Mr. Stephan Huppertz**, Regional Coordinator, Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), GmbH



Opening speech by **Mr. Kim DeRidder**, Director, Environment Programs, The Asia Foundation



Opening speech by **Ms. Javeria Afzal**, Associate Country Director, OXFAM Pakistan



Vote of Thanks from **Mr. Jigme Chogyal**, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Bhutan



Inaugural Address by Chief Guest, **H.E. Mr. Ahsan Iqbal**, Minister, Ministry of Planning National Reforms and Development, Pakistan.



Presentation of Plaque from NDMA Pakistan to Chief Guest H.E. Mr. Ahsan Iqbal



Presentation of Plaque from ADPC to NDMA

Major General Asghar Nawaz, Chairman, NDMA Pakistan (left), Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, Chairman, ADPC (right)



Presentation of Plaque from ADPC to NDMA

Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, Special Advisor, ADPC (left); Major General Asghar Nawaz, Chairman, NDMA Pakistan (right)



Presentation of Plaque from NDMA to GIDRM-GIZ



Presenttaion of Plaque from NDMA to The Asia Foundation



Presentation of Plaque from NDMA to Oxfam Pakistan

SESSION 1: OVERVIEW OF THE 13TH RCC MEETING AND HOST COUNTRY PRESENTATION



Ms. Wasantha Samaraweera,

*Additional Secretary,
Ministry of Disaster
Management, Sri Lanka*

The first session introduced the rationale, purpose, and sub-themes of the meeting. The session provided a space for the host country to present their disaster risk management status report. This session also introduced the participants

and delegates to the meeting. This session was chaired by Ms. Wasantha Samaraweera, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management, Sri Lanka.



Dr., Bhichit Rattakul,

*Special Advisor,
ADPC*

Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, Special Advisor of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center presented the meeting rationale, purpose, and sub-themes. Focusing on the role of the RCC in the region, and discussing each of the four sub-themes in detail.

Mr. Ahmed Kamal, Member of the National Disaster Management Agency Pakistan gave a presentation on Pakistan's Disaster Risk Management Status. Mr. Kamal contextualized the need to have strengthened disaster risk management systems by discussing the various hazards the country is exposed to, ranging from natural hazards such as glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) in the northern regions, to droughts in the south, and floods which are sporadically distributed throughout the country. Mr. Kamal also noted that Pakistan is one of the countries that is affected by climate change impacts, which will have various consequences such as the shifts in monsoon rainfall zones, which can potentially increase the exposure of potential floods to other districts.



*Mr. Ahmed Kamal,
Member, NDMA
Pakistan*

Mr. Kamal proceeded to discuss the evolution of disaster management systems, the existing structure of the National Disaster Management Agency, including its functions, stakeholders, existing policies, including the national disaster management plan of 2013 – 2022) and how it is linked and aligned with the Hyogo Framework for Action and the

Sendai Framework for DRR. He also discussed the linkages of the national climate change policy of 2012 and the national disaster management plan of 2013. Furthermore, Mr. Kamal highlighted the progress of NDMA Pakistan under each priority.

Summary of SFDRR Progress: National Disaster Management Agency – Pakistan.

Priority I: Understanding Disaster Risk

Under the SFDRR Priority I, Understanding Disaster Risk, macro-level multi-hazard risk assessments in Pakistan have been completed, while micro-level assessments are still on-going.

Tools for the multi-hazard risk assessments have been developed and supported by the national policy guidelines and national execution guidelines, which is supported by a disaster map portal, making spatial data available to the public on the different risks and vulnerabilities.

Under disaster education and awareness, DRR has been integrated into the Academic curricula, supported by child-centered and gender-sensitive DRR awareness and education material for children.

There are Masters- and Bachelors-level programs on disaster management by the Higher Education Commission, and a rich library of education, communication and public service material which is readily available. NDMA conducts and attends regular national, regional, and international DRR-related workshops and conferences. There is also a dedicated media cell at NDMA for awareness, and advocacy. In-line with this is the NDMA's disaster web TV launching which is in progress to provide a central repository of all videos for the general public.

With regards to the development, updating, and dissemination of location-based disaster risk information; an effective SMS-based early warning system has been established with assistance from Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and Cellular Companies. A National Early Warning System (NEWS) for communities is currently being developed in consultation with PTA to institutionalize the SMS-based alert system.

With regards to the regional and transboundary risks; information exchange mechanism with India is constantly being improved, and efforts are being made to institutionalize trans-border early warning mechanism and information sharing of hydro-meteorological data with India and Afghanistan.

Priority 2: Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance to Manage Disaster Risk

The progress under this priority in terms of legislative and regulatory framework related to DRR shows various existing laws, policies, and frameworks supporting disaster risk reduction such as the National Disaster Management Act of 2010, and the National Disaster Risk Management Framework (2007-2012), and the National DRR Policy of 2012.

With regards to the institutional framework, Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs), Gilgit-Baltistan Disaster Management Authority (BGDMA), State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA), and the FATA Disaster Management Authority (FDMA) have been established. An Emergency Relief Cell has been merged with NDMA at the federal-level. There are also available gender and child cells at the national and provincial-levels, and a functioning National and Provincial Working Groups on Mainstreaming DRR.

Priority 3 – Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience

With regards to the National, Local, and Sectoral budget allocations, there are dedicated funds for DRR which exist in the form of the President’s Relief Fund and the Prime Minister’s Disaster Relief Fund, there are also other existing funding mechanisms such as the National Disaster Management Fund which is used for emergency situations, and the Pakistan Fund for Disaster Management with support from the Asian Development Bank and is focused on DRR, flood mitigation and risk insurance.

Under the disaster risk transfer and insurance, risk sharing and retention and financial protection mechanisms. Pakistan’s progress can be seen on the development of the Disaster Risk Insurance Framework for the vulnerable and marginalized communities; the completion of the Fiscal Disaster Risk Assessment Provision, which will be piloted; a Citizen Damage Compensation Program; and the National Guidelines which is being implemented with UNOCHA.

Further progress can be seen through the development and improvement of existing building codes of Pakistan which are further being refined through the legislation of the enforcement of building codes; pending approval of the National Fire and Life Safety Provision; Environmental Impact Assessment made mandatory for public sector projects; an available checklist for mainstreaming DRR into development planning and public sector projects; and the annual contingency plans which are prepared annually.

Priority 4: Enhance Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response and to “Build Back Better”

According to the presentation of Mr. Kamal, under the disaster preparedness and contingency policies, plans, relief funds and capacity for preparedness and response, progress can be seen through the preparation of hazard specific contingency plans and policies; increased capacity to support communities across the country; country-wide elaborate Warehouse Network established with support from the World Food Programme; over 6,500 individuals trained in 164 courses through the National Institute of Disaster Management from 2010 to 2016; National Disaster Management Simulation Exercise conducted in 2014 and 2015; and on-going plans for regional scale simulation exercises, and earthquake mock drills; and there are also current plans to conduct the 3rd National Industrial Mock Exercises. There is also a Government Official Emergency Response Exercise (GOERE) conducted across the country; raised and functional Urban Search and Rescue Teams; and Pakistan's participation in the South Asian Annual Disaster Management Exercises (SAADMEX) to further increase the capacities for preparedness and response.

In relation to Pakistan's progress on Early Warning Systems, there has been a satellite-based integrated flood alert system (IFAS); replacement of automatic weather stations (AWS); establishment of specialized medium-range forecasting center (SMRFC); upgrading of existing famine early warning systems (FEWS) computer model for the Indus river system; replacement of Karachi & Islamabad Weather Radars; European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) product for enhanced medium-range forecasting; flashflood guidance systems; tsunami early warning systems; rainfall-river flow inundation model (RRI); and monitoring of real-time river flow situation which is enhanced.

In addition, the Mangla Dam standard operating procedures have been revised in-case of trans-border releases; and SMS-based EWS for communities established with the assistance of PTA and collaboration of cellular companies. The progress under the "planning for post-disaster recovery and reconstruction" include the formulation of the damage compensation policy; the draft of the recovery needs assessment (RNA) module.

NDMA Pakistan has been instrumental in extending and strengthening Pakistan's diplomatic outreach through the establishment of various bilateral and multi-lateral linkages. Regional linkages include the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC); the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO); Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC); Heart of Asia, Istanbul Process (HOA, DM-CBM); and the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC – ADPC).

SUB-THEME 1: SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: IMPLEMENTATION, CHALLENGES, AND OPPORTUNITIES

The first sub-theme focused on the Sendai Framework and all aspects of the framework related to building resilience and managing disaster risks. The theme discussed the specific options for implementing the SFDRR referring to its priorities and goals, this included how to bring onboard the non-governmental actors such as civil society and the private sector in the implementation process.

SESSION 2: PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS ON PRIORITY AREAS OF THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Session 2 is focused on discussing the progress on the priority areas of the Sendai Framework by selected countries. This session was a platform for countries to share their progress, challenges, and best practices on the four priority areas.

Thailand - Priority Area 1: Understanding Disaster Risks

Progress under priority area I

To share the progress on the first priority area of understanding disaster risks, Mr. Pongsatorn Sirisakon, Director of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) presented on behalf of Thailand.

Director Sirisakon activities in Thailand on understanding disaster risk which include: the National Platform for disaster risk information sharing and decision-making support; the development of a systematized risk assessment system; and the improvement of damage and loss database.



*Mr. Pongsatorn Sirisakon,
Director of the Department
of Disaster Prevention and
Mitigation of Thailand*

In-line with the latest National Disaster Risk Management Plan, which was endorsed by the Cabinet after the SFDRR; and based on the Disaster Risk Management Status report, with a focus on health and agriculture sectors, the following are the reporting of the progress. Under the National platform for climate-related disaster risk management is organized at least once a week, with technical officers and scientists who can meet and discuss in-depth with disaster risk management focal points. The platform enhances disaster risk understanding and “last mile” accessibility towards risk information, and supports effective decision-making and identifying proper risk treatment options.

There has also been significant improvement of disaster risk assessment systems in Thailand, such as the Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in Development Planning (MADRiD) project in Thailand which is being done with ADPC, and funded by UNDP to conduct risk assessments in pilot provinces. There are further plans to upscale the methodology to at the national level with technical support from GIZ and other development partners at the national and international-levels.

There has also been improvement of disaster damage and loss database by working with academia and development partners to systematize damage and loss database.

Director Pongsatorn indicated that some of the good practices include a multi-sectoral platform for risk information sharing through creating linkages of scientific knowledge to disaster management, and transforming scientific data into usable information for decision-making processes. While key challenges include limited knowledge and methodology to conduct larger-scale risk assessments, and availability of new and advanced methodology may not be applicable or relevant for Thailand.

Some of the key recommendations from Director Pongsatorn include the promotion and peer learning and peer review; partnership between science and technology community and disaster risk management sector should be strengthened; and both physical and virtual platforms should be created and maintained.

Philippines – Priority Area 2: Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance

Mr. Kristoffer James Eugenio Purisima, the Civil Deputy Administrator from the Office of Civil Defense of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council of the Philippines presented on the Philippines perspective on Priority Area 2: Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance.

Mr. Purisima noted that some of the key activities in the Philippines which promotes and strengthens disaster risk governance include the



Mr. Kristoffer James Eugenio Purisima,

Assistant Secretary, Civil Deputy Administrator from the Office of Civil Defense of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council of the Philippines (OCD-NDRRMC)

organization and capacitating of DRR networks from the national down to the local-levels; the mainstreaming of DRR and CCA into development planning processes; and developing guidelines to support local government units, and all other relevant stakeholders; and establishing global, regional, national, and local partnerships.

There has been significant progress made through the establishment of disaster risk reduction and management councils (DRRMCs) from the national-level down to the lowest levels of governance. As of 2016, there are 18 Regional DRRMCs; 81 Provincial DRRMCs; 145 City DRRMCs; 1,489 Municipal DRRMCs; and 42,029 Barangay DRRMCs.

There are also available inter-agency disaster response mechanisms which are strengthened through national plans and guidelines, such as the implementing guidelines on the use of

Incident Command Systems (ICS) as an on-scene disaster response and management mechanism under the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Systems; guidelines on the inter-operability of Incident Management Teams (IMTs) and the response clusters; and an available National Disaster Response Plan created in 2014.

Some of the best practices in relation to strengthening disaster risk governance include activities such as government-led DRR programs and interventions from the national down to the local-levels were derived from a comprehensive disaster risk assessment. Other good practices include community participation in planning, decision-making and implementation; collaborative partnerships with the private sector, international institutions, and other stakeholders; and incentivizing the best DRR practices of various government agencies and levels, CSOs, private institutions and communities.

There are two primary key challenges in the Philippines with regards to disaster risk governance which include: the lack of cooperation and buy-in of other stakeholders on the need to prioritize disaster risk reduction; and there is also a lack of access for government interventions especially in remote areas, considering that the Philippines is composed of thousands of islands with a very complex geophysical characteristics.

The key recommendations from ASEC Purisima suggests that there needs to be a public understanding that disaster risk reduction is not only a lone government concern, but all of society should be involved; in a country like the Philippines where disasters are rampant, there is a need to make DRR a priority; there is also a need to empower communities and local authorities; and a need to support DRR plans and policies with technology and infrastructure.

Maldives – Priority Area 3: Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience

Director Hisan Hasaan, from the National Disaster Management Center of Maldives (NDMC) presented on the progress, challenges, and key recommendations on Maldives experiences on investing in DRR for resilience.

Some of the key activities include the establishment of a Disaster Relief Loan Scheme – which is a bank loan scheme for reconstruction of disaster affected homes, this ensures the lowest interest rate for a housing loan with a repayment period of 15



*Mr. Hisan Hasaan,
Director from the National
Disaster Management
Center of Maldives*

years. There also is the establishment of flood response mechanism at the island-level and flood response equipment and training has been provided to 31 islands.

Community-based disaster risk management plans at the island-level with over 40 islands have CBDRM plans at the island-level with risk reduction measures have been identified; while there has also been an establishment of disaster response hubs at the regional level, where disaster response equipment have been provided from the Japanese Government.

The progress of Maldives under Priority Area 3 is focused on identifying the roles of key sectors to invest in disaster risk reduction: the education sector is investing in creating resilient schools; the environment sector is investing in sustainable waste management, and water security; and the transport sector has identified the importance on investing in risk transfer, where all vessels should be insured before the start of 2016. The private sector has also identified the importance of investing in DRR. The biggest insurance company is currently working with NDMC to establish disaster sensitive insurance schemes for household insurance and farmers. The private sector is also focused on developing business continuity plans, for example, the NDMC is working with resorts to formulate disaster management plans for tourist establishments.

The good practices shared by Mr. Hasaan on investing DRR for resilience include: disaster relief loan schemes which would decrease government spending on reconstruction and also provide opportunities for families to build back better; engagement with the private sector which should be beneficial for both private investment and the community, including the development of business continuity plans for tourist establishments which can create investment opportunities in DRR.

The key challenges on investing on DRR for resilience in Maldives include: government sectors are still working in-silos; lack availability of disaster related statistics which is critical for advocacy on DRR initiatives; lack of disaster management knowledge and awareness among professions from key sectors, legislators, and local councils.

The recommendations from Director Hisan on priority area 3 is to have more knowledge-sharing opportunities among countries; focus efforts of regional meetings/organizations towards the importance of investing in DRR; and more studies on the advantages of investing in DRR with a focus on cost-reduction in the longer-term.

Nepal – Priority Area 4: Enhancing Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response and to “Build Back Better” in Recovery, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction, *Considering Gorkha Earthquake, 2015*

Mr. Uddab P. Timalsena from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Nepal shared the experiences of Nepal on Priority Area 4 with a focus on the experiences from the Gorkha Earthquake.

Key activities in Nepal has been focused on the Mainstreaming of DRR into development processes, and other activities such as the development of risk reduction and flagship programs such as: school and hospital safety; emergency preparedness to response; flood



Mr. Uddab P. Timalsena
Ministry of Home Affairs,
Nepal

management; community-based disaster risk management; and policy and institution focus.

Nepal also uses a cluster approach for disaster management, with 11 clusters with contingency plans, and is supported by guidance note for preparing the Disaster Preparedness Plans from the district-level with the district disaster preparedness and response plans (DPRP); the local-level disaster risk management plan (LDRMP); the district disaster management plan; and the National disaster response framework with 49 key activities.

There has also been 49 district, 5 regional and municipal Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs), the establishment of regional warehouses, establishment of early warning systems; and a national strategy on search and rescue which is approved by the Cabinet which uses: two medium teams, seven light teams, community-based search and rescue teams, an established National Reconstruction Authority who are focused on recovery and reconstruction and other concerned ministries and departments.

Mr. Timalsena discussed that the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) has been working towards fulfilling its mandate to lead and facilitate reconstruction for ensuring that all physical infrastructure damaged by the earthquake are rebuilt in a planned and systematic manner and on-time.

Some of the progress under the NRA includes the grant distribution for rural housing, where there has been a detailed survey of damages, the survey has almost completed the 11 districts that has been affected, which will be followed by grant distribution and enrollment process for receiving the grants. Under urban housing and heritage, surveys have been completed and is currently under construction. The Ministry of Urban Development has recruited engineers, sub-engineers, and sub-overseers, which were deployed to all village development committees to provide technical advice and for carrying out supervision of homes being built with government support.

Some of the good practices delivered by Mr. Timalsena include the establishment of the Reconstruction and Resettlement Policy (2016), with a mission to Build Back Better under the leadership of the NRA on local people and with the support of the international community

in utilizing local materials, resources, manpower, and equipment and foreign support. The council of ministers have approved the NRA's rules and guidelines for the following interventions: housing grant distribution, environmental impact assessment, land acquisition, public procurement, reconstruction regulation, land registration, and working with non-government organizations.

According to Mr. Timalsena, some of the issues and challenges are focused on resettlement, the economic condition and the mindset of rural people, and transportation issues. There are also challenges in the understanding of the local environment; high expectations from the public; lack of understanding in development and disaster mitigation; difficulties in bringing all stakeholders to have a common understanding; socio-economic and cultural constraints; urban dimension issues; and the implementation of building code.

Mr. Timalsena added that there are positive opportunities which include: building back better with a resilient city/village –focused actions; the “building back better” concept also helps improve the living condition of people, and improves leadership through passion and innovative practices; the recovery also helped the public understand their role for better development.

Some key areas of recommendations from Nepal on Pillar 4 include the following: understand that recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase is a critical opportunity to build back better; there is a strong need to have adequate resources and support to implement the Sendai Framework; regular monitoring is required of the implementation of the Sendai Framework at the national and local levels; and the importance of strong political will and regional and international cooperation for effective disaster risk reduction.

Stimulating the Private Sector Engagement for the Implementation of the SFDRR

Mr. Nadeem Ahmad, from LEAD Pakistan presented ideas on how the RCC can stimulate the engagement of the private sector for the implementation of the SFDRR.

Mr. Ahmad discussed that economic losses from disasters is on average of USD 250 to 300 billion annually. The private sector is the primary contributor of the GDP which account for 70-85% of investment nationally and about USD 80



*Mr. Nadeem Ahmad,
LEAD Pakistan*

trillion investments globally, while more than 90% of businesses in Asia are micro, small and medium enterprises, employs half of labor and contribute 20-50% to GDP. Further noting that

SFDRR targets are not achievable without the involvement of the private sector and there needs to be successful and sustainable operations.

The involvement of the private sector in the SFDRR can be seen in six key areas: (1) disaster risk-informed public and private investments under the guiding principles; (2) disaster risk transfer and insurance, and risk sharing under Priority 3; (3) resilience throughout supply chains under Priority 3; (4) risk transfer and sharing mechanisms and instruments under Priority 3; (5) risk informed business models and investments under the role of stakeholders; and in the (6) UN engagement with private sector under the international cooperation and global partnership.

Mr. Ahmad further discusses that the SFDRR includes clear priorities for action for the private sector which calls on the sector to *“integrate disaster risk management, including business continuity, into business models and practices via disaster risk informed investments...”* Highlighting the necessity to work together and to create opportunities for collaboration, and for businesses to integrate disaster risk into their management practices. There is also a call for the promotion of *“mechanisms for disaster risk transfer and insurance, risk sharing and retention and financial protection, as appropriate, for both public and private investment in order to reduce the financial impact of disasters on governments and societies, in urban and rural areas.”*

There are also direct and indirect linkages between the SFDRR targets and the private sector. Direct linkages under direct disaster economic losses, disaster damage to critical infrastructure, and availability of EWS; and indirect linkages under mortality, people affected, international cooperation. Similarly, the involvement of the private sector can be seen in Priority 1 Sharing Knowledge to better understand risk through: two-way flow of risk information, building trust and promote accountability; enhancing awareness across associations, suppliers, SMEs; and taking lead in championing and advocating for DRR. In Priority 2 Strengthening Risk Governance by: staying aware of new laws and regulations; getting involved in the development of new laws and regulations. In Priority 3 Investing in DRR for Resilience by: making risk insurance work; using a whole supply chain approach; risk informed business practices; multi-stakeholder partnerships for new products and services; and enabling SMEs to cope with disaster risk.

Mr. Ahmad discussed the current initiatives on the involvement of the private sector, and gave examples such as: the ARISE Initiative – which is a UNISDR, there they seek to implement tangible multi-stakeholder projects and activities to support the achievement of the seven targets; the Connecting Business Initiative, through the partnership of UNISDR, UNOCHA, and UNDP which was launched at the humanitarian summit, for meeting the private sector demand for holistic engagement, creating more resilient communities and alleviating human suffering; and iPrepareBusiness through ADPC which seeks to build the capacity of businesses with a focus on SMEs to adapt to disaster and climate change risks including supporting solutions for risk-informed investments.

The way forward as presented by Mr. Ahmad in relation to the involvement and participation of the private sector include: the development of sound risk management legislation;

enforcement of regulatory frameworks; economic and business incentives; access to risk financing and insurance opportunities; provision of key and actionable information and capacity building; support for micro, small, and medium enterprises; and incorporation of sustainable development with disaster risk reduction policies.

ADPC's Strategy to Support the Implementation of the SFDRR in RCC Countries

Mr. Hans Guttman, ADPC's Executive Director discussed the organizations revised strategy to support the implementation of the SFDRR for the RCC countries.



*Mr. Hans Guttman,
Executive Director, Asian
Disaster Preparedness
Center*

Mr. Guttman began his presentation by discussing ADPC's Strategy 2020, which was developed in 2010 and was based on the challenges, issues, and opportunities confronting the region, DRR priorities identified by RCC member countries, support and capacity of ADPC in

DRR and CCA, and cognizant to the changing landscape of stakeholders and actors who are involved in DRR and CCA. Further, the Strategy 2020 focused on what ADPC intended to concentrate and focus on, delivering regional and national initiatives and achieving results.

Mr. Guttman indicated that there was a need to revise ADPC's 2020 strategy to align with the SFDRR. This was an opportunity to sharpen the strategy for the remaining years until 2020. This was also an opportunity to accommodate the Paris Agreement on Climate Change as well as the Sustainable Development Goals in relation to DRR. ADPC's core programme addresses the key elements of the SFDRR, however, it is done indirectly. For example, ADPC's Science core program primarily links to Priority 1; while Systems links mainly to Priorities 2, 3, and 4; and Applications mainly links to Priorities 3 and 4. The revision of the strategy seeks to make the linkages clearer, while the second aim is to streamline the Strategy to make it easier to engage development partners.

The strategy was developed through a rapid needs assessment of 13 countries in the region, with three rounds of internal consultation with ADPC staff to define the future focus areas and a Review Committee to consolidate the discussions. As a result, the revised strategic themes are: risk governance, climate resilience, urban resilience, health risk management, emergency preparedness, and resilient recovery, while gender and diversity, and poverty and livelihoods are cross cutting issues. With the revised strategic themes, ADPC can directly create linkages with the priorities. For example: Risk Governance links to Priority 2; Climate

Resilience and Urban Resilience links to Priority 3; Health Risk Management links to Priorities 3 and 4; Emergency Preparedness and Resilient Recovery links to Priority 4; and underpinning all work of ADPC is an understanding of Disaster Risk and thus, Priority 1 is linked to all strategic themes.

According to Mr. Guttman, the new strategy is results-oriented; setting goals and targets for outcomes, and will have measurable targets and a theory of change basis which will have a chain of attribution from outputs, to outcomes, to impact. In addition, a strong Monitoring and Evaluation system will be put in place.

SESSION 3: DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT BASELINE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE SFDRR: UPDATES, LEARNINGS, AND CHALLENGES

Session 3 was chaired by Mr. Mohammad Qaseem Haidari, the Deputy Director General of Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority.



Mr. Mohammad Qaseem Haidari,

Deputy Director General of Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority

This session looked into the DRM baseline reviews of selected

RCC countries for implementing the SFDRR, with clear targets and indicators. Bhutan and Vietnam have shared their updates, learnings, and challenges. Further inputs were sought out on how to improve the process.

Bhutan Country Presentation on draft of DRM Status Review

Mr. Jigme Chogyal, the Senior Program Officer from the Department of Disaster Management of Bhutan presented on their Country's DRM Status.



*Mr. Jigme Chogyal,
Senior Program Officer
from the Department of
Disaster Management of
Bhutan*

Mr. Chogyal began his presentation with a brief disaster risk profile of the country, stating that Bhutan is exposed to earthquakes, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF), floods/ flashfloods, landslides, forest fires/structural fires, and windstorms.

The methodology for data gathering that was used began with deciding on priority sectors for DRM, followed by a stakeholder mapping which created a DRM working group, and a literature review of accessible information. The working group and the literature review resulted in a working group meeting and information gathered from the meeting was consolidated. Further information was retrieved from focused group discussions and key informant interviews. This led to a sector consultative stakeholders meeting followed by an overall stakeholder meeting with the DRM working group. The information generated from the focus group discussions, key informant interviews and in the meetings led to the publishing of the final report.

Priority 1: Understanding Disaster Risk

Bhutan's Gross National Happiness Commission (GNHC) looks to Mainstreaming DRR into development plans to improve disaster resilience and management as one of the National Key Results Areas (NKRA). Understanding disaster risks in Bhutan is dependent on the hazard type. For example, earthquake uses seismic stations, GLOF and flood uses glacier monitoring and assessment, for landslides, soil survey and mapping including slope analysis are being done, while multi-hazard and HVCA are being on at the community-level through CBDRM.

Priority 2: Strengthen Disaster Risk Governance to Manage Disaster Risk

The National Disaster Management Authority of Bhutan has an established disaster risk governance system which identifies key roles and responsibilities. Disaster Management Committees exist from top to bottom and considered as DM core institutions, key facilitation, coordination and technical backstopping such as the department of disaster management and the dzongkhag disaster management officer; the sectoral duty bearers, such as the inter-ministerial task force; and disaster response coordination units such as the National Emergency Operations Center and the EOC at the Dzongkhag-level.

Priority 3: Investment in DRR for Resilience

There are existing funding mechanisms which is based from the disaster management act of 2013, namely for: the response and relief expenditures, the disaster relief budget, budget for the Department of Disaster Management, and for recovery and reconstruction. There are also

various forms of disaster risk transfer and insurance, for example rural houses will be insured mandatorily under all hazards on a subsidized rate, and urban houses will be mandatorily insured against fire hazards, and other hazards which are optional.

Priority 4: Enhance Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response and to “Build Back Better”

There are existing laws, policies and guidelines which support priority 4 under the DM Act of 2013, DM Rules and Regulations of 2014, DM and contingency planning guidelines, and the Druk Gyalpo’s Relief Fund Act of 2012. There are also existing DM and contingency plans for 3 districts, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health, Thimphrom Contingency Plan, CBDRM in all Districts, and National Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan. Response through the National Search and Rescue Team, District Search and Rescue Team, Desuung (volunteer) and Fire Services (RBP). There are also existing early warning systems for GLOF, rainstorm flood, evacuation plan, and weather forecasting.

Stakeholder Mapping

The key actors include the national disaster management authority (NDMA); the district disaster management committee (DDMC) including the DDRM sub-committee; the department of disaster management; the vice-chair Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, the Inter-Ministerial Task Force; and other notified agencies including government organizations, including corporations and the private sectors (medium-scale and above).

National Priorities

The national priorities of Bhutan include maximizing the effectiveness and efficiency of coordination by maximizing the optimal use of limited resources of the National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC), and the District Emergency Operation Center (DEOC). Another priority is the national-level earthquake contingency plan by increasing effectiveness and efficiency for response to minimize the impact.

Key Issues and Challenges

Some of the key issues and challenges in Bhutan include multi-sector coordination, mainstreaming DRR versus the ministry’s or agency’s priorities, inadequate capacity at the community/district/sectoral/ministerial-levels for planning and implementing and mainstreaming DM activities, funding and resources constraints, and people attitudes towards DM.

Vietnam Country Presentation on draft of DRM Status Review

Mr. Bui Quang Huy, Deputy Director of the Vietnam Disaster Management Center under the Directorate of Water Resources, of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam presented on Vietnam’s DRM status review.



Mr. Bui Quang Huy

Deputy Director of the Vietnam DMC, Directorate of Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam

Deputy Director Bui gave a brief overview of disasters in Vietnam, stating that Vietnam is one of the countries worldwide that is most hit by disasters and most affected by climate change. Some of the major natural disasters include storms, floods, landslides, droughts and salt water intrusion.

The key actors in Vietnam involved in DRM include the national/ ministerial/ provincial/ district/ commune committee for disaster prevention and control, included in the stakeholder mapping is the national committee for disaster search and rescue.

The following is the current status of Vietnam Disaster Risk Management

Priority 1: Understanding Disaster Risk

According to Mr. Bui, there has been significant efforts made by the Government, INGOs and other stakeholders to enhance the understanding of disaster risks at all levels, particularly for the villagers and vulnerable group, including: the Law on Natural Disaster Preparedness and Response; the National Program of Community Awareness Raising and Community-Based Disaster Risk Management in 6,000 disaster prone communes; Disaster Risk Management Strategy; Mainstreaming DRR into Socio-economic development plan; Plans on Disaster risk management of relevant ministries, especially the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labor Invalids and Social Affairs.

Priority 2: Strengthen Disaster Risk Governance to Manage Disaster Risks

There are existing legal frameworks and regulations related to DRR, various laws, ordinances, decrees, decisions, circulars and guidance have been promulgated. Policy and programs related to DRR include building residential areas and houses in flooded areas, housing construction programs to prevent flooding, and relocation of disaster prone communities to safer places. Under accountability mechanisms, there are legal requirements for each member of the National Committee for Disaster Prevention and Control at all levels, there are also quarterly meetings with the UN network, CSOs, INGO networks (under the Disaster Management Working Group), and also specific meetings after major disasters.

Priority 3: Invest in DRR for Resilience

There are allocation based on national budgets, local, sectoral, and mobilize other resources for DRR; there are insurance schemes, disaster risk transfer and risk-sharing mechanisms in

order to maintain and protect finances. There is also the encouragement and provision of the framework for public and private investment for the rehabilitation work such as using the principles of universal design and standardization of construction materials.

Furthermore, there are key policies, plans and investments in order to reduce the risk in key sectors such as: integrating disaster risk assessments in the planning of the following areas: land use, urban development, land degradation assessment, transport, ecological environment, tourism, in rural, mountainous, coastal, the drought and valley areas; strengthening the ability of national health systems, integrate DRM into primary secondary and depth health care; mainstreaming DRR into the education sector; promotion of mechanisms; social security network, programs supporting livelihoods, production assets including pets; mobilizing the participation of the most vulnerable groups during the process of development of disaster prevention policy; and integrating DRR into the financial planning especially into the SEDP.

Priority 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “build-back better”

Under priority 4, all agencies are involved during the development of policies and planning for disaster preparedness and prevention, relief funds and preparedness capabilities, other activities include: developing the response and early warning systems at all levels; developing SOP for disaster response using GIS and also supporting recovery activities; legal document in integrating DRR into the Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP), in which risk assessment is an important principle during the establishment of SEDP; reviewing all master planning of disaster management based on the disaster situation, climate change and the 5-year socio-economic development plan; and the updating of the disaster risk management strategy.

Key Issues and Challenges

Some of the key issues in Vietnam include: cooperation between ministries and social agencies, which include data, information sharing and integrating ministerial disaster prevention and control plan; community-based Disaster Risk Reduction Plan; Integrating DRR, CCA into SEDP at all levels; Effective participation of private sector into DRR (before, during and after disasters); and CCA based on Ecosystem.

National Priorities

The national priorities in Vietnam include: awareness raising on disaster risks, causes and impacts; strengthening institutions, state management; and implementing articles mentioned in the DRR law; planning developing DRR plans suitable with each locality and region; integrating DRR into SEDP planning; and enhancing monitoring, and strengthening disaster forecasting capacity; strengthening investment in building vital infrastructure for DRR; strengthening CBDRM; application of scientific studies, development and application of technology in DRR; and enhancing international collaboration in DRR.

SUB-THEME 2: INTEGRATING GLOBAL FRAMEWORKS FOR STRENGTHENED RISK GOVERNANCE

Sub-theme 2 focuses on different ways RCC countries can strengthen risk governance and discusses and understands how government agencies and NGOs can potentially integrate the SFDRR, SDGs, COP21, and the WHS.

SESSION 4: EXPLORING LINKAGES FOR COMPLEMENTARITIES

Moderated by Mr. Puji Pujiono, the Regional Advisor on DRR from UNESCAP, session 4 looked into the potential linkages between the SFDRR, SDGs, Climate Change Agreement and the World Humanitarian Summit.



*Mr. Puji Pujiono,
Regional Advisor on DRR,
UNESCAP*

Mutually Reinforcing Implementation of the SFDRR, SDGs, and CCA in Asia

Professor Lianyou Liu from the Academy of Disaster Reduction and Emergency Management (ADREM) from Beijing Normal University (BNU), People's Republic of China gave the first presentation which was focused on understanding how we can mutually reinforce the implementation of the SFDRR, SDGs, and CCA in Asia.



*Professor
Lianyou Liu
ADREM, Beijing
Normal
University, PR
China*

The recommendations from Prof. Liu on the operationalization of the Frameworks discusses that there is a need to consider a comprehensive platform, which coordinates all the frameworks, this can be done by: establishing a standing steering committee to coordinate the multi-sector response; developing a detailed plan to identify roles and

responsibilities, and to achieve full capability to mount a coordinated, multi-sector response to DRR; Establishing a communications network for interactions among the three frameworks;

Establishing specific agreements on exchanging sensitive and needed information between frameworks; Strengthening the coordination through education, training, and exercises. Professor Liu has discussed that a powerful tool for implementing DRR is represented through integrating or mainstreaming DRR into other activities. In order to understand disaster risks at the global and regional-levels, comprehensive assessments on multi-hazard disaster risks under different climate change scenarios should be conducted. It was also discussed that vulnerability should be addressed with more emphasis in order to truly reduce disaster risks, an area over which the SDGs has a dominant impact. DRR should treat all hazards or drivers similarly and seek a balance among hazards while placing more emphasis on dealing with vulnerabilities or resilience approach. Desertification, salinization, land degradation, and other adverse environmental changes ought to be considered in DRR. For implementing the frameworks, policymakers need reliable evidence on the impacts of climate change on society.

There has been significant discussions on the topic. Dr. Peeranan Towashiraporn from ADPC discussed that it is not simple to make sense of how the global frameworks can work together, and has recommended that we find success stories and best practices and to use them to demonstrate the linkages. Mr. Puji Pujiono from UNESCAP has mentioned that there is a need to come up with a macro-level monitoring regime of the overall implementation of the frameworks, further stating that countries have different councils on DRR and CCA and often work independently from each other. Mr. Puji further mentions that since not one size fits all, there is a need to come up with good practices to share among RCC members as examples for them to learn.

Commitments of the World Humanitarian Summit and Linkages with Global Frameworks

Ms. Helen Mould from UNOCHA, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific presented on the World Humanitarian Summit and its 5 core responsibilities. The WHS commitments made great references to other global frameworks, and discusses that there is a need to reform humanitarian financing. There is also an evident divide between the humanitarian and development works, while mentioning the need to define the roles of new stakeholders such as the private sector.



*Ms. Helen Mould
UNOCHA, Regional Office
for Asia and the Pacific*

While the first 2 core responsibilities being focused on prevention and ending conflict and rules of war, Ms. Mould mentions that linkages with global frameworks are more closely related to Core Responsibility 3, which seeks to “leave no one behind”, targeting the most

vulnerable people, specifically those exposed to gender-based violence, displaced persons, and children in conflict zones; Core Responsibility 4, which seeks to “work differently to end need” by reinforcing local systems, anticipating crises and to deliver together, further stating that a comprehensive action plan in 2017 will focus on the 20 most risk-prone countries by 2020 with linkages to the SFDRR, and development actors need to plan and act with greater urgency to tackle people’s vulnerability, inequality and risk as they pursue SDGs; Core Responsibility 5, looks to “invest in humanity” pressing the need for greater political and resource investment in prevention human suffering, this core responsibility invests in crisis prevention, which is also linked to the SFDRR and the Paris Agreement, further noting the cash programming and flexible funding will put focus on shifting funding rapidly from response to disaster preparedness.

Ms. Mould discussed that there is a need to use existing resources and capabilities better to lessen humanitarian needs over the long-term with the view of contributing to the outcomes of the SDGs. According to the report of the Secretary General for the WHS, “*We must now bring different aid communities together and use the opportunity of the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement and the World Humanitarian Summit to leave institutional divides behind. It is time to focus on demand rather than the provision of supplies and on collective outcomes and comparative advantage, rather than project delivery and ‘mandates first.’*” There is a need to work with collective outcomes across the UN system, over multi-year timeframes, and collaboration based on comparative advantages. There is a requirement that we will need to use resources and capabilities better, and to stimulate new partnerships and collaboration.

SESSION 5: ENTRY POINTS FOR IMPLEMENTING GLOBAL FRAMEWORKS

Session 5 is focused on a panel discussion to explore tangible entry points for implementing the global frameworks through the integration in the overall governance systems and structure of RCC countries focusing on achieving resilience to disasters, sustainable development through CCA and risk insurance instruments.

Mr. Puji Pujiono from UNESCAP moderated the session with panel members from UNDP Pakistan represented by Mr. Muhi Usamah; Mr. Jeremy Wellard, the Asia Representative from the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA); Mr. Kim DeRidder, Director of Environment Programs from The Asia Foundation; Ms. Javeria Afzal, Associate Country Director from Oxfam Pakistan; and Mr. Stephan Huppertz, Regional Coordinator of GIDRM-GIZ Asia.

Mr. Pujiono posed the first question: *how can the international community position itself to implement global frameworks, and how can organizations make use of various frameworks in their work and programmes?*

Mr. Muhi Usamah from UNDP Pakistan answered that Pakistan has a National DRR policy and plan in place which are formulated based on priorities from the HFA. Moreover NDMA has a DRR roadmap which was revised based on the priorities of the SFDRR. UNDP principally focuses work on priorities of the government and plans in consultation with the



Mr. Muhi Usamah
UNDP Pakistan

government. Efforts are particularly directed to link the existing policies, plans and frameworks with the newly formulated global frameworks, with the involvement of all stakeholders. Similarly, it is important to instill a sense of ownership for all stakeholders for DRR to be strengthened. Furthermore, it was noted that UN agencies formulate their own strategies for implementing the SFDRR. Global frameworks have obviously apparent gaps in terms of operationalization and implementation. The UN at this level may come up with one UN program aligned with the frameworks at all levels (from the national, provincial, and district). The UN should base the program planning on an evidence-based research and with consultations from all stakeholders. The programme should be demand driven and actions oriented, and the RCC should explore the preposition and take the suggestions forward. Mr. Usamah further adds that part of the UNDP Pakistan strategy is to strengthen NDMA, develop regional indicators for Heart of Asia Countries, and develop CBDRM guidelines with NDMA.

Mr. Jeremy Wellard from the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) indicated that the global frameworks have become fundamental for ICVA's programming be it any relevant sector. Further mentioning that ICVA has been working in forced displacement, which is relevant to the SDGs and to



Mr. Jeremy Wellard,
International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)

climate change and disaster-induced displacement. The work revolves around dialogues and deliberations and on strengthening coordination and networking among development partners. The organization ensures that their development partner's concerns are amplified in the international platform, support multi-stakeholder engagement, and exploring needs based on priorities of the key actors. CSOs and NGOs share frustrations with the government on how the frameworks are operationalized, thus it needs to be ensured that engagement is maximized in order to find solutions.



*Mr. Kim DeRidder,
The Asia
Foundation*

Mr. Kim DeRidder, from The Asia Foundation said that their organization's work is based on priorities of the countries, to help them overcome challenge. Their work addresses natural resource management, urban planning and resilience, disaster risk management, environment, and climate change adaptation with governments, civil societies and NGOs. The Asia Foundation

believes in strengthening the governance systems of the state to address issues, down to the community-level. Similarly, the organization works with governments and NGOs to promote political dialogues, and instill political will to support work in disaster risk management.



*Ms. Javeria Afzal,
Oxfam Pakistan*

Ms. Javeria Afzal, from Oxfam Pakistan discussed that Oxfam is focused on alleviating poverty and injustice, emphasizing on involving the community in programme planning, taking the community along in assessments and planning. Focus on risk informed development, prioritizing DRR mainstreaming and encourage the government to share responsibilities among departments/ministries.

Mainstreaming gender in all aspects of programmes and all types of programmes, stressing on monitoring frameworks for sustainable results.

Mr. Stephan Huppertz from GIZ mentioned that global programmes and frameworks are crucial for GIZ programmes. Strategies and priorities defined in bilateral government agreements have to be aligned to the global frameworks. GIZ provides technical support and networks within country government departments for their

programmes which are driven by bilateral government agreements and global development agendas. Global programme on DRR is set up to follow-up on the SFDRR and support its implementation, work through networks using technology and expertise, promoting mutual learning throughout the regions. Piloting a DRR initiative with the private sector also a key activity for GIZ



Mr. Stephan Huppertz

GIDRM, GIZ

including the delivery of impact through mainstreaming risk management solutions in all programme components, programmes on green economic development for solutions into strengthening resilience of small enterprises, and offer risk management solutions based on demands. GIZ is open to any partnership which may bring an added value to programmes.



Mrs. Wasantha Samaraweera

Ministry of Disaster Management of Sri Lanka

Mrs. Wasantha Samaraweera from the Ministry of Disaster Management of Sri Lanka, posed an issue that countries may have problems with regards to monitoring the SFDRR implementation progress and the implementation of all frameworks within the timeframe should be deliberated upon and discussed more often.

Brigadier General Tuvshin Badral from the Mongolia National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) shared that line ministries are responsible for reporting the progress and that the key role of the RCC is to provide inputs to the AMCDRR.



Brigadier General Tuvshin Badral from NEMA, Mongolia

Major General Asghar Nawaz from NDMA Pakistan further added that the HFA led to the creation of most NDMOs. Pakistan may establish a climate change secretariat for monitoring of the global framework. It is very important

to have adequate monitoring of implementation despite resource and capacity constraints. However, government remains the main stakeholder and its responsibility remains unchallenged, therefore the governments must have national policy guidelines for all stakeholders defining the SOPs and question and answers mechanisms for all stakeholders and implementing partners.



*Major General
Asghar Nawaz
from NDMA
Pakistan*

There is a need to focus on understanding how the process can be streamline, what can be the priorities and how best to uncomplicated the work on the different frameworks.

There is also need for opportunists in the present context, to create awareness among stakeholders on conditioning a sense of

ownership, which can present an opportunity to revision existing national policies and see how it best aligns, including the key actors

The RCC could be a potential platform to study linkages of the frameworks and could elaboration on how countries could monitoring the implementation, and could explore ways to develop a multi-sectoral approach and how to leverage poverty justice in relation to DRR.

SUB-THEME 3: PARTNERSHIPS, TOOLS, AND INNOVATIONS TO OPERATIONALIZE THE POST-2015 AGENDA

The third sub-theme of the 13th RCC brings together the 1st and 2nd sub- themes and highlight practical options for operationalizing the post-2015 DRR Agenda. Options will also be explored to see how forums such as the Heart of Asia, and regional mechanisms such as ASEAN and SAARC could assist in the implementation of the post- 2015 DRR Agenda.

SESSION 6: EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE, AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY FOR RESILIENT DRM IN RCC COUNTRIES

This session discusses innovative DRM solutions and technologies and their impact in-terms of reducing disaster and climate risks. This session will also have discussions on how RCC members can benefit on how RCC members can benefit from these solutions and technologies through bilateral or multilateral cooperation.

The chair of the session is Brigadier General Tuvshin Badral, Chief of the National Emergency Management Agency of Mongolia, supported by Dr. Peeranan Towashiraporn from ADPC as the moderator.



*Brigadier General
Tuvshin Badral,
Chief of NEMA
Mongolia,*

Supporting RCC Countries through Science, Systems and Applications

Dr. Peeranan Towashiraporn, Director of ADPC presented on the core principles of ADPC, which is centered around: science, by enhancing capacity in the utilization of science-based information; systems, through effective management of risks at all levels; and application, through improved and grounded application of risk reduction measures. Further adding ADPC’s overall vision of having “safer communities and



*Dr. Peeranan
Towashiraporn,
Director of ADPC*

sustainable development through disaster risk reduction”, discussing the thematic areas of ADPC on risk governance, climate resilience, urban resilience, emergency preparedness, resilient recovery and health risk management, gender and diversity, and poverty and livelihoods. ADPC’s approach is through capacity development, partnerships and networks and knowledge sharing.

ADPC cooperates and collaborates with the government and academe communities and private sectors, UN agencies, development partners, and other regional organizations.

ADPC projects include the improvement of hydro-meteorological services for better preparedness such as: strengthening weather and climate services of Myanmar, Bangladesh and Vietnam to deal with hydro-meteorological hazards; and improving flood forecasting capacity to strengthen flood Early Warning System in Myanmar. Another project is the promotion of geospatial information technology in DRM such as: geospatial tools/data for DRM from SERVIR-Mekong, which is focused on drought monitoring, surface water mapping, virtual rain and river gauge, real-time flood monitoring, and severe thunderstorm warning.

ADPC also buildings health capacities in disasters through: mental health and psychosocial support in emergencies training programs, which has been on-going since 2011. Understanding disaster risk through: city-level earthquake risk assessments, application of risk assessment results, risk sensitive public investments, participatory risk assessments. Furthermore, Dr. Peeranan discusses ADPC’s engagement with the private sector such as the iPrepare Business which focuses on building disaster-resilient businesses in the region especially by engaging with small and medium enterprises. Dr. Peeranan further notes that these examples are extremely relevant and related to each of the Sendai Priorities.

ADPC’s next steps are to continue in supporting countries and partners in bridging the science, systems, and applications for DRM, and to continue its work with countries and partners in aligning DRM activities and programs with the global frameworks.

Flood Protection and Disaster Risk Reduction: Learnings from Europe



*Mr. Anders Philipsen,
CEO,
Environments Solutions, APS*

Mr. Anders Philipsen, CEO of Environments Solutions APS from Denmark discussed on flood protection and DRR from the European perspective.

Mr. Anders discussed the Environment Solutions and NoFlood perspective to have a need for a balanced and dynamic approach towards flood protection which combines a number of initiative which are

permanent and deployable. Further adding that there is a need to reduce risk by implementing initiatives with immediate effects and involve stakeholders and communicate initiatives.

Disaster Risk Reduction in the Hindu Kush Himalayan Region



*Dr. Mandira Singh Shresta
HYCOS Senior
Water Resources Specialist,
ICIMOD*

Dr. Mandira Singh Shresta, the HYCOS Senior Water Resources Specialists from ICIMOD discussed DRR practices in the HKH and its regional flood information system.

Dr. Mandira mentions that DRR has been at the center of ICIMOD's work, through innovation in community-based early warning in India, Nepal and Afghansitan, SERVIR-HKH,

mapping and monitoring of glacial lakes in the HKH, and the establishment of a regional flood information system (HKH HYCOS). The HYCOS is focused on improving the basic observation activities, strengthening the international cooperation, and promotes free exchange of data in the field of hydrometeorology, further adding the HYCOS is a vehicle for technology transfer, training and capacity building. HYCOS is capable of setting up monitoring stations and establishments of real-time flood information systems through the timely exchange of flood data and information through an accessible and user-friendly platform.

ICIMOD's commitment and role in DRR in the HKH region include the commitment to align with the SFDRR by: promoting and applying new and high end technologies for the dynamic

assessment of water-and climate-related hazards; adopting a multi-hazard approach; developing real-time regional information systems, to strengthen community resilience and adaptation strategies; mainstreaming gender into all its activities; assisting and inform policy making, and strengthen institutional capacities; providing a regional platform and enhance partnerships and regional cooperation towards comprehensive DRR.

Community based Early Warning Initiatives by Oxfam



Ms. Jamila Nawaz, Programme Manager on DRR and Climate Change, Oxfam Pakistan

Ms. Jamila Nawaz, the Programme Manager on DRR and Climate Change from Oxfam Pakistan presented on Oxfam's initiatives on community-based early warning initiatives.

Ms. Jamila gave examples of Oxfam's activities regarding community-based early warning in Sri Lanka, which had an open

messenger, and an open-source software which speeds up early warning information dissemination by sending mass SMS to the villager's mobile phones; examples from the Philippines by establishing automated weather stations which provide accurate 7-day forecasts; from Bangladesh which uses a two-way interactive text/voice system using smart phones; and in Nepal showcasing the early warning processes.

In the context of Pakistan, it was discussed that "information must flow faster than water", showing case studies on learnings in Pakistan. Ms. Nawaz also presented on how information in disseminated using computer flood models and the atlas into SMS systems and shoed the three tier early warning committees structures. Local knowledge and practices were integrated with planning to improve forecasts and increase acceptance, ownership and sustainability of early warning systems.

Some of the key challenges faced by Oxfam include: developing the joint understanding of communities and stakeholders involved in the action; development of scenario based planning; data gathering and analysis; and capacity to use the software and operate computers.

Dr. Peeranan from ADPC opened the discussions, posing the first question towards Oxfam Pakistan on sustainable activities for pilot programmes. Ms. Jamila Nawaz replied that a critical element was to fully involve the communities in planning activities over and above participation. The other is to embed the system into the government departments and build capacity. There also need political commitment - there must be an understanding of the importance of DRR.

Dr. Peeranan asked Dr. Mandira Singh on how ICIMOD was able to bring together different stakeholders to make sure the science got turned into policy? Dr. Singh replied that ICIMOD looked at the science policy interface and provide a bridge between policy and practice. We used a known technique which was to choose a well-known piece of technology and to build into the existing systems for countries and ensure it is adapted to local context and test it. We helped to test the systems to ensure they fit their needs and we build capacity. Partners can help countries to adapt and adopt technology and build it into your country systems.

Towards Mr. Anders, Dr. Peeranan asked on the difficulties in bringing in new technologies. Mr. Anders said that it has been a challenge, but being able to showcase successes is important to evidence the new solution works and is faster and easier. It can also be important to try new technology and take a risk.

Dr. Peeranan closed the session by stating an important question, “How can we operationalize science, systems, and technology? There is a lot of experience, but how can we exchange our experiences to inform each other?”

SESSION 7: ENHANCING SUB - REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR DISASTER AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT

This session was focused on a panel discussions on how countries in Asia sub-regions, including South East, and South Asia, can work together to achieve the common goal of making communities and infrastructure resilient to disasters.

One ASEAN, One Response – Experience and Learning from South East Asia



*Ms. Malyn Tumonong,
Senior Disaster Monitoring and Analysis Officer,
AHA Center*

Ms. Malyn Tumonong, the Senior Disaster Monitoring and Analysis Officer from the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Center) gave a presentation on the experiences and learnings from South East Asia.

Ms. Malyn noted that since its establishment 5 years ago, AHA Center has responded to 13 disasters in the ASEAN Region. She also mentions that the AHA Center provides a common platform for information exchanges among ASEAN Member States and Partners. The organizations also has a disaster emergency logistic systems ASEAN (DELSA) located in Malaysia, and has the ASEAN Stockpile in UN Humanitarian Response Depots (UNHRD) Warehouse, a Mobile Storage Unit, Generators and Family Tents. To support the affected country in the initial phases of a disaster emergency, The ASEAN established the ASEAN-

Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT) with duty stations throughout Southeast Asia. Personnel undergo a 10-day, 100 hours training on emergency response and currently, 155 members have been trained from 10 ASEAN member states. One of the signature initiatives of AHA Centre is conducting a six month AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Programme to prepare the future leaders of disaster

The AHA Center has plans to respond within the region and outside the region. The next step for AHA Center is to establish and operationalize coordination mechanism with the military, CSOs, private sector, Red Cross and others, to facilitate and coordinate the overall ASEAN Response. In the future, the AHA center looks to establish and operationalize coordination mechanism with relevant mechanisms in ASEAN such as East Asia Summit (EAS) to respond to disasters in the ASEAN region, and to facilitate response outside of the region.

EU Civil Protection Mechanism – Preparedness and Response



*Ms. Jessika Bohr
Coordination and
Operations
Department of the
Swedish Civil
Contingencies
Agency*

Ms. Jessika Bohr from the Coordination and Operations Department of the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (Myndigheten För Samhällsskydd och Beredskap - MSB).

Ms. Jessika discussed that the goals for the MSB in international operations are to: increase fact-based planning and priorities in humanitarian aid on an operational and global level; strengthen response capacity of

UN, EU and other international actors to execute rapid, efficient and appropriate humanitarian response; strengthen coordination before, during and after crises and disasters by supporting increased humanitarian presence; increase resilience through strengthened capacity of communities and societies with regards to prevention, preparedness and response to crises and disasters. These operational contributions are in-line with, and support, the Swedish priorities at policy (MFA) and strategic (SIDA) level.

MSB has 10 thematic focus areas: information and coordination, transports and logistics, Mine Action, Water and Sanitation, temporary shelter, search and rescue, office and accommodation, equality and gender based violence, early recovery, DRR, and capacity development. The MSB has enabled a coordinated assistance from participating states to victims of natural and manmade disasters in Europe and elsewhere and any country in the world can call on the mechanism for aid. The European Response Capacity has multiple pre-committed resources from members to be used to respond to emergencies, new systems

since 2014, which is more predictable, faster and more reliable EU response, with assets on stand-by.

Some of the exercises of the MSB includes the improvement of preparedness and enhance collaboration among European authorities and teams; full-scale -organized by civil protection agencies of member countries, co-financed by EU; modules—opportunity to test specific response capacities, incl. self-sufficiency, interoperability, coordination and procedures of teams and equipment; table-top in-depth training of key personnel; testing contingency plans, decision-making procedures, public and media public and media; and identifying further training needs.

Ms. Bohr moderated the panel session, and asked the panel members on *how does your country contribute to sub-regional partnerships, and what are the main challenges for your country to work towards cooperation?*

Mr. Kamal from NDMA stated that SAARC and HoA both contributed to by Pakistan, including flood planning, and are working with others to share and learn, including cooperation with Japan and Sri Lanka. While technical organizations such as ADPC who provide technical support, steering to member countries on the establishment of DRM in HoA. Further adding that priorities are establishing technical information systems, engaging youth.

Mr. Myint from Myanmar added that their government approved a resilience programme with several components of risk reduction. Many stakeholders and levels, including schools and education are involved in collaborating to build resilience to disasters. In addition, Myanmar is a “Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters” (BRACED) programme country which seeks to build resilience to climate change, and are working to build climate change adaptation into state planning.

Mr. Bui from Vietnam further said that the country has improved its disaster governance. It is working to reviews its disaster management plans, cooperating with ASEAN, has looked at the role, of technology in DRM and has committed budget to DRM. Data and systems have been an important achievement. Vietnam has been in building capacity within the DRM structure and building in data sharing and responsibilities for information, including internationally. By working with advisory experts including UN Spider and ASEAN, we have been able to get technical support to use satellite technology and other tools for understanding and managing risks. There is a challenge in Vietnam in coordinating with the military and ensuring responsibilities are clear and accepted.

SUB-THEME 4: SUPPORTING THE HEART OF ASIA FOR ENHANCING REGIONAL COOPERATION ON DRR, CCA AND SDGs

The fourth and final sub-theme of the 13th RCC discussed the road map and action plan of the Heart of Asia (HOA) and look for creating synergies with other regional mechanisms and options discussed under sub-theme 3. This is aimed at maximizing the impact of efforts and strengthening risk reduction capacities of HOA countries with focus on promoting regional cooperation.

SESSION 8: HEART OF ASIA AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES



*Major General
Asghar Nawaz,
Chairman of the
NDMA of Pakistan*

This session looks to identify and create linkages of HOA with other regional initiatives for a more effective implementation of risk reduction actions aimed at promoting regional cooperation among HOA countries.

This session was chaired by Major General Asghar Nawaz, the Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority

of Pakistan, and moderated by Mr. Kim DeRidder from The Asia Foundation.

The first presentation discussed Disaster Management as a Confidence Building Mechanism (DM-CBM) under the HOA through the Istanbul Process. Major General Nawaz discussed that the HoA was conceived in 2011 at the Istanbul conference as a response to a need to collectively support Afghanistan as a region. 43 confidence building measures identified which were narrowed to 7, including DRM, commercial opportunities, regional infrastructure, education, security. Technical groups meet to work, along with observer countries, and advisory organizations including ADPC, to devise action plans. Here we found out there are complementary between HoA and the emerging SAARC DRM mechanisms. We find that we need to better institutionalize action, make coordination smoother.



*Mr. Ahmed Kamal,
Member, NDMA
Pakistan*

Mr. Ahmed Kamal, member of NDMA discussed the progress on the Regional Technical Group (RTG) of the DM-CBM. Pakistan and Kazakhstan are the two co-leads which formulated DM-CBM, and in 2012 have drafted the implementation plan and list of activities proposed. The DM-CBM was approved by the Ministerial Conference in 2013 for adoption.

The Third Regional Technical Group (RTG-3) unanimously agreed to include ADPC as the Technical Support Organization for the HoA DM-CBM and have tasked ADPC to draft an actionable Road Map for DM-CBM in consultation with co-leads. Some of the activities include the following: training of Afghan Rescuers & DRM Professionals & ToTs in Pakistan such as the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) & Rescue 1122 Academy); organizing joint drills/exercises of SAR Teams; linkage of Pak & Afghan Met Offices; training of Met Officials in Met Institute in Pakistan; Scholarships for students in DM related field; bilateral MoU in the field of DM; extension of tri-lateral MoU among Pakistan, Afghanistan & Turkey.

HoA's one year plan focuses on enhancing regional cooperation through practical DRM-related actions; seeks to build on member countries DRM capacities; refers to global frameworks; and seeks to facilitate more frequent interaction between and among HOA member countries on bilateral and regional basis.

Under the One Year Plan the 8 Key Actions Proposed for 2016 are: establishment of Disaster Risk Reduction Portal; Development of Guidelines for Regional Cooperation on Emergency Response; Development of Guidelines for Host Nation Support Mechanism; Development of Guidelines for Sharing Cross-Border Early Warning Information; Design and Conduct of Regional Simulation and Drills; Development of a Regional Disasters Risk Picture; Development of Regional Indicators for HOA countries; Research, Capacity Building and Knowledge Management.



*Mr. Kim DeRidder,
Director for
Environments, The
Asia Foundation*

Mr. DeRidder from TAF expressed his thoughts, stating that he is impressed at the extent of work that has been done to implement the HoA during the past two-years, showing excellent leadership from Pakistan in the initiative.



*Mr. Puji Pujiono,
UNESCAP*

Mr. Pujiono from UNESCAP said, that because of the structural position of least developed countries, they are vulnerable to shocks, which inhibits their ability to progress to the MDGs. Further stating the UNESCAP has an agenda, to build resilience to LDCs with climate and ecosystem lens as well, reporting progress annually on our work for HoA. Some of the operational progress, includes ICT improvement and

e-resilience, economic resilience. UNESCAP is assisting Afghanistan to implement SFDRR implementation plan, and supported the involvement of SAARC in the development of PDNA guidance. With Caucasus and west Asia group, UNESCAP is working on a risk reduction action plan. Mr. Pujiono further adds that UNESCAP has an engagement with HoA DM-CBM, and are delivering drought monitoring approach.

According to Mr. Pujiono, UNESCAP is keen to work with HoA in recalibration the action plan against the SFDRR, and keen to support UNDP in developing the risk picture.

Mr. Murat Beyhan from the Prime Ministry of Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency, Turkey stated that international relationships are critical to Turkey for disaster risk.



*Mr. Murat Beyhan
Prime Ministry of
Disaster and
Emergency
Management
Presidency, Turkey*

Mr. Huppertz from GIDRM-GIZ stated that Germany has been observing global developments closely and is interested to bring

ASEAN to the HoA meetings to share learnings, in particular in cross border and response guidelines will see the importance of operational guidelines. Germany will be interested in supporting HoA through EU mechanisms, technically and will try to support financially on disaster response preparedness.

Maj. Gen Nawaz added that the one year roadmap shows financial constraints including future work, hoping that partners will be interested in supporting the important work.

Mr. Usamah further said that UNDP Pakistan would accept technical assistance from UNESCAP on guideline development, and support all partners and countries to provide assistance to NDMA Pakistan as the secretariat to the HoA this and next year.

CONCLUDING SESSION: LOOKING AHEAD – RCC MEMBER’S COMMITMENTS AND INPUTS FOR THE AMCDRR

This session recapped the discussions and offered a space to member countries to highlight priorities of their countries with regard to implementing the global frameworks from an operational standpoint. The session will also discuss and consolidate inputs that RCC countries would like to share at the upcoming Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR.

This session was chaired by Major General Asghar Nawaz, Chairman of the NDMA Pakistan, and moderated by Mr. Bill Ho of ADPC.



Afghanistan Country Statement

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) is known as successor of HFA and will play a significant role in disaster risk reduction till 2030 at global level. Government of Afghanistan is committed to develop the strong mechanism for risk reduction by using the opportunity of SFDRR.

AMCDRR is also aiming towards the strong implementation of SFDRR at regional level.

1. We are also preparing for strong and effective presence of Afghanistan in Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) in Delhi in first week of November 2016.
2. We are looking for following areas to be looked in to the AMCDRR to support Afghanistan.
3. Creating mass awareness among the citizen for citizen’s engagement in disaster management
4. Setting up a robust system of nationwide multi hazards and hazards specific early warning system with zero mile connectivity
5. Use of different regional platform likes, AMCDRR, Heart of Asia, SAARC, RCC to attract the better technical and financial resources for Afghanistan
6. Developing an inclusive approach for disaster resilient development in country to reach the goal of Sustainable development
7. Strong Emergency Communication mechanism to reach the affected community within no time for strengthening of response and early recovery
8. Strengthening the national and regional coordination for enhanced preparedness and capacity to cope up with the disasters
9. Nationwide framework for community engagement in disaster management or establishing strong system for Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction



Bhutan Country Statement

Under the guidance of Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, Bhutan already established Disaster Management (DM) institutions at all levels, including the enactment of DM Act in 2013, and Disaster Management Rules and Regulations in 2014.

In order to manifest the effectiveness and efficiency of the DM institutions and also to articulate the DM Act and DM Rules and Regulations into the best practices in collaboration with the RCC members in pursuit of meeting the four priorities enshrined in the SFDRR, the following activities are being considered on the top priority.

Establishment of National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) and District Emergency Operation Centre (DEOC): These emergency operation centres shall be the information nerve centre and command and control centre for coordination and management of disasters of all phases (pre-, during- and post- disaster) and facets (risk prevention and reduction, preparedness and response, and rehabilitation and reconstruction). In doing so, the best pragmatic NEOC example in the RCC member countries will be considered to enhance our knowledge.

Formulation of national level earthquake contingency plan: As Bhutan is located on the seismically active zone, it is of paramount importance to develop national level earthquake contingency plan. The plan will be instrumental in delineating the clear-cut role of different agencies, including corporation, non-government organizations, volunteers and private sectors to manage major earthquake in a coordinated approach.

Recommendations: for consideration in the upcoming AMCDRR:

- An appropriate Monitoring and Evaluation mechanism should be developed to oversee the implementation of SFDRR priorities in the RCC member countries.
- The RCC member countries should take the ownership of diversifying the meetings in order to share the best practices and lessons learned in pursuit of meeting the priorities of the SFDRR within a given timeframe.



China Country Statement

Firstly, we were supposed to share China's experience in enhancing the capacity building of DRR and to learn good practices from RCC other member countries, UN agencies and international NGOs in terms of implementing SFDRR and other global frameworks. Secondly, try to discover opportunities of deepening cooperation between China and RCC other member countries, UN agencies and international NGOs in implementing SFDRR & enhancing DRR capacity building at regional, sub-regional, national, and local levels.

Further enhance learning and sharing in the implementation of SFDRR and other important global frameworks between countries in Asia region.



Indonesia Country Statement

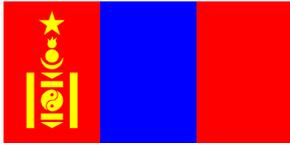
Further to the commitment made in 12th RCC in Thimphu Bhutan, Indonesia through the Disaster Relief Training Ground is embarking to be a regional Centre of Excellence for the region. Indonesian is pleased to have an agreement with ADPC, made the necessary arrangements, and we already conducted two joint trainings.

The Indonesian through its Training Ground, as part of its regional outreach, hereby renews our offer to RCC countries to take advantage of the regional training programme, which will proceed with the support of ADPC as the provider of technical component to the wide ranging topics in disaster risk management.

The Indonesian Authority seeks the concurrence of RCC, and its coming regional training programme, to obtain the necessary regional endorsement and buy in through the United Nations' formal mechanisms. Indonesia hereby suggests that Pakistan as the host of the current RCC, presents results of this meeting to ESCAP Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction next year, to AMCDRR next month, and hopefully also the 2017 Global platforms.

Furthermore, Indonesia calls RCC partners to extend to the RCC regional capacity development programme, particularly the regional capacity development programme that is to be undertaken with Indonesia, their supports and contribution including – as appropriate – resources, technology, and financing components.

Let me reiterate Indonesian trust and confidence to the RCC, and restate our commitment to the recommendations from this meeting, and Indonesia stands ready to render the necessary support to articulate and support the outcome of this meeting in the various appropriate regional forums.



Mongolia Country Statement

Mongolia needs to have very close engagement of ADPC under RCC for linkages and integration of global frameworks such as SFDRR, SDGs and Paris Agreement on CC at both national and local level in its governance systems and structures.

Recommendations from Government of Mongolia to the upcoming AMCDRR.

- Development of well-coordinated and integrated tool for monitoring the implementation of Global frameworks
- Call All Governments to establish or re-establish their national and sub-national platforms (Committee, Commissions) in regard to the integrated and aligned implementation of global frameworks



Myanmar Country Statement

The aim is to make Myanmar safer and more resilient against natural hazard, thus protecting lives, livelihood and development gain. Myanmar is committed to various global and regional frameworks and declarations of Disaster Management and Disaster Risk Reduction. Endorse the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA). Active participation at the Asian Ministerial Conferences of Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR). Myanmar signed the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER). Myanmar annually contributed AADMER Fund and AHA Centre Fund. Endorsed the Sendai Framework for DRRN (SFDRR-2015-2030). Current issues on Disaster Management are establishment of Disaster Management Training Centre(DMTC) was opened in 2015, End-to-End Early Warning System in cooperation with JICA at Ayeyarwady Region and Rakhine State, establishment of Emergency Operation Courses (EOC), creating damage and losses database in cooperation with UNDP, conducting Disaster Management Courses(DMC), conducting Disaster Reduction Youth Volunteers (DRYV) TOT trainings.

Recommendations:

- I would recommend to strengthen the sharing of disaster data among countries in the RCC and the transfer of technology for more effective disaster management.
- More efforts are needed on the education of disaster risk reduction and to raise public awareness of this important issue.
- Lastly, I would recommend the establishment of national database on disaster data and information to facilitate their usage in other sectoral ministries for resilient development.



Nepal Country Statement

The theme of the meeting “Operationalizing global frameworks for risk resilient development in Asia” provides a guide towards implementation of DRR for a resilient society. The RCC meeting has provided an excellent platform for exchanging experiences, knowledge and best practices. The four priorities discussed with examples have provided clarity of the respective priorities and the progress is encouraging. In particular the priority area four “Enhancing Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response and to “Build Back Better” in Recovery, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction” is very relevant to Nepal in the context of building back better from the 2015 Nepal Earthquake. We will need to enhance our response and recovery capacities, and need to strengthen vital infrastructure such as school buildings, water supply, bridges, and roads, further understanding that there is a close link between disaster and the development process. Thus, building back better to enhance the resilience and have risk informed development is a priority.

The Government of Nepal is very much committed to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for which adequate resources is required. Implementation of the framework at the national and local levels and its regular monitoring is important for which continued support from development partners is crucial. There is also a need for technical support, and expertise for sharing of experiences. Strong political will and regional and international cooperation is important for effective disaster risk reduction. I would recommend the RCC to bring the countries together on a regular basis for enhanced engagement, sharing of technical expertise, monitoring of the progress and to provide guidance on the implementation of the Sendai Framework



Philippines Country Statement

As we operationalize global frameworks for risk-resilient development in Asia, the Philippines would like to underscore its priorities in strengthening disaster risk governance under Priority Area 2 of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR). The Philippines recognizes the need for cooperation between and among member countries and buy-in from stakeholders to mainstream and prioritize disaster risk reduction at all levels of governance.

The Philippines recommends the participation of all stakeholders in a whole-of-society approach to realize disaster risk reduction efforts down to the most basic communities. Moreover, the Philippines encourages that disaster risk reduction plans, policies, and protocols should be complemented by appropriate and adequate technological and structural support and common operating templates that are essential to make disaster risk reduction responsive to and accessible by all concerned. Moving forward, the Philippines pledges its continued support to the RCC, its mechanisms and processes, and assures its cooperation in synthesizing extant agreements, frameworks, and action plans, as well as in establishing regimes to monitor compliance with commitments consistent therewith. Finally, we encourage the RCC to articulate the outputs and recommendations of this meeting before the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as before other conferences and gatherings.



Sri Lanka Country Statement

Government of Sri Lanka is fully committed to implementing the Sendai Framework and already taken measures to develop the National Action Plan for the implementation of the Sendai Framework. One of the key challenges is to shift our focus from managing disasters to managing disaster risks. Therefore, a technical study has been already initiated to review the legal and institutional framework of disaster management and to identify appropriate legal and institutional setup for the country, which is in line with the Sendai Framework.

Sri Lanka always believe that the challenges we faced today could be better combatted by increased cooperation among nations. We should look for opportunities to increase the technical cooperation among RCC member countries on the increased cooperation for research, information sharing including satellite images for risk assessment, disaster preparedness and recovery and also on lessons sharing. Those will enhance the cooperation among RCC member countries our efforts in implementing the Sendai Framework and achieve sustainable development.



Thailand Country Statement

Thailand has put an effort to shift from disaster management to DRM. This reflects in our new 2015 National Disaster Risk Management Plan and successful integration of DRR in the national Social and economic development plan. Strengthening and standardizing Risk assessment, therefore, is our priority of action at national and sub-national level and across sectors. National and provincial DRR focal point in 23 key ministries and 76 provinces respectively are the mechanism we use to ensure risk-informed planning. Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) at national, provincial, district level is another mean we use to translate DRR strategies into action.

So, RCC should continue playing the role to enable peer review and peer learning on that matter and other related issues within this region or any transboundary risk. For the coming AMCDRR in New Delhi next month, we are going to adopt the Regional plan for Sendai framework implementation 2015-2030 which I believe will be used as a guidance to achieve the global targets with national approaches.

It would be good to gain more technical support from science, technology and academia communities, especially, to jointly develop the user friendly risk assessment methods and risk information for us as the disaster risk actor to make use of it for the safety and resilience of the people.



Turkey Country Statement

Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a secure and stable Afghanistan in the “Heart of Asia” region was initiated in 2011 upon the understanding that regional issues require regional responses. The region is faced with serious transborder risks and challenges. No country alone can deal with them individually.

Thus a genuine cooperation among the regional states and their respective institutions is not a choice but a necessity. The Process and the confidence building measures in this framework provide us with the opportunity to work with regional and other related countries to solve the problems that Afghanistan and her neighbors encounter. Istanbul Process has made substantial progress. Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) and their implementation plans have been significant achievements. We should make best use of the Process using it more effectively. Activities organized within the framework of confidence building measures are critical to maintain Istanbul Process dynamic and efficient.

They also promote cooperation between the relevant authorities, thus contributing positively to the establishment of a mechanism of dialog and exchange between the countries of the region. Turkey will continue to do its part in this regard. In the field of disaster management, we believe that Disaster Management Confidence Building Measure provides a useful platform to bring the relevant authorities and experts from participating countries and to discuss what can be done. Disaster and Emergency Management Authority of Turkey (AFAD) is ready to share its experience in the disaster management field.

The Islamabad Statement

1. National agencies and authorities entrusted with disaster management in Asian countries established the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) on Disaster Management in 2000, as an avenue for regional dialogue to exchange experiences and promote peer advocacy. With the support of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) as its Secretariat, RCC serves as a common platform to promote regional cooperation towards achieving common DRR goals. The committee has been meeting on an annual basis for the last twelve years to deliberate on themes of interest encompassing disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the broader context of development strategies. And thus the RCC is, at present, well positioned to render advice and support on disaster and climate risk management to its member countries.
2. In the 13th RCC Meeting entitled “*Operationalizing Global Frameworks for Risk-Resilient Development in Asia*”, held in Islamabad, Pakistan from 17 – 19 October 2016, we the delegates of Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, Indonesia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam, along with development partners, and participants from sub-regional organizations, reaffirm that the value of the RCC lies in its capacity to present technical solutions, and to facilitate regional cooperation among member countries in the implementation of their national, regional and global commitments on gender-sensitive DRR and climate change adaptation in the broader context of sustainable development with focus on vulnerable groups.
3. In the 13th RCC meeting, we the delegates exchanged views, reviewed challenges and deliberated opportunities for solutions with respect to the operationalization of global frameworks for resilient development in the Asia Pacific region. The deliberation led to the identification of the following key aspects:
 - a. Commonalities which exist among the global frameworks, though complex in nature, present ample opportunities with deliberate planning and coordination for cost-effective resilient development
 - b. The importance of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction indicators, which will imminently be adopted, to be further operationalized in order for them to add value to, and to be more applicable in accordance to the specific environment of a country to which they are applied.
 - c. The necessity to optimize, or as appropriate, to expand the role of respective national disaster management agencies in providing guidance and, to the extent possible, in monitoring the parallel planning and implementation of the climate change framework at national and local level need due consideration.
 - d. The partnership between disaster management agencies and authorities with non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations need to be further improved and institutionalized. Similarly, the formidable potential of the private sector remains to be optimally mobilized.
 - e. Possibility of complementarity exists among various regional forums in the specific domain of disaster risk management, climate change and sustainable development goals.

- f. The need for disaster management agencies and authorities to leverage development planning and its implementation across sectors, and likewise for development partners to enhance the coherence in their approaches, in order to synergize the varying requirements of the different global frameworks at the national level in a cost-effective manner.
4. We, the delegates, therefore:
 - a. Call upon the RCC Secretariat, the United Nations entities, development partners and other relevant stakeholders to develop an integrated macro-level tool to monitor the implementation of the three key global frameworks
 - b. Recommend to member countries to leverage RCC as one of regional mechanisms to identify tangible entry points for implementing such global frameworks in accordance to their respective DRR policies and programs.
 - c. Determined to further facilitate the RCC countries to strive towards attaining resilient development through the following:
 - i. Identifying the needs and programme activities under SFDRR's priority areas
 - ii. Intensifying the development of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies
 - iii. Deriving from the broader context of the SDGs the approaches and practices pertaining to DRM
 - iv. Maintaining the RCC as a regional platform for the development and sharing of good practices, leveraging science, innovation and technology such as e-Resilience initiatives, as applicable to the different global frameworks
 - v. Support the RCC countries in developing synergies on Early Warning Systems from trans-boundary, national and subnational to community levels
 - vi. Facilitate the application of disaster data management including disaster related statistics, as appropriate to, as the basis for progress monitoring and result reporting of SFDRR implementation.
5. Acknowledge the need for further consultation of the Asia Regional Action Plan, which is imminently to be adopted by the Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR, towards its effective implementation including through national contextualization and appropriate progress monitoring and reporting mechanism.
6. Recognize that in the context of regional complementarity there is the need for furthering the synergy between the RCC and sub-regional groupings related to disaster and climate risk management including APEC, ASEAN, SAARC, ECO, and Istanbul initiative - Heart of Asia (Disaster Management Confidence Building Measure).
7. Request Pakistan to share, as a contribution by RCC countries, the key outputs of this 13th Meeting of the RCC to the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2016.
8. Reiterate to establish sustained linkages and policy-interfacing with United Nations relevant mechanisms including and not limited to ESCAP Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction as well as the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.
9. Encourage RCC member countries, to the possible extent, to initiate, facilitate or champion the implementation of the activities recommended in the Islamabad Statement

and, in this regard, appreciate Indonesia offering to RCC member countries the Disaster Relief Training Ground's regional capacity development programme, which is developed in collaboration with ADPC.

10. Request ADPC as RCC secretariat to:
 - a. Align RCC's strategy with the relevant global frameworks
 - b. Facilitate the establishment of the RCC Steering Committee comprising of incumbent chair, outgoing chair, and the incoming chair (as and when the later is announced)
 - c. Enhance the modality of the RCC's membership
 - d. Facilitate the nomination of the host country for the next RCC meeting
 - e. Facilitate the implementation of the recommendations set out in this Statement, and report progress in the subsequent Meeting.
11. Expressed appreciation to the excellent arrangements and leadership extended by Pakistan as the host of this 13th RCC Meeting.

Islamabad, Pakistan

17 – 19, October 2016





Concluding remarks were done by Mr. Zahid Hamid, the Minister for Climate Change



Major General Asghar Nawaz delivered the vote of thanks.



Major General Asghar Nawaz, Chair of NMDA (left); Mr. Zahid Hamid, the Minister for Climate Change Pakistan (center); Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, Chair of ADPC (right)

Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC)



RCC Secretariat

