

Building Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia: A Way Forward ADPC Looks Ahead To 2015



Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

Bangkok, Thailand

www.adpc.net



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December, 2004

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Message from the Executive Director



It is with great pleasure that, on the occasion of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) in Kobe, Japan, I present this report which reviews the strategies adopted by ADPC to address the thematic areas of disaster risk management, the issues encountered and lessons learnt, and its future priorities.

The past decade, since the Yokohama Conference and the Kobe Earthquake, have seen an exponential increase in the incidence and impact of disasters. In Asia, people and sustainable development continue to be threatened and impeded by the negative impacts of disasters, which destroy infrastructure and livelihoods, endanger physical and food security, hinder social and economic progress, and reverse cumulative gains in reducing poverty. Natural disasters result in deforestation, loss of biodiversity and historic cultural assets, reduced water supply and desertification, which contribute significantly to environmental degradation. History has shown that the Asia-Pacific region is the most disaster prone area in the world. Witness in 2004, the floods in Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia and The Philippines, the cyclones in Japan and Vietnam, the earthquakes in Indonesia, Iran and Japan and the catastrophic tsunami that struck countries in the Indian Ocean. The extremely high urban population density, the level of development and the extent of poverty in most Asian countries further exacerbate the cumulative impact of disasters on sustainable development.

Since its establishment nearly two decades ago, ADPC has played a key role in advancing developments in disaster risk management by structuring itself to focus on specific technical areas - climate risk management, disaster management systems, public health in emergencies, strategic disaster risk management and urban disaster risk management - which optimizes ADPC's accumulated operational expertise and experience. Projects and programs include community-based disaster risk management, building national and provincial disaster management systems, promoting regional cooperation, identifying disaster risk management needs and developing strategic solutions, and multi-level institutional capacity building and training. These activities are meant to address current and future disaster risk management challenges and issues.

In the coming years, ADPC will continue to develop effective operational partnerships and collaborations with stakeholders in disaster risk management and systematically advocate and support mainstreaming disaster risk management into sustainable development policies, plans and practices throughout the Asia-Pacific region. In acknowledging the encouragement and support received from international development agencies and partners, and the dedicated efforts of a hard-working and professional ADPC staff, I fervently re-affirm ADPC's commitment to pursuing its vision of building safer communities and sustainable development through disaster reduction.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Suvit Yodmani'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'S' and 'Y'.

Dr Suvit Yodmani
Executive Director

December 2004

The Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center was established nearly two decades ago by Col Brian Ward, as a result of a joint feasibility study on the needs of Asian countries in strengthening their national disaster management systems. The study was commissioned by the United Nations Disaster Relief Organization (UNDRO), now the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) with funding support from UNDP. Training was identified as “the greatest need of all” for the region. Since then, ADPC has come a long way in meeting the needs and challenges of the region through capacity building, project implementation, facilitating regional cooperation, information sharing and networking. Although ADPC is not the only disaster management organization in Asia today, it has emerged as the leading regional resource center and is one of the longest serving regional resource centers in the world for disaster risk management. ADPC has a team of over 50 professionals from 16 countries covering Asia, Australia, the United States and Europe.

ADPC restructured in July 2003 to focus on specific technical areas: climate variability and change management, urban disaster risk management, public health in emergencies, building national and provincial disaster management systems, and community based disaster risk management, promoting regional cooperation, identifying disaster risk management needs in the region and developing strategic solutions. The consolidation enables our teams to work more effectively with stakeholders.

ADPC continues to work on crosscutting themes such as institutional capacity building and training, information sharing, networking and knowledge management and providing technical advice. Common tools including risk assessment, mapping and community-based approaches are employed. ADPC continues to address multiple hazards under this new thematic approach and has identified new areas of importance to disaster risk management that include chemical, biological and radio-nuclear risks, conservation of culture and heritage, and the role of domestic capital markets in financing improvements in the built environment to create a safer, more disaster-resilient world.



Aims of the Paper

2015 is the target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals which coincides with the silver jubilee of the start of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and the end of the Kobe Plan of Action. This paper outlines ADPC's activities that support and advance the efforts of these international programs and challenges and its intent to lead in mainstreaming disaster risk management concepts and practices into development processes. ADPC's Look Ahead Towards 2015 will also provide an overview of how ADPC is responding to evolving issues in disaster risk management and focusing on key themes including urban, health, community and climate.

The paper will show how ADPC will continue to emphasize the priority areas of informing and involving communities, support the application of expertise and investment to improve the built environment and the development of institutions which will promote, guide and implement DRM. ADPC will also present its intent to address emerging risk issues including chemical, biological and radio-nuclear risks and conservation of historic areas through domestic capital markets in financing the improvements in the built environment.

ADPC places importance on building capacities and raising awareness amongst stakeholders including all levels of government, private sector entities, donors and communities. This paper explains how ADPC is applying these new skills to make real changes in institutional capacity and the built environment through stakeholder skills development and action. Private entities, public institutions and community groups trained to create a more resilient built environment will be our key achievement.

ADPC Focus

ADPC Disaster Risk Management Timeline

In the 1970s, disasters were viewed as one-off events. Governments and relief agencies usually responded without taking into account the social and economic implications nor the causes. With advancements in our understanding of the processes that underlie hazardous events, a more technocratic paradigm came into existence. This paradigm was based on a belief that the only way to deal with disasters was through the application of public policy and geophysical and engineering knowledge. There was an emphasis on preparedness measures, as well as stockpiling relief goods, preparedness plans and a growing role for humanitarian and relief agencies.

This contingency planning approach improved the efficiency of relief agencies and resulted in a significant drop in the number of deaths, but it left a lot to be desired in terms of appropriate and effective long-term rehabilitation, reconstruction and sustainable development. As the knowledge base grew, disaster response and risk managers began to realize that it was not enough to manage disaster events alone but that the underlying risks needed to be addressed as well. By reducing vulnerability to hazards, building capacity and improving people's 'resilience', disaster risks could be reduced.

ADPC Contributions to International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) and International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN ISDR)

In the late 1980s, ADPC lent a regional voice to the global advocacy of the scientific community for a decade for disaster reduction. ADPC was involved as a key regional partner throughout IDNDR, especially after Yokohama. Milestones include the collaboration between the IDNDR Radius Project and our Asian Urban Disaster Mitigation Program; co-organizing with UNESCAP and the IDNDR Secretariat the February 1999 Asia meeting in Bangkok, the Bangkok Declaration, and the release of the ADPC-IDNDR publication “Managing Disasters in Asia and the Pacific: A Review of Lessons Learned During the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction” at the Geneva Forum in July 1999. At the closing of IDNDR, ADPC was invited to be a member of the 22 member UN Inter-Agency Force on Disaster Reduction. ADPC founded the ISDR Asia Partnership.

The terms “risk management,” “risk reduction,” “vulnerability reduction,” “capacity building” and “mitigation” began replacing the term “disaster management,” thus making pro-active disaster risk management in Asia part of the development agenda that must deal with the growing variety and intensity of hazards. It was a shift from short-term, reactive, charity-driven responses to long-term, proactive, developmental initiatives.

From its inception in 1986, ADPC has recognized the importance of learning from grassroots organizations and focusing on communities as key stakeholders. **Community-Based Disaster Risk Management** (CBDRM) has assumed the importance it deserves and ADPC will continue to advocate for a dual-track approach of bottom-up and top-down policy and practice.

ADPC was an early advocate of **Urban Disaster Risk Management** (UDRM). An understanding of sustainable development issues led ADPC to conclude that urbanization is a phenomenon not to be denied. With USAID/Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) support over the past decade, ADPC launched an on-going program to address urban disaster risk management in Asia.

ADPC identified **Climate Variability and Change** as a disaster risk management issue almost a decade ago. As science improved our ability to predict extreme events and devise more reliable early warning systems, the need for links between disaster risk managers, NGOs, vulnerable communities and the scientific community became an agenda item for ADPC action. ADPC sits on the cutting edge of these initiatives to engage the scientific community first on floods, and now to include cloudbursts, tsunami and landslides for useful early warning information in disaster mitigation initiatives and sustainable agricultural policy, planning and implementation.

Requirements for **Public Health in Emergencies** have focused international agencies on the effects of disaster response and preparedness that had been lost in a growing array of issues. The World Health Organization has engaged with ADPC to create structural and non-structural scenarios to address mass casualty events through ‘resilient facilities’ and staff trained in psycho-social issues of responders and medical and trauma victims. WHO, with ADPC support, has identified the need to deliver this training and the first WHO/ADPC/UNDP Disasters and Development event has been successfully initiated.

Partnerships

Partnerships are a key element for sustaining institutions and activities. ADPC recognized from the start the need for working with partners to increase opportunities for training and technical assistance. Partnerships are a potent tool in decision-making on institutional roles and responsibilities in disaster situations. Knowing the partners, their resources, strengths and weaknesses helps to ensure that key issues, skills and requirements are not omitted. Assistance to ADPC has been generously provided by Australian AID (AusAID), USAID and its Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), United Nations agencies, especially WHO, UNDP, UNICEF, ESCAP, FAO, WMO, ISDR, the European Union (DIPECHO) and bi-lateral organizations such as DANIDA, GTZ, NORAD, and SIDA. The World Bank, on whose PROVENTION Steering Committee ADPC sits, and the Asian Development Bank have been active partners of ADPC.

Promoting Regional Cooperation

An essential element for disaster reduction and safer living environments is building networks between key partners. With an established network of people from all sectors a common vision of disaster reduction and sustainable development can be achieved. Past experience has proven such partnerships to be an effective mechanism for promoting awareness, developing and implementing strategies, policies and plans, joint-programs and initiatives in disaster reduction.

ADPC has enjoyed a long-standing relationship with National Disaster Management Offices in Asia. In 2000, ADPC established a mechanism to identify the disaster-related needs and priorities of Asian countries, to develop action strategies and to promote cooperative programs on a regional and sub-regional basis through the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC). The RCC is made up of 30 members who work in senior government positions and are heads of the National Disaster Management Offices in 25 countries in Asia. To date, four RCC meetings have been held. These meetings have been instrumental in providing an increasingly visible platform for disaster risk management and demonstrate the support and commitment of political leaders of member countries as was evident in the inauguration of the 3rd and 4th RCC meetings by the Deputy Prime Minister of India and the President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Delhi, October 2002 and in Dhaka, March, 2004.

ADPC has been actively involved in providing technical support to a number of existing regional and sub-regional bodies including ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN) on transboundary, pollution and environmental disasters, the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) on the development of the ASEAN Regional Program on Disaster Management (ARPD), the Mekong River Commission on the implementation of their Flood Management and Mitigation Program (FMMP), as well as close collaboration with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in Nepal, the South Pacific Applied Geosciences Commission (SOPAC), and Emergency Management Australia (EMA). ADPC will continue to be proactive in its support to strengthen, enhance and sustain these partnerships.

Regional Consultative Committee

As a key mechanism to systematically encourage and facilitate regional cooperation in disaster reduction, the Regional Consultative Committee for disaster management (RCC) was conceived in mid-1999. Supported by the Government of Australia since 2000, the RCC provides an annual forum for member governments to share information on national, sub-national and regional priorities and needs, as well as lessons learnt and best practices.

The RCC is comprised of heads of National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs); to date representing 25 countries in Asia. Annual meetings are convened by ADPC and co-organised by Government of a host country which have been held in 2000 and 2001 in Thailand, 2002 in India and 2004 in Bangladesh. The 5th RCC meeting will be held in Vietnam in May 2005. The inauguration of the 3rd and 4th RCC meetings by the Deputy Prime Minister of India and the President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh demonstrate the commitment of political leaders of member countries to disaster risk management.

An RCC Program on Advocacy and Capacity Building for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management in Development Practice (MDRM) in member countries, supported by AusAID, was launched in March 2004.

Lessons Learned

ADPC's experience in disaster management and disaster risk reduction has resulted in a number of important lessons learned:

- A common understanding of terminology is essential for progress in disaster risk management (DRM).
- Top-down and bottom-up DRM strategies should be implemented simultaneously.
- Simulation tools and demonstration projects illustrate the translation of theory to practice, offer important insights and should be used more extensively to develop and update DRM systems and arrangements.
- The process of evaluation and review and the subsequent process of adjustment and improvement are integral to the implementation of DRM strategies.
- The links between DRM and governance, poverty, education, livelihoods and health must be better recognized and addressed in training and capacity building.
- Investment in mitigation is an essential component of sustainable development.
- The role of local government is critical to safer, more resilient built environments.
- Technical expertise needs to incorporate disaster risk mitigation in professional training.
- The role of the community must continue to evolve from that of victim and beneficiary to partner in program design and implementation.

Priority Activities

Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management into Development Policy, Planning, and Implementation

Asia suffers more disasters than any other region of the world and disasters set back years of development gains. Conversely, development activities can reduce disaster risks or induce new risks if disaster risk considerations do not figure into project design. Development activity and disaster risk reduction are two sides of the same coin and have to be dealt with in unison. It is still necessary to convince entities and individuals to consider their activities in the light of “risks.” In short, create a “culture of risk awareness.”

Mainstreaming disaster risk management into development practice requires all institutions at all levels and from all sectors to clarify their roles and responsibilities. Mainstreaming should result in better anticipation of short- and long-term impacts and help people prepare for events that require trained personnel and safe, resilient ‘lifeline infrastructure’ for disaster victims. Mainstreaming promotes the preparation and application of information, assessments, guidelines and awareness of disaster risk. Government, financial, national and local implementing agencies must factor into their programs the measures needed to reduce disaster risks. Are critical facilities located on land that is landslide prone? Resources to run these systems, especially investment capital, will need to come from domestic capital markets and national finance systems.

Recently, ADPC embarked on a project for Advocacy and Capacity Building for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management in Development Practice. The project is a direct outcome of the 4th Annual Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) meeting held in Dhaka, Bangladesh. With core funding from AusAID, the project seeks to promote and encourage the mainstreaming of disaster risk management (MDRM) into sustainable development policies and practices throughout Asia.

ADPC hopes to create a critical mass of advocates and champions for MDRM, a greater willingness to include MDRM in regional and national development agendas and the widespread adoption of MDRM training and curricula materials.

Community-based Approaches to Disaster Risk Management

Community-based Disaster Management (CBDM) emerged as an alternative during the 1980s and 1990s. Over the last two decades it has become apparent that top-down approaches fail to address the needs of vulnerable communities, often ignoring local capacities and resources. A top-down approach can increase vulnerability and undermine project improvements in quality of life, security and resilience. The CBDM approach (now CBDRM) emphasizes the active involvement of communities in all phases of disaster risk management. The aim is to reduce vulnerabilities and to increase the capacities of vulnerable groups to prevent or minimize loss and damage to life, property, livelihoods and the environment, and to minimize human suffering and hasten recovery.

The ADPC approach to Community-based Disaster Risk Management concentrates on: (1) capacity building through training, (2) sharing experiences amongst practitioners and decision-makers, especially regional exchanges or South-South learning, and (3) initiating links among national and local government departments, NGOs and communities through local, national and regional platforms and associations.

In 1997, ADPC in collaboration with the Duryog Nivaran, a network of disaster mitigation NGOs in South Asia, initiated the first international course on CBDRM. Today CBDRM training has become one of the flagship courses offered by ADPC. So far, twelve international CBDRM courses and several national courses have been organized. Training in CBDRM has been effective in promoting the importance of community involvement and has become a national priority in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Lao PDR, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. ADPC partner organizations offer the course at the national level in these countries on a regular basis and ADPC continues to play a support role in quality control and updating course material.

ADPC employs CBDRM across its thematic areas. The Urban Disaster Risk Management (UDRM) team is implementing CBDRM successfully in Nepal, Cambodia and the Philippines. These activities have resulted in a greater participation of urban communities in developing action plans, improving standards of living and creating a more resilient built environment. Between 2001-2004, ADPC implemented a regional program, Partnerships for Disaster Reduction for Southeast Asia (PDRSEA) in six countries. The project was implemented with core funding from ECHO under the Second and Third DIPECHO Action Plans for Southeast Asia. The emphasis of the PDRSEA project focuses on developing new tools and methodologies, capacity building and training to integrate community-based disaster risk management into national disaster risk management programs and supporting initiatives by community groups to address the risks they face. An important product of PDRSEA2 was the first edition of the CBDRM Field Practitioners' Handbook.

In May 2004 under the PDRSEA2 Project and in collaboration with UNESCAP and the International Federation of Red Crosses (IFRC), ADPC held the Third Disaster Management Practitioners' Workshop. The four-day workshop provided opportunities for practitioners to discuss how CBDRM is presently being practiced in the region and how it can be integrated into government policies, planning and program budgets.



The workshop concluded with consensus that:

- A bottom-up approach (CBDRM) is an essential part of Disaster Risk Management.
- CBDRM works best when there is a high level of coordination and cooperation amongst stakeholders.
- CBDRM works best when it addresses both structural and non-structural program planning and implementation.
- CBDRM is multi-faceted and thus cross-sectoral in scope.
- CBDRM is most effective when it is adapted to match the social, political and cultural environment of a community.
- There is a need to maintain efforts to enhance inclusiveness, decentralization and empowerment.
- There is a need for continued innovation through review of the form and content of training materials and activities.

ADPC maintains CBDRM as a priority for the Asian region. Next steps for ADPC are to institutionalize CBDRM and organize national and regional forums with government officials, NGOs and community representatives. A PDRSEA follow-on program supported by the EU will extend the reach of CBDRM to Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Lao PDR and Vietnam and ADPC will work towards similar initiatives in other sub-regions of Asia.

Institutionalizing CBDRM in Government Policy, Planning and Budgets

Institutionalizing CBDRM is a multi-sector, multi-level and participatory process based on agreed values leading to permanence, regularization, and sustainability through integration into the socio-economic development processes.

From the perspective of community groups and organizations, 'institutionalization' is a state in which their role is recognized by the government, their efforts are supported and the roles and functions of various stakeholders are defined.

In different organizational and cultural contexts the process is referred to by different names. These include: institutionalize, mainstream, scale-up, normalize, legitimize, integrate, adopt, replicate or sustain.

Institutionalization of CBDRM is required to:

- Achieve the vision of disaster-resilient communities.
- Scale-up the impact (more people, more communities, more risks addressed).
- Enhance learning (more stakeholders, more cases, more lessons).
- Sustain the gains (more structural, more permanent improvements).
- Recognize that strategic success lies in the hands of people in communities.
- Position CBDRM as a viable approach to sustainable development.
- Mobilize partner resources for disaster risk management.

Disaster Risk Communication

Disaster Risk Communication (DRC) helps ensure that at-risk communities become more aware of the threats they face and the protective actions they can take.

ADPC is partnering with organizations to develop a variety of risk communication tools in local languages. These programs emphasize the variety of formats that awareness campaigns can take and help partners prepare and implement programs. ADPC's Urban DRM team has trained partner institutions to implement disaster risk communication campaigns in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Thailand, Lao PDR and Indonesia.

In Nepal, an Earthquake Safety Day has been established. Every year programs and activities are organized around the theme of earthquake safety to promote greater awareness of earthquake risk. In Bangladesh, parades, dramas and campaigns are organized annually to remind people of the dangers they face and of the safety measures that can be taken to minimize risk. In Sri Lanka, there have been several public awareness efforts carried out as part of an overall DRM program. One example is a soap opera on landslide hazard that was televised nation-wide. Through Asian Development Bank-funded Technical Assistance Projects in the two Indian states of Uttar Anchal and Uttar Pradesh, similar campaigns were conducted to raise public awareness of earthquakes and floods.

From 2001 to 2003, ADPC implemented a program called the Disaster Reduction Program for Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam (DRP-CLV), with core funding from DANIDA. The eighteen-month project focused on capacity building, pilot implementation and program development. Disaster risk communication and public awareness activities supported behavioral change in institutions and communities, and ADPC tested an innovative approach to social marketing for disaster mitigation. This involved identifying target groups, assessing their levels of needs and understanding and tailoring programs that prepared and tested communication products and messages with the identified stakeholder community. The participatory approach proved to be very successful. Tools developed included posters, leaflets, educational material for primary school children, songs and street-plays.

Disaster risk communication continues to be a key area of focus for ADPC. It will remain a priority activity in disaster risk reduction as there will be a constant need to educate officials that rotate in and out of critical decision making positions and community leadership of the different threats they will be facing. There will be newer threats and the people at large will need to be alerted, warned and educated about them. ADPC will engage with the mass media in Asia to encourage it to report on disaster prevention, mitigation and response constructively and pro-actively.

Investing in Mitigation

Applying disaster risk management tools and technologies to the built environment has been a neglected aspect of disaster risk management, yet it is the key link to sustainable development. Capital investment projects need to incorporate disaster mitigation technologies and construction

methods for community facilities, infrastructure and shelter construction and retrofit programs. Capital investment in the built environment needs to be added to the disaster risk management agenda. Shelter and community service construction and retrofit programs can safeguard lives, support conservation of the natural and built environment - including historic urban areas and community structures - and contribute to local economic development.

These programs can be financed domestically. It is neither necessary nor desirable to have mitigation projects funded by donors alone. Rather, it is important to mainstream the concepts of mitigation improvement into the existing lending activities of national and community-based financial institutions. Existing mortgage lending and home improvement credit can be expanded to include mitigation technologies for new construction and existing structures. Improvements can be based on the well-researched construction guidelines and methods documented in how-to manuals and handbooks, construction worker training in the application of improved construction techniques becomes useful when combined with the financing to carry out the recommended changes. The estimated five to seven per cent increase in construction costs is an investment in security and much less than the replacement cost of structures damaged and destroyed by disasters.

Municipal finance programs in Asia have generally been limited to water supply and sewerage projects and solid waste collection and disposal. This definition of infrastructure needs to be expanded to include 'mitigation furniture' (raised walkways, dikes, flood control devices). Urban infrastructure also includes community facilities that require upgrading to make them safer, more disaster-resilient structures.

The domestic bond market can supply the funds for infrastructure development agencies, thrift societies and housing finance companies. What is needed is a capital investment program based on affordability criteria to create commercially viable programs that offer affordable improvement packages to low-income families. Such programs would include raising awareness of the cultural value of historic urban areas and the technical inputs needed for more resilient design and technologies as well as trained labor, appropriate materials and capital.

Good Governance for Disaster Risk Management

Successful disaster reduction initiatives need political will and effective governance. Because governments play such an important role, ADPC engages with disaster management authorities at the national, provincial and district levels to help them strengthen capacities to develop and enforce disaster mitigation policies, regulations, operations and action plans and building codes. Successful instances of support provided to key government agencies include:

- ADPC-UNDP Technical Support Projects in Cambodia and Sri Lanka helped build up an integrated institutional framework for disaster management.
- The development and delivery of a series of training courses to the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) of East Timor and various organizations engaged in disaster management work in East Timor.
- In Thailand, the Royal Thai Government established the Department of Disaster Mitigation and Prevention, whose core personnel participated in ADPC's DMC and CBDRM training courses.



- In Cambodia and India, implementation of hazard-specific capacity building activities for flood risk management.
- Pre-disaster preparedness and mitigation orientation for the new Ministry and Disaster Management and Mitigation Center in Uttar Anchal in India - the first in the country.
- A Commissionerate of Disaster Management in Uttar Pradesh plus the development of district level disaster management plans with a multi-hazard focus.
- In Sri Lanka a National Act was passed to establish a national physical planning department with its own disaster mitigation unit to help integrate disaster mitigation into the national land use planning policy (as a direct result of the Asian Urban Disaster Management Program).
- The Royal Government of Nepal established a national day to observe the importance of earthquake mitigation and a national committee to organize the event.
- In Indonesia, the government agreed to include urban disaster mitigation in its national development policy.
- In Sri Lanka, the government is considering an ADPC-AUDMP study as the basis for policy and institutional change.
- In Lao PDR a new fire code is being drafted based on the experience gained from the AUDMP demonstration project.
- Naga City, Philippines developed a disaster mitigation implementation plan for the city that is still being implemented.
- Ward 34 of the Municipality of Kathmandu, Nepal developed an earthquake preparedness plan.
- The city of Bandung, Indonesia is implementing a flood and earthquake mitigation plan.
- Flood mitigation plans have been developed and implemented for the Bangladesh municipalities of Gaibandha and Tongi.
- Nawalapitiya and Ratnapura in Sri Lanka are implementing multi-hazard mitigation plans.

ADPC is now developing partnerships with Afghanistan and China to advise and assist their governments in promoting mitigation and disaster reduction.

Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Management

ADPC supports disaster-related management activities within an overall decision-making framework, which we call disaster risk management. An overall decision-making framework for DRM should be based on a clear national policy on risk management and it should achieve results through interlocking, accountable coordinating committees and implementing agencies at national, intermediate and local levels.

A number of actions are needed to establish such a framework, including concept development, advocacy, capacity building, independent monitoring and evaluation, strategic planning and change management, and increasingly, capital improvement project development that channels investment funds into making the built environment more resilient. ADPC recognizes the critical role of training in achieving this. Training as a capacity building tool has been a core activity of ADPC since its inception and capacity building initiatives are part of most ADPC projects and programs.

An update of ADPC courses is underway to include the latest information, methods and experiences and is available at www.adpc.net. Courses include:

- disaster risk management
- disaster risk communication
- community-based disaster risk management
- urban disaster mitigation (UDM)
- hazard-specific courses on flood disaster risk management, earthquake vulnerability risk reduction, fire disaster risk management and flood preparedness planning
- tailored country-based training courses
- public health and disasters
- disasters and development

Initiatives are under way to further the development of disaster risk management structures, including the introduction of new courses on:

- skills for effective training and training-of-trainers
- exercise and simulation management
- management of health risks arising from deliberate use of chemical, biological and radio-nuclear materials (in partnership with WHO)
- coordination center management
- crisis and consequence management
- land-use management
- Information Technology applications in disaster management

To achieve effective results from training, ADPC links training to action programs. ADPC then follows-up through the network of course participants to inquire into the changes that may have occurred by applying skills gained during the training experience. Training efforts are directed towards program outcomes identified to increase capacity of an agency or system in analysis, monitoring and evaluation; gain new insights into causes of disasters and increasingly, the links across sectors. The role of exercises and simulations is similarly important, as these tools can be uniquely effective in achieving significant change in behavior and encouraging development of appropriate disaster risk management structures and arrangements.

Managing Public Health Risks

The relationship between public health issues and emergency management has continued to gain considerable attention. Public health is a prime human development indicator. With increased awareness of linkages between disasters, development and poverty reduction, public health issues have emerged as a key focus area for disaster managers and development workers alike. The relationship between health and the built environment, land management, climate and urbanization are now being incorporated into health discourses that were once dominated solely by purely medical issues.

With recent political developments and rising concerns about terrorism and human-made disasters, attention has shifted to preparing health-related agencies for crises and agency coordination in emergencies. There is a growing need to improve rapid response capacity to emergencies, which can only be achieved through well-organized, well-trained and coordinated emergency workers. This may involve communities as first responders. There is also an urgency to build capacities of public health professionals to deal with large-scale public health consequences in times of disasters, emergencies and conflict situations. To prepare a cadre of professionals, who can respond to emergencies, it is necessary to build capacities of health workers, volunteers and responders and the management skills to develop and maintain facilities to which disaster victims would be sent. Training is seen as a tool to bring awareness and skills to emergency workers, disaster planners and medical personnel.

Most courses offered by other institutions focus on 'response', and training individuals from UN agencies and international NGOs involved in charity and humanitarian assistance, or deal with issues related to the care of refugees in complex emergency situations. These courses put less emphasis on mass casualty management in the context of emergencies and public health issues like SARS and HIV/AIDS or on the linkage with development issues.

To address this gap, ADPC has developed expertise in health and medical aspects of response as well as prevention and mitigation of crises. ADPC training courses on health emergencies are being presented in collaboration with UN agencies such as WHO and UNDP and donor agencies such as the Royal Government of Norway, JICA, Ministries of Health, public health colleges in universities, and international NGOs. New programs and projects are being developed and are attracting an audience outside in South Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean among others. ADPC training includes:

- Public Health and Emergency Management in Asia & the Pacific (PHEMAP) delivered in collaboration with the Regional Offices of WHO for South East Asia (SEARO) and the Western Pacific (WPRO). This is a comprehensive training program designed for Ministries of Health as the institutions responsible for providing a comprehensive and coherent health response to an emergency. PHEMAP courses can be adapted to all levels of a Ministry and cover the problems that Ministries actually face in natural disasters and mass casualty situations. The 5th regional course is in the offing. In conjunction with the regional courses conducted in Bangkok, national courses are being organized and implemented at the country level in Papua New Guinea, Vietnam and The Philippines.
- Public Health in Complex Emergencies (PHCE) is organized in collaboration with the Mailman School of Public Health of Columbia University, World Education Inc. (WEI) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC). The training program in Asia addresses the unique public health needs of refugees and internally displaced persons. Areas covered are critical public health issues faced by governments and NGO/PVO personnel working in complex emergencies. Topics include epidemiology, communicable diseases, environmental health, nutrition, reproductive health, weapons, violence and trauma, protection and security, psychosocial issues and coordination.

- Hospital Emergency Preparedness & Response Course (HEPR) is designed to assist health service providers, both administrative and medical, to plan responses to emergencies that involve large numbers of casualties.
- Disasters and Development (D&D) has recently been launched jointly by ADPC, the Southeast Asia Regional Office (SEARO) of WHO, and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The course promotes a more effective public health risk/emergency management approach as a contribution to sustainable development in a comprehensive and integrated manner.

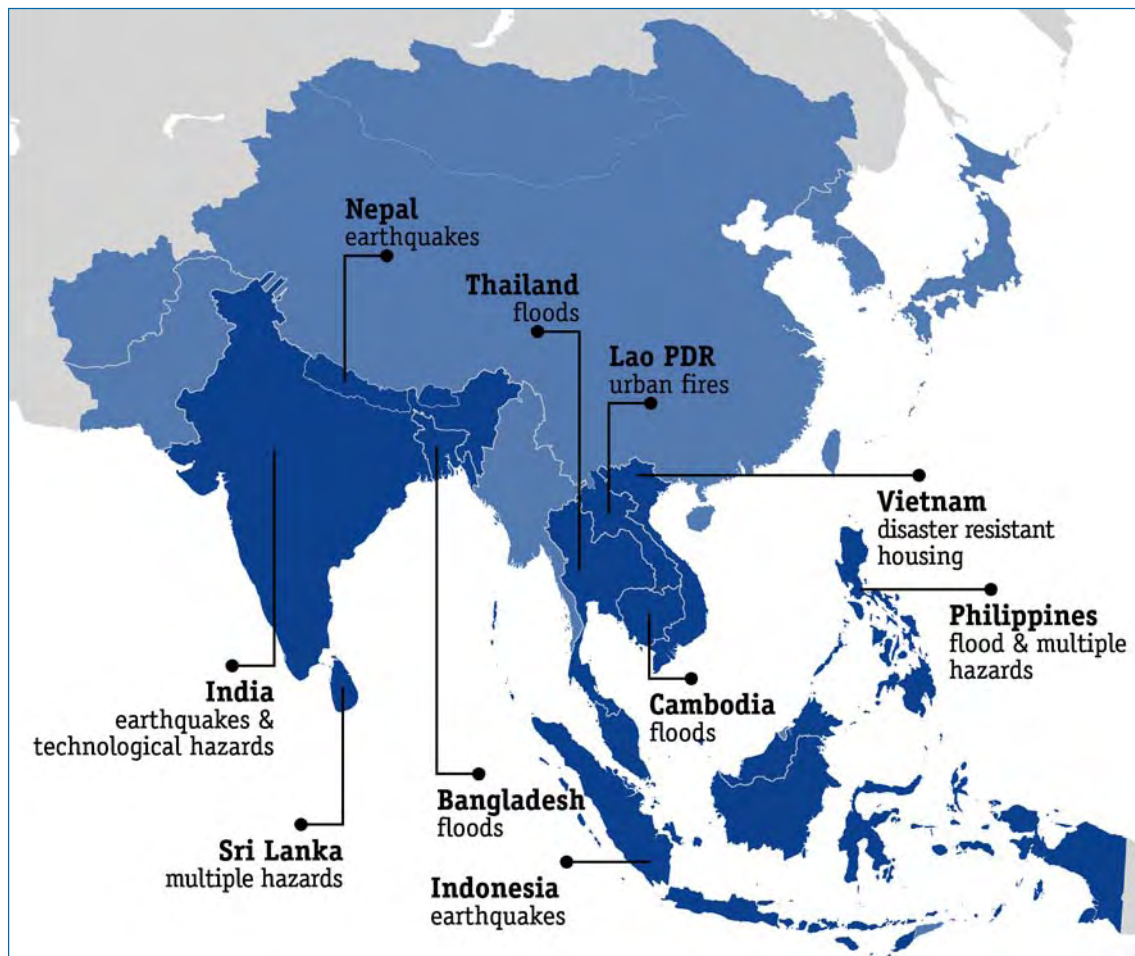
ADPC is also addressing a critical issue gaining widespread concern and attention - public safety and security. Public safety, like public health, is a fundamental need. Only in a safe physical and social environment will people prosper. A safe environment includes safe air, soil, food, water, public transport, appliances, practices, protection from violence and prevention of accidents. Safety is also a collective psychology – public perception of “being safe” is an important element of individual and communal well-being. A high level of public awareness is needed, maintained by informed debate and public education.

The whole concept of public health is being revisited but programs cannot be developed or implemented as stand-alone activities or undertaken by any single agency. Therefore, there is a call for integration of health sector concerns with other sectors in a participatory manner.

Urban Disaster Risk Management

Asia is one of the fastest urbanizing regions in the world. In 2000, 37 per cent of Asia’s population lived in cities. This proportion is projected to rise to more than 50 per cent within the next twenty-five years. An estimated 50 per cent of the world’s cities are situated along major earthquake belts, river flood plains, landslide prone mountain slopes or on tropical cyclone tracks. In Asia, most cities are located in hazard prone areas. The spread of health hazards such as HIV/AIDS and SARS are among the most recent examples of regional, transboundary health hazards that spread easily in urban populations. Terrorism, fatal accidents and chemical and biological risks are new threats that Asia’s urban centers and towns must learn to manage. Vulnerable communities need a collective vision to determine a strategic framework with identified action areas to make cities competitive, manageable, sustainable, and safer places to live.

Cities have often grown around historic urban areas, which in the past were also seats of administration, culture, economy and learning. These historic areas mean much more than their physical presence, as imposing and beautiful as they may be, and convey a sense of identity, strength, beauty, know-how, technical skills, social structure and economic prowess among others. Historic urban areas are an ignored socio-cultural and economic resource and are increasingly vulnerable to natural and human-made hazards. Disasters such as the recent earthquakes in Gujarat, India and Bam, Iran are tragedies that need not have happened.



National Demonstration Project Sites and Hazards

ADPC has identified key issues of the increasing vulnerability of cities and towns through its work in urban areas over the past decade and the that include:

- The lack of human settlement land planning and new shelter development policies and programs to settle urban populations in safer areas.
- Increasing socio-economic vulnerability of rural communities caused by over-population and environmental concerns such as the availability of water, water quality, land degradation and plot fracturing.
- Large in-migration to urban areas that concentrate what was once dispersed rural poverty.
- Failure of urban governments to anticipate shelter demands leading to the growth of slums or to create credit facilities for shelter and retrofit programs.
- Failure to consider risk reduction in urban planning.
- Limited application of technical information related to hazard environment, social, economic and physical vulnerabilities and assessment tools for ascertaining potential risk.
- Lack of information on hazard scenarios, absence of early warning mechanisms and lack of historical information on destructive events that limit the capacity of municipalities to assess the vulnerability of the built environment.
- Poor enforcement of building codes.

- Traditional urban boundaries that are breaking up and disturbing delicate ecological relationships and that are exposing historic urban areas to increasing risks.

Since 1995, ADPC has successfully been implementing the Asian Urban Disaster Mitigation Program (AUDMP). AUDMP, funded by USAID/OFDA, identified specific models that reduce vulnerability to disasters and documented those models for replication. The program was implemented with partner organizations in nine countries; Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand. It established strong networks of municipalities, development agencies and regional and national disaster mitigation professionals and experts who continue to support and replicate disaster mitigation models unique to the Asian context throughout the region. Through AUDMP, ADPC is making a significant contribution to establishing disaster mitigation as an integral part of the urban development process, paying attention to the unique cultural, social and local context of each country. A set of innovative strategies for urban risk management includes:

- Employing a participatory approach to city-level action planning for risk reduction.
- Creating capacity at the local level to carry out risk assessment and avoid arbitrary decision-making and establish priority interventions.
- Engaging with the private sector for financial support and commercial and industrial hazard risk identification and mitigation.
- Building resilience in vulnerable communities by activating and motivating poor communities to improve their built environment and emergency response skills and resources.
- Promoting a community-based approach to convert victimized communities into a resource for their own protection.
- Developing and applying new skills to design and implement demonstration projects and their scaling-up to safer shelter programs in order to reduce losses.
- Institutionalizing risk communication in local government, the media and NGOs to create a safety conscious public.
- Building the capacity of stakeholders to monitor, evaluate and revise their policies and programs to keep information current, procedures updated and response and preparedness materials in working order.

Long-term institutional support provided by USAID/OFDA has had a significant impact on attitudes, knowledge and skills in the countries where the Asian Urban Disaster Mitigation Program has been implemented. A number of general 'disaster axioms' were reconfirmed through program implementation: demonstration projects help create a safer built environment; information and awareness programs, training courses and policy change activities need to be kept current; and capital investment in mitigation in cities is the next priority.

National governments are organized along sectoral lines and can provide broad guidelines and oversight to critical issues. Local governments are of necessity cross-sectoral. Local government units have proved to be the most responsive unit of government for effective implementation of mitigation initiatives within a decentralized system of administration. It is the unit where land use practices can be regulated and safer construction methodologies can be promoted and enforced.

The following lessons were gleaned from ADPC experience:

- Government partnership and cooperation is essential in achieving safer, more resilient cities.
- Decentralization, devolution and transparency enhance disaster mitigation because they facilitate access.
- Disaster mitigation is not a sector but a core function of the public and private sectors and civil society and is unique to the national, cultural, social, economic and local context.
- All hazards become disasters when people are adversely affected and are a direct result of development patterns.
- Specific mitigation measures are hazard and context dependent.
- Resources can be generated for mitigation improvements as responsibility is decentralized and expertise and political will are strengthened through training and capacity building.
- Small, enthusiastic, field-oriented groups are effective institutional partners.
- Cross-sector, multi-disciplinary partnerships and approaches are essential to success.
- Mitigation is most effective when fully integrated into the development process.
- Mitigation anticipates the impact of present hazards on future development.

The next step for ADPC envisions safer urban communities by preventing, minimizing and mitigating the suffering of city inhabitants and reducing their economic and material losses while preserving the gains and benefits of urbanization. Some of the key strategies to be employed are:

- Planning and building safer cities through investment in mitigation derived from domestic capital and finance institutions that build on successful ADPC pilot projects in landslide-prone Sri Lanka; structural retrofit of schools in earthquake-prone Nepal; and safe havens in flood-prone Bangladesh.
- Policy development and technical support for disaster mitigation programs and emergency management and response planning at the local government and community level that integrates scientific data and information into decision-making.
- Development and implementation of public awareness and risk communication strategies that involves the media as an important stakeholder in risk reduction initiatives.
- Information and knowledge management initiatives to help train a new generation of professional and political leaders who are more aware of the measures needed to create a safer built environment.

Managing Climate Variability and Change

The impact of hydro-meteorological hazards on socio-economic systems is becoming more intense. Droughts, floods and storms can have long-lasting effects that disrupt livelihood, contribute to increased vulnerability and threaten the food security of rural producers. Climate change compounds the problem, as it is expected to alter the frequency, severity and complexity of climate-related hazards. Livelihood systems that do not have built-in buffering mechanisms are especially vulnerable. In recent years there has been dramatic progress in our understanding of climate systems and the ability to monitor and forecast weather events on the scale of seasons and beyond.

In recent years, there has been dramatic progress in the understanding of climate systems and the ability to monitor and forecast weather events on the scale of seasons and beyond. The advent of more reliable forecasts goes hand-in-hand with emerging trends in disaster management

when predominantly reactive strategies are gradually replaced with more proactive and forward looking approaches. These developments provide a unique opportunity for developing countries to reduce their vulnerability to adverse weather and climate phenomena and to take better advantage of benign weather spells.

Widespread concern about the likely impact of emerging climate risks due to human induced actions on the climate system provides opportunities to translate climate change adaptation concepts into locally actionable practices. Potential opportunities also exist to understand and make use of the patterns of climate variability through skillful use of past-observed climate data sourced in different countries.

However, there are formidable challenges in making use of climate information for societal benefit. The major barriers are:

- Most climate information products and tools developed by scientists for resource management are not fully used, partly because scientists too often lack an understanding of institutional, economic and cultural decision-making environments.
- Decision-makers frequently do not seek new sources of information or initiate contacts with experts who could be helpful.
- While the capacity to generate climate information products rests largely with advanced global climate research centers, the need for these products lies with local at-risk communities in developing countries.
- The uncertainties associated with climate change make it difficult to mainstream climate change adaptation options into development planning processes.

ADPC is in a unique position to address these challenges to promote more comprehensive and proactive use of climate information for risk management in the region. Like all knowledge intensive processes, the use of climate information requires national and local institutions to develop a capacity to interpret and have well-functioning procedures for information dissemination. Also required are climate information products to match end-users' needs by earning their trust and motivation.

ADPC addresses this gap by assisting countries in the region to create this institutional environment through capacity building efforts in climate data interpretation and information product development. ADPC bridges the knowledge gap between knowledge providers and interested governments by setting up partnerships between international science communities, regional, national and local experts and governments. Since 1998, ADPC has been implementing climate programs with support from USAID/OFDA and has made several inroads in applying climate information for disaster mitigation in the Asian region such as:

- Identification of regions, seasons and sectors sensitive to the El Niño Southern Oscillation.
- Setting up institutional mechanisms for climate forecast applications.
- Pilot delivery of locally relevant climate information.
- Developing a three-tiered (short-medium-long range) overlapping forecast system.
- Establishing Climate Risk Communication Schools through continuous engagement of climate information providers and users.
- Integrating climate information in development planning.

ADPC in collaboration with the International Institute for Climate Prediction (IRI) and with assistance from the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and its Office of Global programs (NOAA) will implement a climate change adaptation pilot project in South East Asia. In Bangladesh, FAO selected ADPC to translate climate change adaptation concepts into locally actionable practice through pilot demonstration projects.

Policy makers in developing countries do appreciate the desirability of addressing risks associated with known and observed climate variability. It is possible to convince policy makers to undertake strategies to address these risks. The wealth of experience available within ADPC enables us to develop strategies for mainstreaming climate change adaptation options into ongoing policy and development planning processes. These strategies need to focus on:

- Development of institutional systems to provide localized climate information with lead times of 3-5 days (weather forecast), 5-10 days (medium-range forecast), 20-25 days (sub-seasonal forecast), and 1 month and beyond (seasonal forecast).
- Development and local demonstrations that use climate change model outputs (future climate), climate forecast information (very near future climate and near real-time data) and climate analog products (past climate) for enhancing adaptive capacity to climate change.
- Training intermediary user institutions to translate probabilistic forecasts into location-specific impact outlooks for use in preparing contingency plans for end users.
- Interactive climate risk management field schools that enhance end user knowledge of climate-society interactions, help end users interpret and apply climate information, ensure the incorporation of end user experience and wisdom on climate risk management into decision-making processes and promote a continuous dialogue among climate information providers.
- Provide an institutional forum for connecting global centers of excellence on climate research applications with high-risk communities and governments.



Family built raised platform Takeo Province, Cambodia



Community emergency bridge, Bangladesh.



Community flood risk management planning session.



Local government built community infrastructure, raised walkways, Agats, Papua, Indonesia



Structure vulnerable to earthquakes, Ahmedabad, India



Successful tool retrofit program, Nepal



Community construction of earthquake resistant school, Nepal



Historic urban areas would benefit from retrofit programs, Ahmedabad, India



Community participation for landfill flood protection, Bangladesh



Coping with tidal fluctuations, Agats, Papua, Indonesia



Community safe-haven platform, Takeo province, Cambodia



ADPC Regional Flood Risk Management Course, Beijing, China



Student participation in flood risk awareness activities, Bangladesh



Climate risk affects livelihood on the Mekong, Vietnam



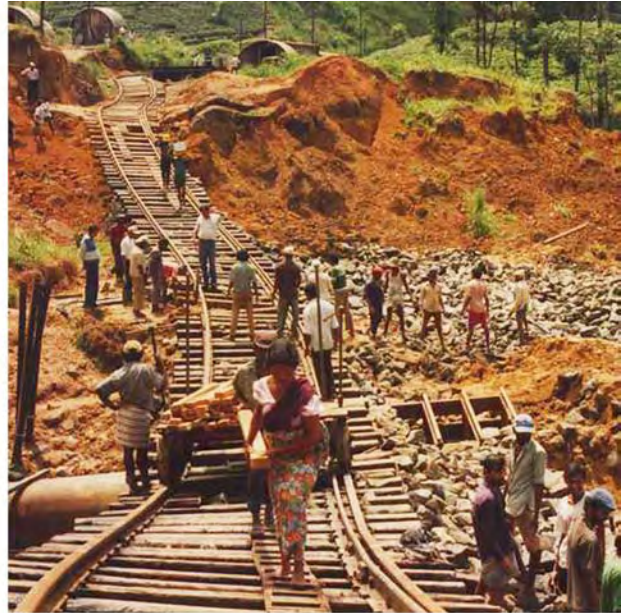
Hazardous material risk training, ADPC



Medical risk mitigation: SARS, China



Tornado damaged, improved construction methods can address, Bangladesh



Landslide damage, Sri Lanka



Flood risk condition involved ADPC in flood risk plan, Hatyai, Thailand



Vulnerable populations and vulnerable historic environments, Ahmedabad, India



Community flood watch program, Preyveng, Cambodia



Basic infrastructure protection a priority, India



Hazardous waste risk, India



Fire control training, Lao PDR

ADPC Looks Ahead to 2015

The effort to raise the profile of disaster risk management at the international level has begun. Governments and donor agencies have been generously supporting disaster risk reduction initiatives, especially in developing countries. The scientific community is improving forecasting and early warning tools for floods, storms, typhoons and cyclones and eventually for earthquakes and landslides. NGOs are making significant contributions to awareness, making real improvements in built environments, and helping to increase the preparedness of communities for emergency response and disaster risk reduction.

Despite these inroads, the loss of lives and property is still immense and shocking. It is clear that we have a long way to go.

Making the right development choices requires coordinated efforts by committed leaders who have the political will and determination to include risk reduction measures in their policies and plans; a corporate sector that will prioritize risk issues and include them into their business plans; scientists who will provide the knowledge and understanding of current and new areas of risk reduction; committed non-government agencies that advocate for risk reduction; educators who are responsible for shaping the awareness of future generations; a mass media that has the power to influence and change behavior; and informed citizens who make choices about the risks in their lives.

ADPC will concentrate its efforts on developing each of the following:

Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management

Disaster risk management is not a stand-alone sector but an essential concern that operates across sectors. Mainstreaming brings disaster risk management issues and techniques into the processes of development and implementation of sustainable programs. It is a key issue in the design and delivery of good governance systems and institutional capacity building.

Mainstreaming is an important agenda item for creating platforms of exchange and policy development as well as for providing a channel of communication for communities usually isolated from development practice and disaster risk management. The scientific community and domestic finance entities are two important communities that should be included in this process.

For ADPC, mainstreaming promotes a raised level of awareness and the technical, human, and financial resources to act. Mainstreaming is best carried out through a comprehensive and consultative dialogue between stakeholders in disaster risk management which includes: all relevant sectors of government, community groups and civil societies, the scientific community, NGOs, donor/funding agencies and foundations.

Informing and Involving Communities

This key area contributes significantly to ADPC's goal of making the community much more than just the "beneficiary" of disaster response and mitigation programs. ADPC will apply its efforts to consolidate policy and practice in which the community is seen as a resource and partner with government in disaster risk management.

A common understanding of the vocabulary of disaster risk management and of key concepts and popular associated terms used in discussions about disaster risk management is essential if risks are to be appropriately addressed by communities and government alike. ADPC's information and knowledge management activities will constitute an important role in developing useful guidance, clarifying terms and reviewing literature to provoke both awareness and action.

ADPC will develop outreach mechanisms to identify information needs to inform and update the awareness of current conditions and actions being taken in disaster risk management. Monitoring will support a willingness to seek adjustments and improvements to base line information and its applications, and increase the likelihood of the process being sustained. The initiatives should be further repeated and emphasized through the engagement of other stakeholders such as the mass media and school information services, and can be consolidated through the use of related simulation activities.

ADPC will continue to refine and deliver community-based disaster risk management training to engage, guide, monitor and evaluate community members as they proceed to deal with the various risks that they face.

Improving the Built Environment

ADPC will promote capital investment projects and credit programs that integrate improved skills and resources with credit to improve existing and new dwellings, community facilities,

ADPC

hospitals and business structures, all working to create a more resilient built environment. Improvement projects will put to use appropriate technology manuals, improved technologies and construction skills as required by new construction and retrofit programs.

ADPC will demonstrate how integrating health, culture, finance and planning considerations can work together to produce more effective building regulations, historic area conservation programs and shelter, land and infrastructure development projects. Local and national financial institutions play a key role as does the domestic capital market in initiating and/or scaling up pilot and demonstration projects initiated with donor assistance.

Supporting DRM Development

ADPC will address institutional development requirements through its network of regional, national and local entities through capacity building and structuring an agenda that incorporates disaster risk management. Development activities should also aim to establish efficient structures which build on the complimentary strengths of each its members. Institutional development will clarify roles and relationships and the ways in which each entity interfaces with society. Further analysis is required to determine who should be responsible for what; whether it is necessary to create new entities; and the extent to which and the amounts of human and financial resources necessary for key agencies to accomplish their mandate. ADPC will initiate Training-of-Trainers courses to introduce new and apply existing skills to disaster risk management.

Building Capacity and Raising Awareness

ADPC's emphasis on and experience with training as a risk management tool will continue through core courses and project training to provide appropriate skills and approaches for disaster risk management. ADPC will work with interested entities to develop national versions of ADPC's regional training programs. ADPC will focus on the need for professional development through long-term academic endeavour and short-term training that reflects disaster risk management as a necessary part of the technical background of engineers, planners and architects. Disaster risk management and awareness-raising activities must be conducted cross-sectorally and promote access to scientific tools and processes for end-users engaged in disaster risk management activities. New areas of importance on the ADPC agenda include chemical and biological risks, psycho-social issues of violence and trauma and terrorism, cultural conservation, mass disease outbreaks and multi-hazard events.

Urban Risk

The inevitability of urban migration is upon us as one of the most important social phenomenon the world faces today. Cities and towns are concentrating what was once dispersed rural poverty into communities which are increasingly vulnerable to floods, landslides, earthquakes, typhoons, industrial disasters, cyclones and storms. Urban expansion is not something to be wished away. Urbanization can also favourably impact the quality of life in rural communities.

Disaster risk management in urban areas is essential to safeguard the resources available there as a necessary component of national development. Resources include historic urban areas, industrial parks and new town, high density development. ADPC will continue to consolidate and update the information base for urban areas on which policies, plans and projects for disaster risk management can take place. ADPC will expand the application of tools for hazard assessment

and will ensure its tool kit for urban risk assessment includes more links to the science of earthquakes and landslides, and more opportunities to apply microzonation in its work.

Public Health in Emergencies

This key area addresses the capacity to respond to and preparedness for a disaster. First responder skills are key to the approach ADPC has adopted including collapsed structure search and rescue, mass trauma management skills and first aid. However, ADPC recognizes that it is difficult to get communities ready with the skills and equipment available to them, especially in resource scarce environments, for national and trans-boundary medical epidemics and emergencies as well as disaster occurrences such as earthquakes. The provision of clear and transparent information and training is a major advantage in these circumstances.

Urbanization and climate variability further impacts public health issues and actions. The associated need for increased numbers of lifelines and safe haven facilities is often overlooked in public health budgets. It is for these reasons that ADPC training activities feature cross sector relationships and emphasize the budgetary implications for government officials, medical personnel and INGOs among others.

Climate Change

For almost a decade ADPC has been promoting the concept of applying meteorological data to the development of prediction capability and early warning systems for agricultural communities. ADPC provides key links with the scientific community and recognizes the demand for more useful data and interpretations to ensure that field activities continue to be fed by the advances of science. ADPC looks structurally at the need for climate information by addressing institutional systems, including interactive field schools, and by developing local applications for improving adaptive capacities for dealing with climate change.

A Role for ADPC

ADPC, as a regional resource center, is well positioned to respond to the emerging threats in disaster risk management. Its focus is to mainstream disaster risk management in different sectors of development. ADPC will continue to build coalitions and partnerships, advocating and promoting disaster risk reduction measures, building capacities and creating a cadre of skilled personnel who are equipped to take appropriate risk reduction actions. Mainstreaming disaster risk management through the key areas of community-based disaster risk management, urban disaster risk reduction, public health and emergencies, and climate variability and change will be the direction ADPC will take to advance disaster risk management in the Asia region.

ADPC will continue to be an advocate for a safer, more disaster resilient built environment. New players will need to be brought into the work of National Disaster Management Organizations, NGOs and national, state and local response and mitigation entities. This new array of institutions and entities will include housing developers and local government officials charged with building code enforcement. It should also include insurance companies offering reduced rates as incentives on policies for housing construction that incorporate disaster resistant technologies, and financial sector institutions that offer targeted credit programs for retrofit and new shelter construction as well as community infrastructure programs.

ADPC will demonstrate the importance of the domestic capital market as a resource waiting to respond to new areas of financial activity. Mitigation is an excellent opportunity to attract investment. ADPC therefore looks to the future with a high level of confidence tempered with a healthy respect for the extent of the changes which are required. The necessary partnerships, knowledge, capabilities, commitment and political will exists to ensure that the next decade will be a period of unprecedented progress in disaster risk management.

Vision

Safer communities and sustainable development through disaster reduction.

Mission

To reduce the impact of disasters on communities and countries in Asia and the Pacific by raising awareness, establishing and strengthening sustainable institutional mechanisms, enhancing knowledge and skills and facilitating exchange of information, experience and expertise.

Strategic Plan

Promoting disaster reduction

- To promote increased awareness, knowledge and adoption of disaster reduction practices as an integral part of the development process at community, national, sub-regional, regional and international levels.
- To serve as an international knowledge clearinghouse and information exchange center on disaster-related issues.
- To collaborate with international agencies to incorporate a disaster reduction focus in their strategies for development assistance.
- To increase the dialogue between the scientific community and policy-makers and decision-makers to enhance the application of scientific knowledge for disaster reduction.
- To promote disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness concepts and practices in strategic areas of development in Asia as a way to reduce disasters.
- To have an established mechanism to assess the needs of the disaster management sector in Asia and to identify strategic areas of intervention including participation in post-disaster assessments.
- To develop and demonstrate the validity and effectiveness of methods and tools that address disaster reduction strategies.
- To sensitize policy-makers, decision-makers and administrators to bring about changes in policies and legislative institutional mechanisms for disaster management in their countries.

Building capacity

- To help strengthen the capacity of countries, organisations, communities and individuals to reduce the impact of disasters.
- To regularly assess the needs of the region for capacity building to reduce disaster impact.

- To develop and deliver specific capacity-building products and services.
- To build specific institutional capacities to undertake systematic, cross-sector planning processes for disaster reduction and for replication of ADPC-developed products and services.
- To assess the effectiveness and relevance of ADPC products and services and continually modify them to meet the needs of the region.

Facilitating partnerships

- To facilitate and promote partnerships and networks among and across communities and institutions and exchange information, experiences, practices and lessons learned.
- To develop and maintain an information database of individuals, organisations and governments, as well as their activities and initiatives on different aspects of disaster reduction at regional and national levels.
- To explore and forge areas of institutional cooperation.
- To develop and sustain partnerships and networks in the region.

Recognition as a proactive and responsive regional resource

- To be a proactive and responsive regional resource with international status promoting disaster reduction, supported by countries of the region, while also accessing and integrating international best practices and resources to achieve ADPC goals.
- To create innovative products and services which anticipate regional needs.
- To secure ongoing support for ADPC activities from governments and institutions in the region and internationally.
- To be recognised as a technical resource by regional cooperation mechanisms (AEGDM, ASEAN, ARF, APEC, BIMSTEC, SAARC, MRC), and by national, provincial and community level organisations.
- To promote South-South and South-North exchange of information, experiences and lessons learned.
- To achieve inter-governmental organisation status.

Achievement of quality service through a team approach

- To maintain and improve ADPC as a diverse, multi-cultural, international team backed by efficient, supportive management systems focused on achieving the highest quality of service to the region.
- To develop administrative and personnel policies and procedures that encourage a diverse inter-disciplinary, international and team-oriented staff structure.
- To maintain a reliable, efficient and multi-purpose management information system.
- To maintain an internal monitoring, evaluation and auditing system.
- To build ADPC's technical and organisational capacity to meet identified and emerging needs.
- To follow ADPC's Guiding Principles and culture.

