

# PDRSEA

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## Integrating Community Based Disaster Risk Management into Government Policy, Planning and Implementation in Southeast Asia



"Incorporação da Gestão de Riscos de Calamidades Pela Comunidade Local na Política do Governo"  
Dili, 29 - 30 de Junho de 2005

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H.E. Mr. Rogerio Lobato, Minister of Interior in Timor Leste (standing) during the Opening Ceremony of the National Consultation Workshop in Dili in June 2005. The workshop was organized by PDRSEA in collaboration with the NDMO in Timor Leste.

### also in this issue...

preparedness in disaster management in indonesia	2
preparing communities in central vietnam against the threat of water disasters	3
pdrsea and the institutionalization of cbdrm	5
review of national initiatives on cbdrm in southeast asia	6
impact of dam on rice field in samaki meanchey district in cambodia	7
pdrsea recent events in southeast asia	8



## Preparedness in Disaster Management in Indonesia

*Indonesian Red Cross and Danish Red Cross  
Siaga Bulletin*

In Indonesia there is a proverb that says “better to prepare, than regret later”, which echoes the English saying of “prevention is better than cure”. These maxims should be adhered to when dealing with natural disasters.

If we know there is the possibility of a disaster occurring in the area where we live, it would be most prudent if we took action to prevent it, or at least to reduce its impact. Disaster management is no longer only about responding after a disaster has occurred, but also involves conducting prevention and risk mitigation initiatives, known as disaster preparedness.

Disaster management is a series of continuous activities that are carried out to mitigate the impact of a disaster. The activities are conducted before, during and after disaster strikes. When a disaster occurs, initial actions include the provision of first aid and emergency aid, and the distribution of relief items. Post-disaster actions include rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Just because a disaster hasn't yet occurred, that doesn't mean there are no disaster management activities. In disaster prone areas, it is necessary to implement risk mitigation to reduce the negative consequences of potential disasters.

The **Indonesian Red Cross (PMI)**, in cooperation with the **Danish Red Cross (DRC)**, is implementing the Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP) and Community Based Risk Reduction (CBRR) programmes. These programmes are quite similar, as the goal of both is to reduce human suffering and loss of livelihood when disaster strikes. The two programmes are not merely responsive, but are carried out before disaster hits.

So how can the impact of a disaster be reduced before it

happens? Is it really possible to do this? Certainly. When floods strike, it is difficult for communities to gain access to clean water, which forces the people to use unsanitary water which leads to outbreaks of disease. We should therefore think about how to procure clean water for flood prone areas to avoid the emergence of various diseases.

Of course, it is also important to think of physical ways to combat flooding, such as the construction of dikes. But when local conditions make it too difficult to build a dike, then the procurement of clean water becomes the priority within the framework of disaster mitigation. Examples of other forms of disaster mitigation include reforestation, the breeding of fish which eat the larvae of mosquitoes that transmit malaria and dengue fever, the rehabilitation of rivers and streams, etc.

Who can conduct disaster preparedness? Everyone. In the Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP) Programme, the PMI and the local community form a Community Based Action Team (CBAT). The CBAT members are PMI volunteers who receive special training in disaster management. When a disaster strikes, the CBAT will carry out evacuations, provide first aid, and distribute food and other necessary items. Before a disaster occurs, the CBAT and the community identifies potential disaster risks, assessing which types are most likely to occur and what are the worst hazards.

Through regular meetings, the CBAT and the community will discuss how to reduce these risks. The community can then make an action plan, which will serve as input for the local PMI chapter. A good action plan is one that follows the bottom-up approach, coming from the community's ideas and letting the people determine their priority actions. PMI and the government can contribute to action plans. Contributions can be made in many forms, such as a technical draft on how to conduct risk reduction action, or the establishment of a communication channel to the government. Alternatively, a contribution can be in the form of funding of a disaster mitigation program. In this case, mitigation could be conducted in physical (structural) and non-physical forms.

At the branch level, PMI trains a Disaster Response Team (Satgana), which is tasked to conduct training for CBAT at the village level. The curriculum for the CBAT training is provided by PMI National Headquarters.

It is envisaged that within the years to come, hundreds of thousands of people throughout Indonesia will benefit from the CBDP and CBRR programmes because they will be more capable of protecting themselves against disasters and thus enjoy better and safer lives.

*This article first appeared in the September 2005 edition of Siaga! Bulletin, reprinted with permission from Indonesian Red Cross. For more information, please contact Mr Irman Rahman, Project Manager, Indonesian Red Cross at [dmdivision01@pmi.or.id](mailto:dmdivision01@pmi.or.id)*

The Central Region of Vietnam is particularly vulnerable to water-related disasters and Binh Dinh province is no exception.

Each year, local people face threats to their personal safety, their assets and livelihoods from floods, storms, and drought. Whilst these threats will probably always be there, community preparedness and mitigation actions can reduce the likelihood of these threats turning into disasters.

In December 2004, **CARE International in Vietnam** and local partners (including local government departments, mass organizations and community groups) began implementing the “**Getting Prepared**” project with support from DIPECHO. The project aims to enhance community based disaster preparedness and the coping capacity in vulnerable communities in Binh Dinh province. The project targets six communes in An Lao and Phu My districts, with disaster preparedness and mitigation activities through three main approaches:

- (i) **Institutional strengthening for local partners** – particularly training and practice on community based disaster risk management, risk reduction measures and participatory planning methodologies;
- (ii) **Capacity building for target communities** – primarily through the establishment of disaster preparedness and mitigation action teams (DPMATs), training these teams to conduct risk, hazard, vulnerability, capacity assessment, then resourcing teams to plan and implement small village and commune level preparedness and mitigation works;
- (iii) **Advocacy and Awareness raising on disaster risk reduction** – including mass media messaging, the production of IEC materials (brochures, toolkit, leaflet) for dissemination in the project area and beyond;

Whilst the project is ongoing, there have already been some important achievements and lessons learned.

Linking training to resources and the delivery of very practical disaster mitigation works is an effective way of motivating people to become involved. The broad range of community planned mitigation works being implemented under the project include water catchments protection, irrigation system improvement, clean water facilities, constructing or strengthening inter-village roads and bridges, the provision of safety equipment to fisherman, water filters for households in alum and salty affected areas, and many more. These mitigation works support improved livelihood for households now, and are a valuable risk management investment for the future.

The highly participatory approaches used for training, planning and implementation of the project activities has directly benefited communities, and particularly women, in ensuring that their voice is heard when making decisions



## Preparing Communities in Binh Dinh Province, Central Vietnam for the Threat of Water Related Disasters

*Nguyen Van Bang, Program Manager, CARE International in Vietnam*

about the resources that effect their livelihoods. Disaster risk management issues cut across the division of roles between men and women in the community. Effective preparedness & mitigation planning and actions requires gender balanced teams working together to protect important resources like the home, water supply and community infrastructure.

Many of the community representatives and local authorities who are part of the DPMATs have become local trainers and resource persons on CBDRM as a result of the training and support received through the project. The knowledge and skills impacted by the project has been effectively mainstreamed into commune and district level disaster management planning. Mitigation plans, strategies, and activities developed under the project have been incorporated into district planning to ensure that the community based approach is maintained and that mitigation works that cannot be funded by the project are prioritized for future government funding.

The chance in people’s mindsets about the role of the community in effective disaster risk management is perhaps the most tangible achievement for sustaining the impact of the project. CBDRM is a relatively new concept in most areas of Vietnam and increasingly being recognized as an important element of the government’s national approach to disaster management. The highly participatory and empowering approach of CBDRM is also compatible with the government’s grassroots democracy decree, and the efforts to link CBDRM approaches to existing local institutions and community structure present the most likely channel for long term DRM success.

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# Integrating **Community** Based Disaster Risk Management into Government Policy, Planning and Program Implementation in Southeast Asia

Shesh Kanta Kafle, Training Manager, PDRSEA3, ADPC



Southeast Asia is one of the most vulnerable regions of the world, with 37.5 million people affected by various disasters between 2000 and 2003. The population in this region faces multiple risks including typhoons, flood, drought, forest fires, earthquakes, landslides, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis. Efforts to cope with disasters have been made at the national and regional levels. However, concrete results have yet to be yielded from traditional approaches of disaster management.

**Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM)** is a process in which at-risk communities are actively engaged in the identification, analysis, treatment, monitoring and evaluation of disaster risks in order to reduce their vulnerabilities and enhance their capacities. This means that people are at the heart of decision making and implementation of disaster risk management activities.

Disaster risk management at the community level helps people form an understanding of the risks that may occur in their community by creating an environment to initiate discussions on their vulnerability. It enhances the capacity and self-reliance of the communities by providing them with a step by step process to identify community risks, assess and acknowledge their inherent capacities, select appropriate preparedness and mitigation actions and establish mechanisms to put risk reduction actions into practice. It also acts to create awareness amongst people to take ownership and respon-

sibility, to advocate and lobby for risk reduction activities and mobilize the community.

The government and non-government organizations play a supportive role through providing information, organizing and strengthening community groups, giving financial and technical assistance and physical inputs and through building linkages.

## Philosophy of CBDRM

- Address the root causes of vulnerabilities and transform the structures that generate inequality and underdevelopment.
- Achieve sustainable development through the continued well being of people by avoiding shocks and crises. This can be achieved through recognizing the need for community action for disaster risk reduction in all development practice.
- Any efforts to reduce disaster risks

should build upon a community's knowledge and experience about hazards, vulnerabilities and disaster risk reduction. Recognize the importance of local customs, culture and materials while developing and implementing risk reduction programs.

## National and Regional Initiatives

Disaster mitigation is a long-term process and requires multi-sectoral involvement. Governmental support in the form of policies, plans and strategies is a prerequisite for making disaster risk management activities effective and sustainable.

The ASEAN work on disaster management dates back to 1967 when foreign ministers established the ASEAN Permanent Committee on socio-cultural activities one of which was operations against natural disasters. The Bali declaration of ASEAN (Bali concord I) in 1976 stressed the importance of cooperation in disaster management within the framework of the ASEAN cooperation as it identified one of its 8 principles and objectives that "natural disasters and other major calamities can retard the pace of development of member states, therefore they shall extend, within their capabilities, assistance for relief of members states in distress" (as quoted in ACDM 2004). The ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), ASEAN Experts Group on Disaster Management (AEGDM), and the Haze Technical Task Force (HTTF), are among many organizations engaged in disaster management initiatives in the region.

Although laws regarding CBDRM do not exist yet in any of the ASEAN countries, the existing policies and strategies as identified in the table below give emphasis on the people's involvement in disaster risk management.

**Table 1: Governmental Commitments on Disaster Management**

Country and National Focal Point	National Plans and Policies
<b>Cambodia</b> <i>National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM)</i>	2002-2003 National Action Plan on Disaster Management drafted in 1997
<b>Indonesia</b> <i>BAKORNAS BP</i>	Disaster Management integrated into the 5-year development plan
<b>Lao PDR</b> <i>National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)</i>	National Disaster Management Strategy and Action Plan 2020
<b>Timor Leste</b> <i>National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)</i>	National Disaster Management Plan (2005, yet to be approved)
<b>Vietnam</b> <i>Department of Dyke Management, Flood and Storm Control (DDMFSC)</i>	Strategy and Action Plan for National Disaster Mitigation (2001)

## Partnerships for Disaster Reduction - Southeast Asia Phase 3: Institutionalization of CBDRM

National governments, from the provincial, district and commune levels should recognize the need to involve communities and community groups in disaster risk management, and integrate CBDRM in their national policies, plans, and budget. Accordingly it should also provide adequate support at the implementation level, establish technical resource centers for CBDRM in the country, and develop appropriate strategies and programs to promote community action.

Institutionalization of CBDRM requires the following as its pre-conditions:

- Strong policy support
- Existence of formal organizations/ institutional support
- A framework of disaster risk management
- Institutionalized budget
- Presence of dedicated, trained and competent personnel
- Political will

The government ministries and the departments can play a significant role in institutionalizing CBDRM by carrying out the following functions:

- Formulate laws/policies/action plans on CBDRM and implement them.
- Support to form and strengthen community groups for risk reduction
- Share information about risks and vulnerability with communities

- Develop technical skills of local communities
- Provide funds to most vulnerable groups
- Provide physical inputs
- Provide technical advice
- Linking scientific and technical organizations with community groups (e.g. meteorological stations, Seismological station, early warning system)
- Mobilize resources from all sectors of government and create conducive environment for outside agencies to invest resources in the community initiatives
- Linkage development with other agencies
- Support in reduction of food insecurity
- Participate in the M&E activities along with the local communities.
- Awareness raising, capacity building and skill development of local communities.

ADPC, in collaboration with UNESCAP and with the financial support from DIPECHO, has been implementing the **Partnerships for Disaster Reduction Southeast Asia (PDRSEA)** Phase 3 project in five Southeast Asian countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Timor Leste and Vietnam) since February 2005. PDRSEA 3 is working closely with National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs), local government depart-

ments and other key ministries and departments, and assisting government agencies in developing strategies and action plans to support and mobilize community action for disaster risk management.

The project has developed a conceptual framework and implemented some of its key components in all the project countries (see figure 1, next page).

PDRSEA organized Consultation Workshops in the five project countries from which national concept papers on the institutionalization of CBDRM were produced. These concept papers were the major inputs to the National Strategic Collaborative Workshops which led to the development of the draft **National Strategic Collaborative Action Plans on CBDRM** (see table 2).

Still to be approved by the government, these, along with relevant national policies or plans, and the mobilization of governmental and non-governmental resources, will lead to the integration of CBDRM into the socio-economic development planning process. Institutionalization can be possible once the government takes full ownership of CBDRM and incorporates it in national policies and laws that will support its effective implementation in the country.

*continued next page*

**Table 2: Strategic Collaborative Action Plans for Institutionalizing CBDRM**

Country	Vision	Mission	Goals
<b>Cambodia</b>	Harmonious communities living in safety through sustainable development  Make the NCDM the champion of CBDRM in five years time ( <i>coordinating agency</i> )	Reduced community risks through participating of all stakeholders and strengthening of the operational and technical capacities of NCDM	Effectively integrate CBDRM in the socio-economic development process of Cambodia
<b>Lao PDR</b>	Safer, more empowered, more prosperous and resilient communities through enhanced disaster management  Make the NDMO the lead agency in CBDRM ( <i>coordinating agency</i> )	Make Lao society safe and able to reduce and mitigate the negative impact of disasters on vulnerable groups, society, natural environment, state assets and people's properties through CBDRM	Effectively integrate CBDRM in the socio-economic development process of Lao PDR and in the implementation of the National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy (NGPES) and the MDGs.
<b>Timor Leste</b>	A strong and resistant population to face disaster risks (long run)  Make NDMO strong, professional and promoter in CBDRM in five years ( <i>coordinating agency</i> )	Reduce the disaster losses on society, economy and environment through CBDRM	Effectively integrate CBDRM in the socio-economic development process of Timor Leste
<b>Vietnam</b>	A safer and prosperous nation through disaster reduction	Minimize the loss of life, property and the negative impact of disasters on society, economy, and environment through CBDRM	Effectively integrate CBDRM in the socio-economic development process of Vietnam

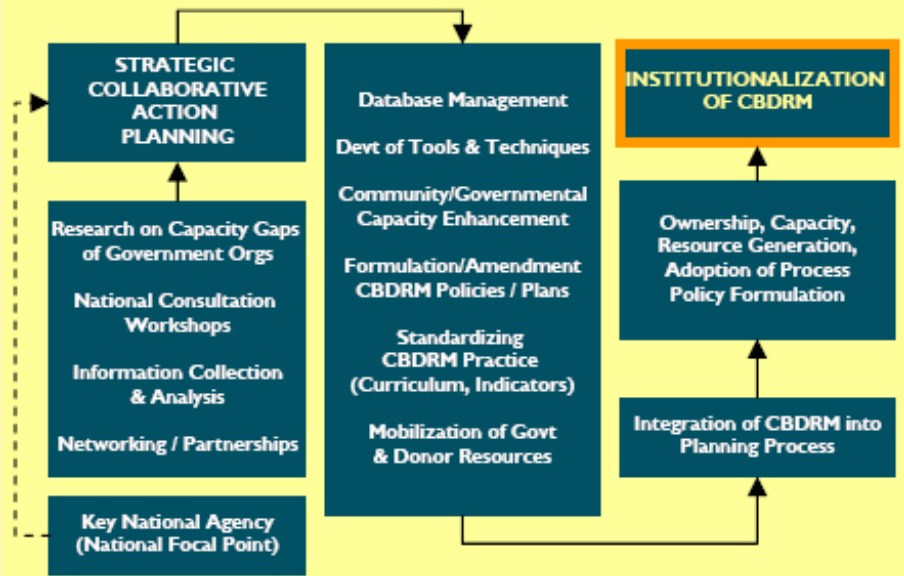
Identified during the Strategic Collaborative Workshops (organized by PDRSEA3 and ADPC in collaboration with the NDMOs of the respective countries) held to date. The detailed Action Plans can be found at the PDRSEA website: <http://www.adpc.net/pdrseal>

## Recommendations

CBDRM is not a new concept in South-east Asian countries. The need exists to institutionalize CBDRM in government policy-making, planning and program implementation. As yet, most of the governments in Southeast Asia have given priority to relief and rescue rather than disaster risk management. This is the reason why all key disaster organizations in most of the countries fall within the Ministry of Interior. Maintaining law and order is the key goal of this ministry and disaster management has been a low priority. The scope of the ministry should either be broadened or the responsibility should be handed over to other relevant ministries.

In addition, the following recommendations are proposed to promote CBDRM in the region:

- CBDRM should be integrated into the socio-economic development process by the government.
- Both the policy and the grassroots level interventions are necessary to come up with long lasting results in CBDRM.
- Policy amendments, resource mobilization, capacity enhancement of the community and governmental



**Figure 1: A Conceptual Framework for the Institutionalization of Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM)**

departments are prerequisites for an effective CBDRM practice.

- Rural and urban youth should be mobilized in the awareness raising campaigns through social mobilization process.
- Research on capacity gaps and indigenous knowledge, technology innovation, interventions in the policy as

well as community levels are necessary to integrate the CBDRM into the socio-economic development process.

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## Review of National Initiatives on CBDRM in Southeast Asian Countries

### Cambodia

CBDRM is recognized and considered as a very important program by the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) in Cambodia. Cambodia has developed a disaster management plan for preparedness, relief, recovery and rehabilitation and the NCDM provides capacity building and briefings for officials, communities and the armed forces. In addition, a number of I/NGOs and donor-supported programs are focused on disaster risk management in the country. They include: Oxfam (GB), Prasac, JICA, UNICEF, UNDP, WFP, MRD, MOWRM, MOAF, MRC, AAH, LVF/CWS, ZOA, CARE International, Seila, Cambodian Social Funds and a number of local NGOs. The Cambodian Red Cross has also been implementing the Community Based Disaster Preparedness Program (CBDPP) since 1998.



### Vietnam

In 1990, the Council of Ministers in Vietnam established and outlined the tasks of the Central Committee of Storm and Flood Control, and committees and sectors at all levels (provincial, district and village). The national committee is an inter-ministerial institution including representatives of all key ministries. Its secretariat is based at the Department of Dike Management and Flood Control (DDMFC) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). The government has promulgated the Statutes on Dyke Management, and Flood and Typhoon Mitigation. With the assistance of various UN agencies, the first National Strategy and Action Plan for Mitigating Water Disasters in Vietnam was prepared in 1994. The second National Strategy and Action Plan (2001-2020) set up several strategies that aim to reduce disasters and their impacts.

### Indonesia

In Indonesia, a Presidential Decree in 1966 initiated efforts to form a disaster management body in the country. In 1967, the National Coordinating Body for Natural Disaster Management (BAKORNAS PBP) was established. The structure for disaster management was also institutionalized at the provincial and district levels (SATKORLAKs). In 1990, the Presidential Decree expanded the scope of BAKORNAS to include man-made disasters. Disaster management plans were also incorporated into the overall development plan of the country. However, sectoral plans are yet to be drawn.

Other sectors involved in implementing CBDRM are the Ministry of Health & Ministry of Social Affairs. There are also universities, local NGOs and civil society groups such as the



Natural hazards like flood and drought occurs often in Cambodia, especially during the last several years. This causes loss of life, property and crop yields.

However, the people in general have little or no coping strategy and experience with minimizing the impacts of these disasters.

They normally rely on external assistance from government agencies to assist them with flood and drought relief such as food and shelter etc.

The community in Domnak Pring Village, Svay Chouk commune of District Samaki Meanchhey, Kampong Chhnang province has been affected by drought since 2003, and the people have no knowledge on how to mitigate the disaster.

As a result, the village is facing food shortage, and some of the villagers engage in cheap labor in the border countries to survive.

In 2005, through DIPECHO funding, the **Lutheran World Foundation (LWF)**, **Cambodian Red Cross (CRC)** and the **National Commit-**

**tee for Disaster Management (NCDM)** formed a collaboration to provide capacity building and training on First Aid, Community Organising and Community Based Disaster Management in Domnak Pring Village.

Mr. Sam Ath, a Village Health Volunteer (VHV), was elected leader of the new Village Committee for Disaster Management (VCDM).

Based on their disaster preparedness plan, the community constructed a small dam. The dam now irrigates water to the rice fields in the village.

Mr. Sam Ath said that “Most people hope that they will get a good rice yield during the next harvesting time, and that in future, the dam will help reduce the impact

## Case Feature: Impact of Dam on Rice Field in Samaki Meanchey District, Cambodia

Lutheran World Foundation (LWF) & Dan Church Aid (DCA) in Cambodia



of drought on their rice fields. We should help ourselves first then someone can help us later”.

For more information, please contact Mr. Phung Sila, Programme Officer, Dan Church Aid (DCA) in Cambodia at [p.sila@online.com.kh](mailto:p.sila@online.com.kh)



Indonesian Society for Disaster Management (MPBI) and the Indonesian Institute of Disaster Preparedness (IIDP) which have also taken efforts in promoting CBDRM through training & capacity building.

### Lao PDR

In Lao PDR, the government has enacted a policy which includes the principles of CBDRM, which applies to the implementation of small scale mitigation projects. The policy adopts an all-hazards and people-centered approach to disaster management, and recognizes that disaster risk and vulnerability reduction are essential to sustainable development planning. Capacity building on CBDRM set-up and implementation should continue at the national and district level. Under the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) has been actively involved

in coordinating disaster management activities and institutions in the country. Several I/NGOs such as Concern, World Vision, Danish Red Cross, Lao Red Cross, Quaker and Mekong River Commission, among many others have been working in the field of community based disaster management and capacity enhancement of government agencies in the country.

### Timor Leste

CBDRM is just beginning in Timor Leste. CARE, OXFAM, World Vision and Concern are among the active I/NGOs working in the field of community based disaster risk management in the country. The Emergency Services and National Disaster Management Office (ESNDMO) has been established to coordinate and implement disaster management initiatives in the country. UNDP and AusAID are also supporting disaster risk management activities.



## upcoming pdrsea3 events

### 2005

**Regional Workshop on Standardizing Training Curriculum for Local Government Officials in Southeast Asia**  
Bangkok, November 28-30

**National Strategic Collaborative Planning Workshop**  
Indonesia, December (to be confirmed)

**National Media Orientation Workshop**  
Indonesia, December (to be confirmed)

**Business and Disaster Preparedness in Vietnam - Seminar & Roundtable**  
Hanoi, December 1

### 2006

**National and Regional Workshops on CBDRM Standards**  
January-March (to be confirmed)

**The 4th Disaster Management Practitioners Workshop**  
Bangkok, March 7-10

**Regional Training on Advocacy for the Institutionalization of CBDRM**  
Bangkok, April 11-14

## Integrating Community Based Disaster Risk Management into Donor Policy and Planning

The Workshop on "Integrating Community Based Disaster Risk Management into Donor Policy and Planning" for Regional Donors and representatives of the UN and other aid agencies was held on November 11, 2005 at the Amari Boulevard Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand. It was organized by PDRSEA to mobilize donor support for the institutionalization of CBDRM, and to explore possible tools and opportunities to support the integration of CBDRM into donor policy and programming.

A total of eight (8) donor representatives attended the meeting as well as five (5) representatives from UN Agencies. These agencies include: AusAID, GTZ, JICA, SIDA, USAID, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication of Japan, TEI, UNDP, UN-ISDR, UN-OCHA.

H.E. Prof. Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, Chairman of the ADPC Board of Trustees gave the keynote address during the Opening Ceremony. Dr. Le Huu Ti, Officer-in-Charge, Water Resources Section, UNESCAP, and Mr. Marc

Gordon, Technical Assistant, DIPECHO Southeast Asia, gave the welcome and opening remarks, respectively.

The National Strategic Action Plans were presented at the workshop along with a concept note on CBDRM and Integrating CBDRM into Donor Policy and Programming. The Workshop was organized in the context of introducing Donor representatives to CBDRM and Strategic Collaborative Action Planning, as well as presenting the results of the four National Strategic Collaborative Action Planning Workshops that have been held to date.

This provided the Donor representatives with insights into opportunities for them to support the implementation of the National Strategic Collaborative Action Plans and also identified priority issues to ensure effective mainstreaming of CBDRM into policies and programs of donor's assistance in Southeast Asia, specific goals of the National Strategic Plans which the donor's would like to support on a priority, identified tools and techniques that would assist donor's in integrat-

ing CBDRM into their policies and programming and priority actions that PDRSEA or donors could undertake. During the workshop it was recommended that PDRSEA should:

- Continue to organise workshops on Integrating CBDRM into Donor Policy not only at the regional level but also at the national level to raise awareness and advocate for support for CBDRM initiatives through wider dissemination of information through the website and newsletter,
- Continue to encourage harmonization and the establishment of public-private-NGO partnerships and collaborations,
- Assist with the development of guidelines for the integration of CBDRM into donor policy and programming and into national development plans,
- Continue to expand the existing work on the regional and national database on disaster management, and
- Develop and distribute public information packaged for the donor community

### A Primer on Disaster Risk Management in Asia a publication of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center



The Primer is a comprehensive, practical and updated resource on disaster risk management. The overall goal is to assure an appreciation for and common understanding of disaster risk management applied across all sectors and among all levels of current and potential participants in the disaster risk management process. It provides examples from various parts of the world to demonstrate the use of tools and successful methodologies. It is hoped that the Primer will support stakeholders in assessing their risks, planning for actions, and forming collaborative partnerships, to reduce risks and ultimately save human lives.

The Primer is based on consultations with and inputs from a number of local, national, regional and international experts, and stakeholders. It is published by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, Bangkok, Thailand, through support provided by the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, United States Agency for International Development.

For more information, please contact Ms Shalini Sharma Kanwar at [shalini@adpc.net](mailto:shalini@adpc.net). The primer is available online (pdf) at [http://www.adpc.net/udrm/primer/pdf/primer\\_volume1.pdf](http://www.adpc.net/udrm/primer/pdf/primer_volume1.pdf)



### National Media Orientation Workshops on CBDRM

One-day National Orientation Workshops with the Media were held in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Timor Leste and Vietnam in September and October 2005. The workshops were organized by PDRSEA in cooperation with the NDMOs in the respective countries.

The workshop's objective was to orient national media representatives (print, TV, radio) about Community Based Disaster Risk Management and their role in the disaster risk communication process. It also aimed to encourage media support for disaster risk management and public awareness for preparedness. For this workshop, PDRSEA developed a Media Kit which included country-specific disaster information, concepts of CBDRM, and hazard-specific community-based preparedness measures.

There was a general consensus among the participants in the four countries to involve more in the timely dissemination of preparedness measures and hazard awareness information through their own media channels.