

27 November 2008

**3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
2-4 December 2008**

At the Putra World Trade Centre – PWTC Putra World Trade Centre – PWTC
41, Jalan Tun Ismail
50481 Kuala Lumpur
MALAYSIA

3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction has been organised to review the implementation of the HFA in the Asia and Pacific countries. The underpinning theme of the conference is **'Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction; From National to Local'**, while the overarching goal would be to exchange the knowledge on practical ways of implementing disaster risk reduction efforts affectively at national and local levels. The objectives of the 3rd Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction would be:

- To review the action taken by the national governments and other stakeholders for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action as a follow up to the Beijing Action for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and Delhi Declaration;
- To ensure an effective follow-up to the decisions taken by the ISDR Asia Partnership, as the operative arms of the Ministerial Conferences, in particular in mapping out and reporting on the implementation of Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific;
- To take stock of initiatives taken in various sub-regions of Asia for promoting cooperation and building partnerships for disaster risk reduction among nations, both within and outside the governments, including private and public partnership;
- To share and exchange good practices and lessons learned on disaster risk reduction in various fields including application of science and technology, community based disaster preparedness, public-private partnership and enhance their replication within the region;
- To discuss the preparations towards key global processes for Disaster Risk Reduction such as the Global Platform and Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction as well as contribution to regional forums on disaster risk reduction;
- To develop a vision and roadmap to strengthen existing partnerships and forge new ones, and engage new stakeholders' investment in disaster risk reduction in Asia, such as the private sector, re-insurance companies etc;
- To facilitate a better recognition of community-based activities and local actions on disaster risk reduction by Governments and promote the mobilization of adequate policy and financial support at the national level to facilitate the effective implementation and replication within vulnerable communities.

As the regional DRR resource centre in the Asia and Pacific, ADPC is a key partner of the conference and would lead six events as given below;

1. High Level Round Table 03 (HLRT3): Empowering Local Governments and Community Organizations (CBOs) to Implement Community Based DRR
 2. Technical Segment 03 (TS3): Decentralized Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction; Involvement & Empowerment of Local Governments and Non-governmental Organizations for DRR in Asia
 3. Side Event A: Reducing Disaster Risk in Urban Areas
 4. Side Event E: Reducing Disaster Risk in Urban Areas
 5. Side Event F: Mainstreaming DRR into Development: Experiences and lessons learned from the RCC MDRD programme
 6. Side Event I: Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction agenda: Science, Institutions, and Policy
- For more information: www.adpc.net

Natural Hazard Update:

26 Nov: Storm leaves 32 dead in southern India

The death toll from heavy rains and winds hitting the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu this week rose to 32 on November 26, with officials reporting widespread flooding and power outages. The rains were caused by Tropical Cyclone Nisha, which formed Monday (November 24) in the Bay of Bengal near Sri Lanka and struck Tamil Nadu's central coastline late Wednesday local time, with winds up to 50 mph (80

kph), according to the Joint Typhoon Warning Center and the Indo-Asian News Service (IANS). The storm is expected to dissipate as it moves inland across southern India, but heavy rainfall and thunder storms will likely continue through Thursday (November 27), the Times of India reported. About 10,000 people were evacuated from coastal districts ahead of the storm, but officials said the number of deaths due to collapsed homes, electrocutions and drowning rose to 32 Wednesday from up to 20 the day before, according to IANS. At least 59,300 acres (24,000 hectares) of paddy crops are under water, leaving agricultural officials concerned about economic losses. Some areas lost power in the storm and officials cut power to four coastal districts to prevent electrocutions. At least 20 domestic and international flights have been delayed in Chennai, Tamil Nadu's capital, since Tuesday (November 25) because of flooding on the airport runway, according to Deutsche Presse-Agentur. Cyclone season in the Bay of Bengal typically runs from May through November. This year's most significant storm left 134,000 people dead or missing in Myanmar (Burma) in May. Nisha arrived as southern India and Sri Lanka are experiencing their northeastern monsoon season. South Asia's main monsoon season, which runs from June through September, left at least 2,700 people dead across India this year, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/StoryPage.aspx?sectionName=&id=13f273df-a43d-4ee3-8b78-dd8e7bc9dba9&&Headline=36+killed+as+heavy+rains+continue+in+TN>

<http://www.dawn.net/wps/wcm/connect/Dawn%20Content%20Library/dawn/news/world/tropical+storm+lashes+south+india%2C+killing+32>

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/ASAZ-7LRE3D?OpenDocument&RSS20=02-P>

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Chennai/12_killed_as_heavy_rains_lash_TN/articleshow/3757710.cms

25 Nov: Floods leave three dead in south-central Vietnam

The government of Vietnam reported that at least three people have been reported killed and six injured in flooding in south-central Binh Dinh province. The flooding was triggered by torrential rains over the last few days. According to local officials, more than 17,000 residents are in need of urgent relief. Additionally, more than 200 houses have been destroyed or damaged, 230 classrooms flooded, 11.2 miles (18 km) of embankments broken, and 58 bridges and drains damaged, the Vietnamese government reported. According to Vietnam's government, the national weather bureau has reported that many rivers are rising rapidly in the region between Thua Thien-Hue and Khanh Hoa provinces and in the Central Highlands region because of heavy rains over the past few days. The Serepok River in Quang Ngai province and the Ba River's lower section in Phu Yen province are among several to have risen to alarm levels II and III, the government reported. Floods swept away 25 bridges in the districts of Nam Tra My, Bac Tra My, Phuoc Son and Nong Son in the central province of Quang Nam. Additionally, more than 3,100 houses and 10 schools in Quang Nam have been flooded. About 700 residents in at least three districts have been evacuated to safer areas.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/PANA-7LQGV6?OpenDocument&rc=3&cc=vnm>

23 Nov: Floods affect more than 210,000 across southern Thailand

Heavy rains triggered flooding and landslides that affected more than 210,000 people across several provinces in southern Thailand over the weekend. The conditions are expected to persist for several days, according to meteorologists. The worst flooding was reported in Nakhon Si Thammarat, where 17 out of 23 districts had been declared emergency zones as of Sunday (November 23), according to Bangkok-based The Nation. Seven people drowned in the province over the weekend and a total of 159,700 residents were affected and more than 79,073 acres (200,000 rai) of farmland, shrimp farms and fish ponds were damaged, according to provincial Governor Panu Uthairat. The province has incurred more than US\$5.9 million (210 million baht) worth of damage. In neighboring Surat Thani province, one person drowned Saturday (November 22) as seven districts were declared disaster areas with water 20 to 28 inches (50 to 70 cm) deep in some low-lying areas, according to The Nation. In Surat Thani's Vibhavadi

district, mudslides leveled a village Monday (November 24), but caused only minor injuries. About 200 residents made it to safety, but 100 have been isolated by the mud and debris, according to The Nation. About 45,000 people have been affected by floods in the province, with 9.8-foot (three-meter) waves battering the eastern coastline. Authorities have also warned villagers in 22 districts of Satun, Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat to be on alert for mudslides in nearly 250 locations through at least Tuesday (November 25).

http://www.nationmultimedia.com/2008/11/23/national/national_30089115.php

http://www.nationmultimedia.com/2008/11/24/national/national_30089168.php

http://www.nationmultimedia.com/2008/11/25/national/national_30089293.php

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/SHIG-7LPE7M?OpenDocument>

18 Nov: Seven dead in northern Philippines flash floods

At least seven people have died and 136,000 have been displaced by severe flooding in two northern Philippine provinces, according to the National Disaster Preparedness Council (NDCC). Heavy rain brought in by a cold front began affecting the northeastern corner of Luzon island, causing flash floods in which five people have died in Cagayan province and two have died in neighboring Isabela, according to the Philippine National Red Cross and GMA Television. At least four people are missing. The Philippines' northern and eastern monsoon season typically runs from November through April and this weekend's incident marks the first major flooding of the season in the north. The Associated Press reported that about 200 farming villages have been inundated since Friday (November 21). Evacuation centers have been established in Ilagan, the main city in Isabela province, while Tuguegarao City, the main city in Cagayan, has been declared under a state of calamity, with nearly 30,000 people displaced by the constant rainfall, according to the Inquirer. The latest report issued by the NDCC on Sunday (November 23) said that at least 92,296 people have been displaced in Cagayan, along with 44,194 in Isabela. The government has dispatched rescue teams to both provinces and has established several evacuation centers, according to the NDCC. Most reports indicated that the heavy rainfall had been caused by the end of the cold front and sustained flooding is unlikely.

<http://www.gmanews.tv/story/135387/7-dead-4-missing-as-rains-batter-Cagayan-Isabela#>

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/inquirerheadlines/regions/view/20081124-174006/3-more-dead-in-Isabela-flooding>

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/MUMA-7LN9NS?OpenDocument>

22 Nov: Storm, rains leave 15 dead in Vietnam's central provinces

The death toll from a tropical storm and subsequent heavy rains have left 15 people dead, two others missing and eight injured, Vietnamese officials said. According to the Vietnamese government, the Central Steering Committee for Flood and Storm Control said the rains sank 115 boats, destroyed 47 houses and damaged or blew off the roofs of 226 other houses. According to the government, the most deaths occurred in Phu Yen province with seven killed, followed by Khanh Hoa province with three killed, while Binh Dinh province recorded two deaths and Lam Dong, Ninh Thuan and Quang Nam province each reported one death. Tropical Storm Noul, which made landfall in south-central Vietnam last week, flooded some 1,717 houses, 21,940 acres (8,879 hectares) of crops and 37 miles (60 km) of roads. According to the government, Phu Yen province has asked for US\$1.7 million and Binh Dinh has asked for US\$1 million in financial support. Noul had been forecast by Vietnamese officials to hit Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon), the country's most populous city, but it changed course and moved northwards, dumping rain in the south-central region. Northern and central Vietnam were hit by floods earlier this month, leaving at least 84 dead or missing and affecting some 600,000 others. The flooding also caused some US\$370.5 million in economic damages. Flooding was triggered by torrential rains from October 30 until November 4. Some 180,000 houses were destroyed, as well as more than 494,200 acres (200,000 hectares) of rice and vegetable fields.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/SHIG-7LPH4X?OpenDocument&rc=3&cc=vnm>

18 Nov: Thousands displaced after Indonesia's Sulawesi quake

Almost 10,000 people have been displaced from their homes following a powerful earthquake that rattled Indonesia's Sulawesi island, a health ministry official said. The strong 7.5 magnitude undersea earthquake struck early on Monday, killing at least six people and injuring more than 150. Indonesia's meteorology agency briefly issued a tsunami alert following the quake, but the warning was lifted later. Rustam Pakaya, head of the health ministry's crisis centre, said in a text message more than 1,000 buildings had been damaged in two provinces in Sulawesi, forcing nearly 10,000 people out of their homes to safe shelters. A bridge in Buol regency was also broken by the tremors, Pakaya said. Indonesia suffers frequent earthquakes as it lies in a seismically active "Pacific Ring of Fire".
<http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=2076>

Events:

International Study Visit to Viet Nam Preventing Typhoon damage to housing, 3rd - 9th May 2009

What is 'Preventing Typhoon Damage to Housing'? This DWF programme has worked over many years with families and local governments in Viet Nam to apply key principles of storm-resistant construction, both to existing and new homes, as well as to community buildings. Over 1,300 cyclone-resistant houses have been provided to date through the programme, with many other households choosing to use the construction techniques when rebuilding their homes. The building techniques are now being progressively adopted by local and provincial governments, as well as NGOs and agencies. bshf@bshf.org

Seminar on Climate Resilient Cities Program for Thailand: Next Steps Wednesday, 26 November 2008

The seminar focused on the new initiatives to address climate change, especially the 2008 Primer on Climate Resilient Cities (CRC), its outcomes, and how to develop next steps in collaboration with national counterparts (Government of Thailand relevant agencies regarding Climate Change) and gauge interest within Thai cities administrations to move forward and develop initial LRAPs (Local Resilience Action Plans).

Conference on community based disaster risk reduction and good practices Hotel park, Kolkata, India 26 – 28 November 2008 E-mail: gwcc2009@gmail.com

Exhibition to promote the products developed by the earthquake effected communities

IDEALS is the implementing partner of ERR/FAO in community livelihood rehabilitation plan (CLRP) in four earthquake effected union councils i.e. Nammal, Bakote, Berote and Palak, district Abbottabad. Presently 24 projects in 4 different sectors (Enterprise, Agriculture, Livestock and productive infrastructure) are in progress out of which 4 has been completed and few others are going to be completed by the end of December 2008. The completed project are as under;

S.#	Village	Project	Gender	No. of Trainees	Products Developed
1	Majuhan	Skill development in Shawl Weaving	Male	14	Ladies and Gent Shawls.

2	Nakhetar	Skill development in Bed Quilting, Bed Linen, Bridal Dresses	Female	72	Bed Quilts, Bed Sets, Sofa Cushions, Pillows and bridal dresses
3.	Khori Khetar	Skill development in Bed Quilting, Bed Linen, Bridal Dresses	Female	37	Bed Quilts, Bed Sets, Sofa Cushions, Pillows and bridal dresses
4.	Nammal	Skill development in Embroidery, Knitting and bed linen.	Female	57	Embroidered bed sets, Woolen bed sets and sweaters.
5.	Akhora	Skill Development in Fuel Efficient Stoves, Solar Technology and Daree Weaving.	Male and Female	22	Solar Stoves, Solar Concentrator, Solar Gyser and Fuel Efficient Stoves.

For sustainability of the newly developed village based micro enterprise units, it is necessary to promote their products so that they are able to continue purchasing raw material and developing more refined and marketable products with strong marketing linkages. In this regard, an exhibition to introduce and promote the products in Abbottabad from November 29 -December 5 2008 is arranged. The aim of the exhibition is to not only introduce their products but also to generate funds for sustainable livelihood of earthquake affected communities. Any NGO/DONOR Agency working for the livelihood sector in Earthquake affected area is welcomed to participate and introduce their products (if any). Website: www.idealsngo.org

News:

17 Nov: FEMA launches Children-in-Disasters Initiative with IAEM, Save the Children and American Red Cross

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is teaming up with the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), Save the Children Foundation and the American Red Cross to launch an initiative that will enable the emergency management community to better address the needs of children in disasters. "The initiative will involve concrete steps to focus attention on the needs of children in disasters and help the emergency management community address children's special needs in the emergency planning process," FEMA Administrator Paulison said. "Although this initiative is a work-in-progress, we're committed to a course of action that involves assessing and adjusting disaster response services for children."

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=46826>

Report: GreenCOM 1993-2006: From awareness to action - Sustainable solutions for a better environment

As explained in the introductory section of this report, in 1993 the Academy for Educational Development (AED) spearheaded an initiative centered around the conviction that people must actually participate fully in the planning process for new environmental initiatives and then be supported in their pursuit of solutions. By working together, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and AED - as well as government agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and hundreds of other entities - implemented projects in more than 30 countries on 3 continents. This report focuses on the impact that GreenCOM organisers contend they had in 5 of them: Tanzania, El Salvador, Egypt, Indonesia, and Panama. <http://www.comminit.com/en/node/270584/306>

18 Nov: Now Tsunami alert from Jakarta in 5 mts

With the setting up of an advanced high-speed Tsunami warning system in Indonesia, Nagapattinam, one of the worst-hit Tamil Nadu districts in the 2004 Tsunami, will receive alerts in five minutes after being sounded in Jakarta. The Jakarta warning centre set up at the cost of USD 195 million with German assistance appeared to have come just in time for the Nagapattinam district administration which was grappling with series of false SMS Tsunami alerts, causing panic among people. From now on Nagapattinam district can get alerts within five minutes from the early warning centre in the event of a tsunami, District Collector M Jayaraman told reporters at Nagapattinam near here. The district administration has trained the revenue, police, fire and rescue departments to act fast when any such warning is received from the warning centre, he said. People can be warned about the attack well in advance and evacuated to safety, Jayaraman said, adding "in case of emergencies, the district administration will issue an official warning".

<http://news.chennaionline.com:80/newsitem.aspx?NEWSID=e0c270e7-d83e-4f7a-af8d-40d5bc36ddcb&CATEGORYNAME=CHN>

20 Nov: Group on Earth Observations Heralds Free, Global Access to USGS Earth Imagery

In a breakthrough applauded today by the international Group on Earth Observations, scientists and decision-makers will soon have unrestricted global access at no charge to the USGS Landsat archive, the world's most extensive collection of continuously-acquired land imagery. By the end of this year, the full collection will, for the first time, be freely available online to users around the globe under a policy initiated by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne. Prof. José Achache, Director of the GEO Secretariat, said, "The basic story of land can best be told through the impartial eyes of Earth-observing satellites. The wide availability of images from Landsat and other Earth-observation satellites will be crucial for both developing and developed countries, especially as the world's increasing population deals with the effects of climate change and the limitations of water, petroleum and other vital resources."

<http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=2076>

Information resources:

Article: California roundtable calls for improved environmental information and technology to manage climate risk and opportunity

Sausalito, Calif.-Lt. Governor John Garamendi, acknowledging the unprecedented environmental and economic challenges posed by an accelerating climate and energy crisis, called for leaders from the public, private and academic sectors to come together to support an "aggressive and robust state economic development initiative to establish California as the leader in providing Earth and environment-related information products, services and technologies." "If we are to better manage our response to climate change and transition to a new, green economy, that management and decision-making must be based on the best environmental intelligence available," he added. Garamendi's remarks were made at a Nov. 13 roundtable meeting, held at Cavallo Point - the Lodge at the Golden Gate, focused on leveraging California's unique and unparalleled Earth observations, research, modeling and investment sectors. Alliance for Earth Observations <http://alliance.strategies.org>

Article: The top five Do's and Don'ts of Emergency Communications Systems

Emergency managers face a wide range of situations, from man-made emergencies to natural disasters. But through it all, federal, state and local agencies must work together – and they need an effective way to communicate. But a new article says many agencies keep making the same mistakes over and over again. In an article on the Tech World News website, Bill Grubner Jr. outlines the five most common

mistakes agencies make in emergency communications, along with five best practices. "It is important to leverage technology for both inbound and outbound citizen and constituent communication, to improve the performance of the entire emergency communication system and free up resources where they can be used most effectively," he writes. <http://disaster-resource.com/newsletter/subpages/v262/newsclip2.htm>

Chinese companies on climate change: I attended the launch of China's first carbon disclosure project (CDP) report several weeks ago in Beijing. The report was drafted by SynTao, a local Chinese CSR consultancy, and based on surveys of 100 listed Chinese companies. Surprisingly, only five companies responded positively and filled out the questionnaire completely. 20 companies provided some relevant information, but the rest seemed reluctant to take part in the CDP project. http://www.csr-asia.com/weekly_detail.php?id=11550

Study: Government warns of "Catastrophic" US Quake

A new study has found that people living in the New Madrid Seismic Zone of the southern and Midwestern US could face catastrophic damage if a major earthquake were to strike. Reuters' Carey Gillam says the report by the Federal Emergency Management Agency found that if earthquakes strike in the New Madrid fault, they would cause "the highest economic losses due to a natural disaster in the United States." According to Gillam, FEMA predicted a large earthquake would cause "widespread and catastrophic physical damage" across Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee. Approximately 44 million people live in the area.

<http://disaster-resource.com/newsletter/subpages/v262/newsclip7.htm>

For archived DRM updates:

ADPC Website:

<http://www.adpc.net/v2007/IKM/EVENTS%20AND%20NEWS/DISASTER/2008/DISASTER-NEWS-2008.asp>

Roopa Rakshit
Communication & Information Manager
Information Knowledge Management (IKM)/
Office of the Executive Director (OED)
Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
979/69, 24th Floor, SM Tower, Paholyothin Road
Samsen Nai, Phayathai, Bangkok, 10400
Tel: (02) 2980681-92 ext 141
Fax: (02)2980012-13
Mobile: 086 01 76246
E-mail: roopa@adpc.net
Website: www.adpc.net