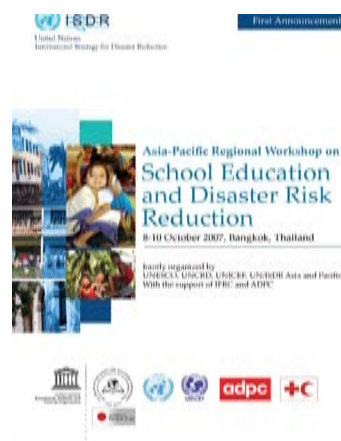


**ADPC celebrates International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR)
10 October 2007
Bangkok, Thailand**

ADPC celebrated the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) 2007 on 10 Oct at the United Nations Conference Center at Bangkok. It took place on the third and final day of a key **Regional workshop on School Education and Disaster Risk Reduction from 8-10 Oct 2007**.

ADPC welcomed the theme of this year's meeting and workshop, School Education and Disaster Risk Reduction; the culmination of the two years global campaign on school safety. ADPC has been an active member of the Educational Task Force (ETF) and remains committed to carry this cause further. Education and awareness raising continues to remain one of our key priority areas.



"Disaster reduction is everybody's business", said Ban Ki-Moon, United Nations Secretary-General, in his message on the IDNDR Day. Urging all concerned-governments, civil society, the private sector, international financial institutions and other international organizations-to do their part to raise awareness and reduce vulnerability to future hazards, Mr. Ban stressed that "we all have a moral, social and economic obligation to act now in building resilient communities and nations".

Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, Executive Director, a.i., ADPC in his opening statement at the ceremony, emphasized that "Today's children are tomorrow's policy makers" and 'children need to be aware, prepared and ready to take action'. Hence, raising awareness amongst children through schools and national education curricula is a key to building resilience amongst global populations and lowering vulnerability through a greater awareness of their hazards and the means to mitigate them.

Equally of importance is to build safer schools, with higher disaster resilient features as well as with special structural and non structural features where schools are required to act as emergency shelters in hazard prone areas.

For the last 15 years, working with partners, ADPC has been implementing various program related to the Education sector and its various themes of school curriculum as well as safe school construction.

Some of these examples date back to 1997 when in partnership with NSET and support from USAID/OFDA, ADPC implemented the School Earthquake Safety Programs in Katmandu Valley in Nepal. The key lessons learned from the program were the importance of local capacity, skill and technology, the fact that technology needs to be transferred and it is a must to transfer the ownership of the programs to the community from an early stage.

ADPC continues to develop partnership between various stakeholders involved in the education sector; government, NGOs, private sector and the communities. These lessons are still followed and being currently demonstrated under the ongoing School Flood Safety Program in Tien Gieng in Vietnam where a provincial partnership strategy has been formulated.

The importance of the integrating DRR in the Education Sector has also been prioritised by the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) under its programme on mainstreaming DRR into development. The RCC secretariat have been developing Guidelines and implementing Priority Implementation Partnerships (PIP) in various RCC member countries to take forward the agenda of mainstreaming DRR into Education sector.

The Education sector has been recognized by the **Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development Planning, Policy and Implementation Program (MDRD)** of the **ADPC's Regional Consultative Committee (RCC)** of Disaster Management members as one of the priority sectors to initiate implementation of mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction. **The key to this RCC Mainstreaming Disaster Risk MDRD program is to develop sustained partnerships between National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and the Ministry of Education.**

Also we need to keep in mind like any other sector, Education sector also does not function in isolation. It works closely with Department of Public works for building school, Department of Planning and Finance, Department of Health etc. So when we talk about mainstreaming DRR into Education Sector, we need to bring together all these actors under one umbrella.

The IDNDR Day celebration and the regional workshop on School Education and Disaster Risk Reduction highlighted and identified specific recommendations to carry the cause further.

To mark the IDNDR Day celebration, ADPC took part in the exhibition and distributed a consultation draft version of the RCC guidelines for integrating disaster risk reduction into Education.

Dr. Bhichit Rattakul with dignitaries at the IDNDR exhibition





At the ADPC display booth...



