

Press Release

16 February 2010

CLIMATE CHANGE AND EXTREME CYCLONES

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Center (BDPC) with support from Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, Bangladesh have organized the conference “**Climate Change and Extreme Cyclones: Regional Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Response in a Rapidly Changing World**”. The regional conference runs from February 17 to 18 in Dhaka. It aims to bring about a common understanding of the new tropical cyclone surge pattern and its potential impacts, and to examine different cyclone and options and models for risk reduction. This conference intends to bring experts and practitioners from climate change field and disaster risk reduction arena to improve the linkage between these two very important sectors.

Over the two days, the conference is expected to bring more than one hundred participants together, providing them with a venue where they can share experiences, and bridge the gaps between extreme cyclone events and the ability to cope with such disasters and reduce durably its harmful impacts. Conference participants range from disaster managers, people who work in developmental area, scholars and students from Asia and the Pacific regions to officials of national and provincial governments and national as well as international NGOs.

The first day started with the Inaugural Ceremony where Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, Executive Director of ADPC delivered welcoming remarks, followed by Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, Hon. Minister, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management as the chief guest, and Mr. Md. Mokhlesur Rahman, Secretary of Disaster Management and Relief Division, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (MoFDM) as Chair. Distinguished guests and climate scientists have attended the inaugural session, namely: H.E. Dr. Stefan Frowein, Ambassador and Head of the European Union Delegation to Bangladesh; Dr. A. Atiq Rahman, Executive Director, Bangladesh Center for Advance Studies; and Dr. Tore Furevik of the Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research, Norway.

Two plenary sessions and 43 paper presentations on six different thematic areas will explore a variety of topics. Issues for discussion are on **climate change scenarios and their implications for disaster management and emergency preparedness** and **approaches for improving disaster risk reduction and community adaptation**.

The conference intends to start the work towards a framework for **building climate resilient communities** Ahmed Hossain Khan, Additional Secretary for Disaster Management and Relief (MoFDM) will chair the panel discussion in the concluding plenary on the 18th of February.

Co-organized by ADPC and BDPC, the conference is supported by Government of Bangladesh, UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Notes to Editors

ADPC: Established in 1986 at the initiatives of three UN agencies – WMO, UNDP and UNOCHA, ADPC is an organization which supports the advancement of safer communities and sustainable development, ADPC's activities cover four thematic areas: Climate Risk Management (CRM), Disaster Management System (DMS), Public Health in Emergencies (PHE), and Urban Disaster Risk Management (UDRM). ADPC also provides 20 regional training courses on disaster management.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THIS EVENT OR INTERVIEW REQUEST WITH PARTICIPANTS OF THE MEETING, PLEASE CONTACT COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR AT ASIAN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS CENTER (ADPC), +66 (0)22980681 to 92 (Ext.256) OR CONTACT DR. SHAMIM MAHABUBUL HAQUE +88 02 666 261 7574.