

3. National Programs on Community-led Disaster Risk Management

- o RCC 7 reflected the evolving perspective of CBDRM with move towards community leadership for DRR.
- o Called for greater engagement, partnership and integration with local government mechanisms for DRR and development including local disaster management and local development plan.
- o Affirmed the commitment of RCC Members to take up national programs on CBDRM in all high risk communities
 - Establish clear policy framework for support by national governments and partnership between local government and CBOs.
 - Took stock of solution for upscaling CBDRM as used by various RCC member countries.
 - Affirmed the need for enhanced resources from national and local government.
 - Prioritized implementation of CBDRM focusing on high risk provinces and districts in each member country.
- o Called for sustained public awareness programs in countries.
- o Regular input to local government and community based organisations from national governments and scientific institutions on hazard maps and risk maps for use in local participatory planning.
- o Establishing scheme for recognition of good practice in CBDRM and utilizing experiences of CBDRM award scheme in member countries.
- o Recognizing and building on local knowledge and traditional coping mechanisms.

The RCC and ADPC, as its Secretariat, offered to lead a Technical Session and High Level Round Table on CBDRM at the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference (AMC) on DRR, to be held in Kuala Lumpur. The Government of Malaysia welcomed the offer and would confirm after discussions in the AMC3 Organizing Committee.

4. Coordination between UN/ISDR, ADPC and ADRC on support to HFA Implementation in Asia

- Responding to the call from RCC members at the Sixth Meeting in Kunming, November 2006;*
- o The joint session organized by UN/ISDR, ADPC and ADRC at the RCC7 Meeting demonstrated continued and enhanced partnership between regional agencies with a full-time focus on DRR i.e. UN/ISDR, ADPC and ADRC.
 - o The RCC 7 welcomed this partnership and urged UN/ISDR, ADPC and ADRC to take joint activity in supporting HFA implementation by the National Disaster Management Offices of the member countries.
 - o RCC 7 agreed on endorsing greater integration of RCC into the regional and global system namely linkages with the Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR (AMC) and Global Platform for DRR. The meeting recognized that intensive discussion among senior officials was needed and the RCC served as a welcome forum and mechanism to translate ministerial commitment, as reflected in AMC Declarations, into action.
 - o The RCC meeting encouraged UN/ISDR, ADPC and ADRC to continue their dialogue on how the RCC and ADRC meeting could serve in preparing for, and following up on, Regional and Global Platform meetings.

Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC) Members

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 Secretary Ministry of Food and Disaster Management And Director General Disaster Management Bureau People's Republic of Bangladesh	 Director General National Disaster Management Center Republic of Maldives
 Secretary Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs Kingdom of Bhutan	 Chief National Emergency Management Agency Mongolia
 Director National Disaster Management Center Ministry of Home Affairs State of Brunei Darussalam	 Director General Relief and Resettlement Department Ministry of Social Welfare Union of Myanmar
 First Vice President And Secretary General National Committee for Disaster Management Kingdom Of Cambodia	 Secretary Ministry of Home Affairs Nepal
 Director General Department of Disaster and Social Relief Ministry of Civil Affairs People's Republic of China	 Chairman Prime Minister's Inspection Commission National Disaster Management Authority Islamic Republic of Pakistan
 Chief Department of Emergency Situations and Civil Safety Service Ministry of Internal Affairs Georgia	 Director General National Disaster Management Office Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs Independent State of Papua New Guinea
 Secretary (Border Management) Ministry of Home Affairs Republic of India	 Administrator Office of Civil Defense and Executive Officer National Disaster Coordinating Council Department of National Defense Republic of the Philippines
 Chief Executive Bakornas PBP National Coordinating Board for Disaster Management Republic of Indonesia	 Secretary Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights And Director General Disaster Management Center Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
 Deputy for Technical Affairs Management and Planning Organization Islamic Republic of Iran	 Chief, Emergency Services and National Disaster Management Office Ministry of Interior Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste
 Director General of Civil Defence Jordanian Civil Defence Ministry of Interior Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	 Director General Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Ministry of Interior Kingdom of Thailand
 Chairman Emergency Agency Republic of Kazakhstan	 Director Department of Dike Management Flood and Storm Control Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Socialist Republic of Vietnam
 Administrator National Emergency Management Agency Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs Republic of Korea	
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7th Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC 7)

8-10 May, 2008
Colombo, Sri Lanka

Highlights





Introduction

The Seventh Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC 7) was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 08-10 May 2008, in collaboration with the Government of Sri Lanka. The meeting was attended by 28 delegates from 19 RCC Member Countries, comprising heads of National Disaster Management Offices or their representatives, and sectoral Ministries of National Governments from: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Maldives, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. Of these, 10 were representatives from Ministries of Planning and Sectoral Ministries from 6 RCC Member Countries—Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Philippines and Sri Lanka.

In addition 16 observers from regional organizations, UN Agencies, bilateral and multilateral funding agencies and NGOs, namely ADB, ADRC, CDMP Bangladesh, CDP, Practical Action, UN/ISDR, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UN/OCHA, ECHO and USAID/OFDA attended the meeting.

Opening Ceremony

The meeting was inaugurated by the Honorable Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights of the Government of Sri Lanka, H.E. Mr. Mahinda Samarasinghe. In his inaugural address, the Honorable Minister emphasized the importance of human rights as being an integral part of the plan of action of disaster risk reduction (DRR); especially in the context of Sri Lanka, where human-made disasters in the shape of conflict add to the natural disasters, and set back the development curve of the country. The Honorable Minister highlighted the huge impact of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, which brought consensus within the Government and all stakeholders in Sri Lanka to work together to prevent, mitigate and respond better to the multitude of natural and man made disasters, leading to a series of major initiatives in the last three years. He emphasized the adopted approach of decentralization, multi stakeholder involvement and promoting a culture of volunteerism for effectively reducing risk. The Honorable Minister expressed great pride and satisfaction of the Government in co-hosting the RCC 7 meeting which provided a venue to learn more about similar initiatives on DRR from other countries of the region.

The Opening Ceremony was addressed by Mr. P.D. Amarasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Government of Sri Lanka; H.E. Prof Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, Chairman, ADPC Board of Trustees; and Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, Executive Director, ADPC.

The opening ceremony was attended by over a hundred senior officials from various Ministries of the Government of Sri Lanka, representatives from Embassies of RCC member countries in Sri Lanka, delegates from RCC member countries, senior officials from UN Agencies, representatives from other international organizations and agencies, development and donor agencies, the national media and other relevant agencies, government departments and NGOs.



Objectives of RCC 7 Meeting

- Learn from Disaster Reduction experience of host country, Sri Lanka
- Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development in Asia
- Rights-based Community-led Disaster Risk Management
- Implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) in Asia

RCC 7 Meeting Sessions

The meeting consisted of four substantive sessions, as well as the opening ceremony, sessions covering introductions and a meeting overview, action planning for the coming years, and the closing ceremony. All the participants paused for a minute of silence to remember those who have perished and suffered in the Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar.

1. The first session on DRR activities in Sri Lanka included presentations on completed, ongoing and future initiatives by the Disaster Management Center, the current status of the Early Warning Systems by the Department of Meteorology, trend in slope failures by National Building Research Organization, and Strategies in disaster response by the Ministry of Resettlement and Disaster Relief.
2. The session on 'Mainstreaming DRR into Development' covered three sub themes; mainstreaming DRR into national development processes, sector development, and progress made under the RCC program on 'Mainstreaming DRR into Development' (RCC MDRD).

Experiences of mainstreaming DRR into national development processes were presented by China, Indonesia, Cambodia, Pakistan and Nepal; and on sector development, by the Philippines and Lao PDR. A briefing presentation was made by UN/ISDR on the ongoing Global Campaign on Safe Hospitals.

The progress made under RCC MDRD program was reported and the meeting reviewed the RCC Guidelines on Mainstreaming DRR into Education and Road Sectors and progress made under Priority Implementation Partnerships on Mainstreaming DRR in Cambodia, Lao PDR and the Philippines on Education Sector; in the Philippines on Road Sector and Sri Lanka on Local Governance. The document on Phase II of the RCC Mainstreaming program; 'Partnerships for Safe Development and Good Governance' covering the period of 2008 to 2012; prepared under guidance of the RCC MDRD Advisory Panel was reviewed and endorsed.

3. Theme Session: The theme session of the meeting, 'Rights based Community led Disaster Risk Management' commenced with the theme presentation by the Government of Sri Lanka and a presentation by ADPC on the 'Overview of the Country papers and meeting the Challenges for community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM)'.

National experiences were shared by India, Philippines, Bangladesh, Thailand and Vietnam. Presentations were made by ADPC on Tools for CBDRM such as the Critical Guidelines on CBDRM and Coastal Community Resilience. The evolving perspective of civil society organizations and their regional networks on CBDRM was presented by the representative from Practical Action and Duryog Nivaran.

Group Discussions among RCC member countries identified actions that they needed to take, in meeting the challenges of institutionalising and upscaling CBDRM.

4. The session on 'Implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) in Asia' was co-organized by ADPC, ADRC and UN/ISDR. The session had two sub themes; the HFA Progress review process 2007 to 2009, which looked into the regional and national HFA progress review framework for Asia and the Pacific, the online reporting tool 'HFA Monitor' and Preparations for the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR to be held in Kuala Lumpur in December 2008.

Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony of the meeting was addressed by Mr. P.D. Amarasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Government of Sri Lanka; H.E. Prof Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, Chairman, ADPC Board of Trustees, and Ms. Helena Molin Valdes, Deputy Director, UN/ISDR, with Mr. Shaukat Nawaz Tahir of Pakistan presenting feedback from the RCC Member Countries. A message from AusAID was read at the meeting and emphasized its satisfaction at the progress made by the RCC.

Key Outcomes of the 7th RCC Meeting

1. Strengthening of the RCC Mechanism

- o Continued ministerial participation and presence in the meetings, reflected the political will and commitment from the high levels of government to priorities disaster risk management programs.
- o High level representatives from national agencies of planning and sectoral ministries and representatives from local government's active participation in the meeting and commitment to support DRR initiatives in their respective sectors.
- o Increased commitment from Member Countries reflected in generous contributions by the host country and cost sharing by several members.
- o As decided at the RCC 6 Meeting, Sri Lanka assumed the chairmanship of the RCC till the next meeting.
- o Interest and willingness of Philippines, Iran, Nepal, and Mongolia to host future RCC meetings, reflecting support from Member Countries to the mechanism.

2. Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development Policy, Planning and Implementation in Asia

- o RCC-7 affirmed the programmatic dimension of the RCC mechanism, with implementation of an active program on mainstreaming DRR into development over the last four years and endorsement of Phase II of the program; 'Partnerships for safe development and good governance', for implementation during 2008-2012 as directed in the Kunming, Road Map.

