



## ***ADPC activities update for May-June 2009***

### **Greetings from Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Bangkok, Thailand.**

Natural hazards/disasters continue to increase in frequency and with varying magnitude leading to destruction, devastation, threats to lives, infrastructure and life supporting systems. Concerns grow and remain with the emergence of associated issues like health emergencies, livelihoods, food security, to name just a few.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies World Disaster Report 2009 reports a total of 226 disasters with 236,302 total numbers of people killed in Asia, in 2008. The number of people reported killed was the second highest of the decade, with Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar killing 138,366 people and the earthquake in Sichuan, China with 87,476 people dead or missing. The reported disaster damages were the highest of the decade, accounting for 64 per cent of all damages reported in the world. The Sichuan earthquake alone accounted for 45 per cent of all reported damages. In terms of natural hazards and their impacts, 2008 was one of the most devastating years. These figures speak volume. These figures are constant reminders that there is more to do for all of us. Here is a call for collective efforts.

A number of mitigating, preventive, interventions and initiatives at the regional, national & local levels are actively and purposefully pursued and are underway by several partners. Attempts are made by countries in the region to place well-coordinated early warning systems, structures, technologies with effective dissemination process. However, no matter how adaptive we are, there is a wide range of substantive accomplishments yet to achieve. Again, a call for concerted efforts.

### **ADPC in Action**

The World Disaster Report 2009 focuses on two key aspects of disaster risk reduction: early warning and early action. *ADPC, as a member of the Editorial Board of the World Disaster Report 2009* echoes the call for action for effective and timely early warning & early action.

Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, Executive Director, ADPC attended the *2nd Disaster Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities conference*, Phuket, Thailand on 12-13 May 2009. One of the key outcomes of the conference was the *Phuket Declaration on Disaster Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities*. The declaration recognized the needs for ongoing efforts to achieve disability-inclusive disaster preparedness by all means including through knowledge-based solutions, combining the strength of

standard-based accessible ICTs and traditional/local knowledge and through full and effective participation of persons with diverse types of disabilities.

ADPC through its Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early warning System (RIMES) for Africa-Asia involved in climate modelling to support the national flood forecasting and warning services in Bangladesh under the DANIDA supported program on “Assistance to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction, Bangladesh. Support to the National Flood Forecasting and Warning Services” conducted a *Training Course on Climate Risk Management for delegation of senior officials from the Ministry of Water Resources and Bangladesh Water Development Board Bangladesh*. The training held in Bangkok, Thailand from 18-22 May 2009 focused on building the capacity to manage risks associated with climate variability, change, and extremes.

*The Foreign Ministry of the Royal Norwegian Government and ADPC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)* on 27 May 2009 to foster greater co-operation between the two Institutions in the arena of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the region. The MOU was signed by H.E. Mrs. Brattested, Ambassador of Norway to Thailand on behalf of the Royal Norwegian Government and Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, Executive Director, ADPC.

*ADPC actively participated at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR)* held from the 16-19 June 2009, Geneva, Switzerland through special events and market place. The special event on *DRR in Education Sector* was organized with the UN Thematic Platform on Knowledge & Education. *Mainstreaming DRR: Experiences of Governments in Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) member countries* included presentations on programmatic approach of the RCC on Mainstreaming DRR into development, Priority Implementation Partnerships (PIP) by RCC member countries on Safer Roads and Education in the Philippines, safer housing in Sri Lanka, safer education system in Lao PDR & Cambodia, safer health facilities in Bangladesh and Integrating DRR into periodic planning process in Nepal. The special event on *Building Urban Communities' Resilience to Disaster Risk: Challenges and Experiences toward the implementation of HFA at local level* were organized by ADPC, International Training Center of the International Labor Organization (ITC/ILO) and Disaster & Development Center, Northumbria University. ADPC made a presentation on building disaster. Initiatives for strengthening capacities at local level to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels was shared by ILO/ITC-Italy, Local Risk and Resilient Governance-experiences of Dhankuta, Municipality and Pachkhal Village Development Committee in Nepal was shared by DDC, Northumbria University. Earthquake vulnerability reduction in Dhaka, Sylhet and Chittagong and tsunami vulnerability reduction in coastal cities in Bangladesh were highlighted by Comprehensive Disaster Management Program (CDMP)–Bangladesh and a presentation on city prone to multiple hazards - experiences of Dagupan city was made by Center for Disaster Preparedness (CDP) – Philippines.

ADPC, as the Secretariat of the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) Program highlighted at the Market Place the initiatives on *Mainstreaming DRR into Development Policy, Planning and Implementation and best practices towards up-scaling Community-based Disaster Risk Reduction, while realizing the advancing priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action*. The sustainable development efforts by the 26 RCC member countries were focused through good governance, awareness raising information and educational products.

*The World Bank and ADPC signed a Memorandum of Understanding* on 18 June 2009 towards a collaborative alliance on disaster risk reduction related to various natural hazards under the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). The agreement was signed by ADPC's Executive Director Dr. Bhichit Rattakul and World Bank's Dr. Zoubida Allaoua, Director of Finance, Economics and Urban Department in the presence of Ambassador H.E. Mr. Dian Triansyah Djani, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations. The partnership to have a global geographical scope and will focus on providing technical assistance to national and sub/regional bodies, parliaments, civil society and private sectors across and beyond. The collaboration will include technical support from ADPC to World Bank during pre-disaster risk reduction, post-disaster damage and loss assessments, regional cooperation including south-south cooperation and dissemination of knowledge and innovative practices in disaster reduction and recovery.

Prof. Dr. Krasae Chanawongse ADPC's Board of Trustees (BOT) Chairman visited Fujian Province, P.R.China from 16–23 June 2009 on an invitation from the Fujian Provincial Government to attend the *2009 China Cross-Straits Symposium on the Prevention and Mitigation of Natural Hazards in Fuzhou, China*. Prof. Dr. Krasae delivered the keynote address at the opening ceremony of the symposium, attended the China Cross-Straits Project and Technology Fair. Prof. Dr. Krasae was also interviewed by the China Meteorological Daily. ADPC delegation made presentation on *Way Forward: Future Directions for Disaster Risk Management – Comprehensive Multi-hazards Programs & Actions*.

ADPC hosted a *study tour* for officials of the District Government office at Nuwara-Eliya, Sri Lanka from 24-28 June 2009. The significant objectives were to showcase best practices in DRR planning and landslides mitigation projects in Thailand.

Country project events from the *Program for Hydro-Meteorological Disaster Mitigation in Secondary Cities in Asia (PROMISE)* included "*Lessons Learned and Replication Workshop*" on 26 June 2009. The objectives of the workshop were to present the outcome of PROMISE Indonesia work during the last 16 months, as the project draws to a close by the end of 2 July 2009; obtain feed back from the beneficiaries and implementers of the project activities; and to obtain the views of stakeholders on replication the mechanism and possible sites.

The *Regional Planning Meeting of the Phase III of Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER)* is scheduled from 27-29 July 2009, Bangkok, Thailand. The PEER program is a regional disaster preparedness training and capacity-building

program funded by the USAID Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). Now in its third stage (2009-2014), PEER III is implemented by the ADPC in partnership with the American Red Cross (ARC) and the National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET) that covers nine Asian countries. ADPC, as prime for the community-based and hospital readiness components of PEER III, will lead program implementation for these components, bringing to bear its expertise and strong partnerships in the region. The American Red Cross (ARC) will serve as a key partner to ADPC in training at the community-level, adding technical assistance, resources and greater access to the national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies or other national community level agencies. NSET will implement the continuation of training on Medical First Responders (MFR) and Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue (CSSR) as part of a unified PEER III program in the six original PEER II countries.

The overall goal of the PEER program is to promote and enhance disaster preparedness and response capacities in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and Vietnam. Please refer to the attached PEER III information sheet (Annex 1) for your reference and information.

The *meeting objectives* include ensuring a common understanding among the key stakeholders of the goals, activities and timing of events under the program and regional stakeholders to allow sharing of experience.

### **New activity**

National Guidelines for Safer School Construction have been developed in a draft version under the guidance of the Ministry of Education/ School Works Branch and in cooperation with the Disaster Management Center, Sri Lanka. The Guidelines are based on the results of a study on disaster impact and hazard/vulnerability analysis of school buildings. The activity, *“Finalization of in-service materials for CBE facilitators”* will be undertaken by ADPC in Sri Lanka. Specific activities include the *study of physical impacts of disaster on the Education Sector of the Country*. The study will consider the hazards namely, landslides, floods, cyclone, lightning, earthquake and fire and would document examples for damages to the structure and access to the school buildings in past disasters. The current practices of design, planning and construction of school buildings, in relation to their vulnerability to hazard and resilience, would support the identification of improvements and changes needed in the planning and implementation process. It will examine the current construction designs in use for the school buildings and identify gaps provided in promotion of Sinhala and Tamil as second national languages, educational opportunities for disadvantaged children, peace and value education, school based disaster risk management (DRM) and psycho-social care. The other key activity would be to *draft national guidelines for safer school construction and identification of implementation opportunities*.

### **Training & Learning**

ADPC in association with the Ministry of Defense of Thailand organized a workshop on *ASEAN Defense Establishments and Civil Society Organization Cooperation on Non-Traditional Security: Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster*. Thailand and Malaysia were the host countries for the workshop. It was held in Bangkok on 8-9 June 2009.

The *Regional training course on Public Health in Complex Emergencies training program (PHCE-8)* organized and conducted by ADPC is currently underway in Bangkok from the 6-18 July 2009. The PHCE is a two-week residential course that focuses on critical public health issues faced by NGO/PVO personnel working in complex emergencies. The goal of the course is to enhance the capacity of humanitarian assistance workers and their organizations to respond to the health needs of refugees and internally displaced persons affected by these emergencies. Participants will master key competencies in the mentioned sectors-Context of Emergencies, Reproductive Health, Epidemiology, Weapons, Violence and Trauma, Communicable Disease, Protection and Security, Environmental Health, Psychosocial Issues and Nutrition.

ADPC will conduct *training on CDBRR concepts, practices & approaches* for the staff of French Red Cross Society at Yangon, Myanmar from the 3-8 August 2009.

### **ADPC Regional Training Schedule for 2009-2010**

- **End-to-End Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (EWS-2)**, 14-25 Sep 2009, Bangkok
- **Flood Disaster Risk Management (FDRM-10)**, 12-23 Oct 2009, Bangkok
- **Disaster Management Course (DMC-39)**, 2-20 Nov 2009, Bangkok
- **Climate Risk Management: Science, Institutions, and Society (CRM-3)**, 16-27 Nov 2009, Bangkok
- **GIS for Disaster Risk Management (Advance level) (GDRM-4)**, 7-18 Dec 2009, Bangkok

#### **New announcements:**

- **Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in local Governance (MDRRG-4)**, 25-29 Jan 2010, Manila, The Philippines
- **Earthquake Vulnerability Reduction Course (EVRC-9)**, 22 Feb-5 March 2010, Bangkok, Thailand

For more information, pls write to [tedadpc@adpc.net](mailto:tedadpc@adpc.net)

### **New publications & information resources**

*Safer Communities, Case Study 3: Reaching out to the Public, Raising Community Awareness to Flood Risk Reduction in Cambodia:* The case study describes the flood risk awareness campaign undertaken under the “*Flood Emergency Management*

*Strengthening (FEMS)*”, Component 4 of the MRC Flood Management and Mitigation Program (FMMP), implemented by the Mekong River Commission Secretariat (MRCS) with support from the ADPC in two target provinces of Cambodia. The case study highlights FEMS’s illustrates good examples of cost effective and replicable practices and the adoption of a sound overall approach towards flood risk awareness.

***Safer Communities, Case Study 4: Sustaining the Flood Preparedness and Emergency Management System in Cambodia- Creating the momentum for mainstreaming-***This case study highlights an initiative undertaken to integrate flood risk reduction measures into formal local government development plans. It is based on the experience of the “Flood Emergency Management Strengthening (FEMS)” project, implemented by the MRC Secretariat with support from ADPC in two of the most flood-prone provinces in Cambodia: Prey Veng and Kandal. The study highlights the steps undertaken towards achieving this integration and the critical role that disaster risk reduction awareness and advocacy among stakeholders, including non disaster government officials, played in the process. A way forward has clearly emerged making flood risk reduction main-streaming a more concrete and achievable objective in the near future. The study also highlights some of the constraints encountered in the process and identifies several key success factors that make for an effective mainstreaming initiative.

***Safer Communities, Case Study 7: Creating a Safer Tomorrow for the Future Generations: A comprehensive approach to ensure the safety of children in Vietnam:*** Ensuring the safety of children against flood drowning is the main message of this case study. In two instances, the Vietnamese government and a collaborating NGO and UN agency conducted a very innovative way of instilling children’s preparedness against flood risks. The first was the institutionalization of a national swimming program for children. Here, they devised simple but effective swimming nets where the children were taught how to swim. The nets were placed beside rivers and were constructed in such manner that they were deep enough for the children to manage. Another activity was the establishment of emergency kindergarten and child care centers where very young children stayed while their parents were out earning a living. The centers had caretakers who were earlier trained on childcare, child nutrition and hygiene. The last activity was the School Flood Safety Program which involved the orientation sessions for schoolteachers. A flood information kit for the teachers was prepared.

***Safer Communities, Case Study 8: Reaching out to the Public Raising the Awareness of the Community in Flood Risk Reduction in Vietnam-***This case study documents the efforts of Vietnam’s Central Committee on Flood and Storm Control (CCFSC) in raising community awareness on flood mitigation and disaster risk reduction. As an initial step, existing information, education and communication (IEC) materials were reviewed. This led to the development of new posters on household safety measures before, during and after floods. A flood information dissemination strategy for the general public was devised. This consisted of a cultural performance and installation of billboards. The success of this public awareness campaign provides some lessons in sustaining community awareness on flood risk reduction.

*Manual on Flood Preparedness Program for Provincial and District Level Authorities in the Lower Mekong Basin Countries*-The manual is developed based on assessment of the needs of local disaster management authorities and practitioners to improve flood preparedness planning in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam. The manual will help serve as a training resource handbook. The manual provides the basic understanding and describes implementation arrangements required for flood preparedness planning through 10 chapters namely, Flood Preparedness Planning, Preparation of a Provincial & District Profile, HVCA, Institutional Mechanisms, Institutional TOR's, Flood risk reduction measures taken before, during and after floods, Preparation & maintenance of resource inventory, Assessment and upgrading of FPP, Mainstreaming special needs of vulnerable groups into flood planning, integration of FPP with development plans at all levels.

*Regional Synthesis Report on HFA Implementation in Asia and Pacific - An Overview of Reports by Countries up to 2007*-The report is based on the national reports submitted by the countries to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) in Jan 2005 and the HFA Progress Report submitted during the First session of the Global Platform for DRR in June 2007. The report also includes DRR initiatives undertaken by regional actors. The report highlights findings under each of the five HFA Priorities for Action.

*Soft copies of the above publications are available on the ADPC website [www.adpc.net](http://www.adpc.net) and the hard copies can be made available on request.*

### **Website Resources**

Listed are online information products from Program for Hydro-Meteorological Disaster Mitigation in Secondary Cities in Asia (PROMISE):

- [Disaster Mitigation in Asia, No. 69](#)
- [New webpage for the Thailand Country Project under the Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network](#)
- Updated webpage and new online documents for the Asian Program for [Regional Capacity Enhancement for Landslide Impact Mitigation \(RECLAIM\)](#)

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