



11th

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

Dates: 1-3 April 2014

Venue: Hotel Royal ACE, Nai Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Co-hosted by
Relief and Resettlement Department, Ministry of Social Welfare,
Relief and Resettlement, Republic of the Union of Myanmar; and ADPC
with support from the German Government through GIZ

Overview

Background

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 the exchange of experiences in reduction (DRR). Its Secretariat, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), initiated the committee to bring countries in the Asia-Pacific 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 Asia-Pacific region;
- Promoting co-operative DRR programs on a regional and sub-regional basis; and
- Guiding the work of ADPC and its future directions.

RCC plays a pivotal role in supporting the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) in addition to serving as an important forum for senior government officials in preparing for and following up on the outcomes of the Asian Ministerial Conferences on DRR (AMCDRR) and other significant regional events.

Summary of RCC Meetings

To date, there have been ten RCC meetings since the platform launched in 2000.

- The **first meeting** was held in **Bangkok, Thailand** over 20-22 November 2000. It was attended by 17 member countries who endorsed the utility and benefit of the RCC as a useful mechanism for dialogue and exchange and as a means of developing practical cooperative programs between member countries at the regional and sub-regional levels.
- The **second meeting** was also held in **Bangkok, Thailand**, over 31 October – 2 November 2001. The theme of this meeting was flood preparedness and mitigation. It was attended by 16 countries who adopted the 'Bangkok Declaration' – a statement prioritizing comprehensive, multi-level DRR.
- The **third meeting** was held in **New Delhi, India**, over 29-31 October 2002 and focused on drought risk management. It was organized in collaboration with the Government of India, and attended by the Honorable Deputy Prime Minister; H.E. L.K Advani. The meeting demonstrated political will for adopting a proactive and synergetic approach towards DRR.
- The **fourth meeting** was held in **Dhaka, Bangladesh**, over 29-31 March 2004. The meeting's theme was urban disaster risk management. Organized with the support of the Government of Bangladesh, RCC4 served as a preparatory event in Asia for the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) that took place in 2005. The meeting was graced by the presence of the Honorable President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
- The **fifth meeting** took place in **Hanoi, Viet Nam** over 18-20 May 2005 and the focus was on mainstreaming DRR into development. It was organized with the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and inaugurated by the Honorable Deputy President H.E. Vu Khoan. The meeting saw the adoption of the Hanoi RCC5 Statement on Mainstreaming DRR into Development in Asian Countries.

- The **sixth meeting** took place in **Kunming, China**, over 9-11 November 2006 in collaboration with the Ministry of Civil Affairs, Government of People's Republic of China. The meeting was honored by a special message from the Vice Premier of the State Council of P.R China, Chairman of National Commission for Disaster Reduction H.E. Hui Liang-Yu.
- The **seventh meeting** was held in **Colombo, Sri Lanka**, over 8-10 May 2008, and the theme was rights-based community-led DRR. The meeting was supported by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Government of Sri Lanka and graced by the Honorable Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights H.E. Mr. Mahinda Samarasinghe. 28 delegates attended it from 19 RCC member countries.
- The **eighth meeting** took place in **Manila, Philippines**, over 22-24 February 2010 and focused on community-based DRR. 22 delegates attended it from 17 RCC member countries. Honorable Secretary Norberto B. Gonzales, Department of National Defense, and Chairman, National Disaster Coordinating Council, Government of the Philippines, inaugurated the meeting.
- The **ninth meeting** took place in **Phnom Penh, Cambodia**, over 28-30 November 2011 and concentrated on linking implementation of DRR and climate change adaptation at the local level. The meeting was held in collaboration with the National Committee on Disaster Management and attended by 22 participants from 16 countries.
- The **tenth meeting** took place in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**, over 25-27 March 2013. The meeting's theme was integrated planning and action for DRR, climate change adaptation and sustainable development at the local level. It was organized in collaboration with the Government of Mongolia through its National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), and attended by delegates from 16 RCC member countries.

THE 11TH RCC MEETING

Context

As Asia continues its steady rate of development, new risks are emerging. Many of these stem from the pace and structure of development itself. Increasingly, for example, development is taking place in highly exposed areas such as flood plains and along coastlines. Similarly, growth of populations and settlements can outpace the capacity of governments to provide schools, health clinics, secure electricity, water and sanitation services – the absence of which greatly increases the vulnerability of residents and assets.

In this way, without adequate risk-sensitive planning and implementation, development can exacerbate existing risks and even create new risks. There is a need therefore, across Asia, to ensure that development considers disaster risk and climate change and integrates these considerations into development planning and implementation processes at all levels. This activity, commonly known as mainstreaming, should be systematic, participatory and science-based. Mainstreaming involves the embedding of the stages of the risk management process into the corresponding stages of relevant planning, programming, budgeting and project management processes. This might be land use planning, national socio-economic planning, community planning, slum upgrading, or project screening, for example.

Asia is also a region of coastal cities, many of which are megacities. Conservative projected sea level rises would see vast urban areas submerged, and huge numbers of people displaced and assets threatened. Crops, forests and mineral resources, all vital to many national economies in Asia could be put at risk. However, 60 per cent of the built environment of 2030 has yet to be developed and as such, RCC member countries have a unique opportunity to ensure long-term prosperity by pursuing development which minimizes disaster risk wherever possible. For this, RCC member countries should continue to mainstream DRR into their development frameworks. Within this context, the 11th RCC meeting will seek to transform development through DRR, and thereby contribute to the setting of a safer and a resilient development agenda for Asia.

RCC is also a unique platform where ADPC, together with other agencies including ESCAP and UNISDR, assist member countries to prepare for HFA2, the post-2015 development agenda and global climate change adaptations arrangements.

Objectives

Given the need to reduce disaster risk and transform development, the 11th RCC will aim to:

- Take stock of mainstreaming initiatives deployed by RCC member countries;
- Evaluate and review the impact of such initiatives on development;
- Set forth a program for mainstreaming DRR and transforming development in Asia over the 2015 – 2025 period;
- Provide information on the interlinked processes of the post-2015 development agenda, the post-2015 Hyogo Framework for Action and climate change adaptation, in order to prepare countries' positions for enhanced synergy and synchronization of these global frameworks.

Thematic Focus

The overarching theme of the 11th RCC is **Reducing Disaster Risk and Transforming Development**. The theme will generate concrete directions for future mainstreaming based on the experience of RCC member countries.

Within this overarching theme, the following sub-themes have been identified:

- **Achieving mainstreaming by using risk information to transform development policy, planning and institutions**

Risk information and assessments are essential elements for formulating resilient development plans and policies. Governments in the region have experienced successfully using risk information and applying risk assessments during different planning processes. When risk science and policy needs are properly correlated, important synergies and advantages can be reaped.

However, further progress is required, specifically in terms of institutional arrangement and capacity. Who should be responsible for the uptake of risk information into development processes, and how should these institutions go about it?

Under this subtheme:

- An RCC member state will present on its experience using risk information as part of the development process. Presentations will seek to move beyond generic challenges and successes, and look into the specific issues encountered when mainstreaming risk information or risk assessment results into development planning processes at national or sub-national levels.
- Based on its regional experience, ADPC will present an overview of specific challenges in producing 'policy-friendly' risk information, and ways to work around these for effective mainstreaming of risk information.

- **Striving for impact through improved monitoring and reflective practices on mainstreaming**

Too often, governments find it difficult to have clarity and effectiveness in monitoring and review of mainstreaming. In part, this is a result of a separation of DRR and development instruments and associated indicators for monitoring. Given increasingly rapid development and growth across the region, governments need to attain higher levels of impact and effectiveness through their mainstreaming initiatives. To what extent can this be achieved and how far can governments go?

Under this subtheme:

- Selected RCC member countries will present on experiences, lessons learned and best practices for effective mainstreaming initiatives, highlighting key components for increased implementation.
- ADPC will present the results of its regional research into best practices for mainstreaming and institutional arrangements best suited to support this work.

- **Gearing regional efforts towards mainstreaming and transforming the post-2015 development agenda**

With a number of regional DRR programs concluding in 2015, there is a growing need to identify key interventions for a post-2015 mainstreaming agenda in Asia. Firstly, the RCC's Mainstreaming DRR into Development program, launched at the 2005 RCC meeting, concludes in 2015. Secondly, UNISDR's HFA will be renewed in September 2015, and the new phase of the HFA is expected to include a central component dedicated to mainstreaming DRR. Both mainstreaming agendas are informed by national mainstreaming needs.

Under this subtheme:

- Selected RCC member countries will present suggestions, expectations and recommendations for future initiatives for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into development in Asia.
- Updates on regional consultations for HFA2 'Key Area 2' focusing on mainstreaming will be shared.
- ESCAP, ODI, UNISDR and ADPC will jointly brief member countries on the regional context, roadmap and key negotiating strategies to advocate their countries' position in the policy forums for the HFA2 and post-2015 development agenda.

Expected Outputs

Based on these sub-themes, the 11th RCC would aim to provide the following outputs:

- A declaration of renewed commitment to mainstreaming DRR into development in order to reduce underlying risk drivers;
- A statement of the way forward for mainstreaming in Asia. It may contain statements of recommendations for each sub-theme identified above. Such statements could be formulated in the RCC meeting and submitted formally at the 6th AMCDRR and the WCDRR.
- An outline for an RCC mainstreaming program to replace the current MDRD Program, expected to conclude in 2015. The new program should be closely aligned with the HFA2 mainstreaming provisions.
- Briefing on DRR in the context of the HFA2 and the post-2015 development agenda.

Contributions of the 11th RCC Meeting to DRR in the Asia-Pacific region

It is expected that the 11th RCC will contribute to the advancement of DRR in the Asia-Pacific region in terms of the following:

- **Contributions to post-2015 framework for DRR**

The 11th RCC will contribute to the post-2015 framework for DRR through statements of recommendation, which specifically address essential mainstreaming components required of the HFA2, and related documentation.
- **Contributions to post-2015 development agenda**

Owing to the thematic and technical confluence as well as the temporal opportunity of the DRR and development agendas in the post-2015 period, statements of recommendation by the RCC for mainstreaming can also contribute to ongoing discussions by relevant parties of the post-2015 development agenda.
- **Contributions to regional events**

The 11th RCC will generate content that can be presented at the 6th AMCDRR – including the statements of recommendation, and the MDRD research study findings.
- **Contributions to RCC member countries**

The RCC serves its member countries as a platform for dialogue and information sharing on the subject of DRR in Asia. The 11th RCC will continue this by fostering the sharing of experiences on the theme and sub-themes outlined above. Similarly, the 11th RCC allows member countries an opportunity to participate in setting the long-term post-2015 DRR and development agendas for the Asia-Pacific region. The 11th RCC will also support member countries by building their knowledge and capacity for effective negotiation of their DRR agenda in the HFA2 and post-2015 development policy forums.

Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC)



with support from the German Government through GIZ

RCC Secretariat

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