

**adpc**

**Asian Disaster Preparedness Center**

# 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

**2-4 December 2008  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

**organised by**  
National Security Council, Prime Minister's Department  
Government of Malaysia

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

ADPC actively participated as a key partner of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction that was officiated by Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Yab Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abd Razak, and was attended by Ministers from more than 40 Asia-Pacific countries. The conference was attended by over 600 participants including Governments, private sector, Non-Government organizations, media, technical and specialized institutions, UN Agencies, local communities, local authorities from various fields of DRR disciplines. Hosted by the Malaysian Government, the conference with the overarching theme of **'Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction; From National to Local'**, emphasised on exchange of knowledge on practical ways of implementing disaster risk reduction efforts and promoting public-private partnerships and community participation.

Senator Loren Legarda was announced as the Asia Pacific Regional Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction, This is an honorary title designated by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (ISDR) for advocating and advancing DRR.

ADPC showcased its activities, initiatives and achievements in disaster risk reduction at the conference exhibition in line with the theme of the Conference, through posters, publications, newsletters, brochures & video presentations. IEC materials were on display and for distribution.



*Distinguished visitors being greeted at the ADPC Exhibition booth*



ADPC, as the Asia Regional Task Force on Urban Risk Reduction (RTF -URR) enthusiastically contributed to the pre-conference event on Asia Regional Task Force on Urban Risk Reduction. The session recognized the need to develop further regional collaboration on urban risk reduction initiatives, to enhance information sharing among RTF-URR members and beyond, including the expansion of the membership and to agree upon next steps for the collaborative work through RTF-URR, including modality of a session on UDRM during the Global Platform.

The conference saw Asian ministers reaching an agreement on the "Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia 2008", which stressed for regional and national stakeholders in disaster risk reduction for public-private partnership, high technology and scientific applications, involvement and empowerment of local governments and civil society in disaster risk reduction, engaging the media in increasing coverage and public awareness and education for disaster risk reduction. ADPC was also a member of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration Drafting Committee.

**Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, Executive Director of ADPC**, made the plenary statement, where he stressed on the significance of the 03<sup>rd</sup> Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction which expressively signaled the political commitment to accelerate the pace of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action through “Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction; From National to Local”.



*Channel News Asia interviewing Dr. Bhichit Rattakul*

He called attention on how the **Regional Consultative Committee (RCC)**, represented by the heads of NDMOs of 26 Asian countries to which ADPC acts as the secretariat, would serve as the senior government official follow up meeting to the Ministerial Conference. He informed that the RCC mechanism would facilitate to monitor and follow-up the ministerial commitments and declarations with National Disaster Management Offices and concerned ministries of the

respective countries paving way to **enhanced coordination and collaboration mechanism and partnerships structure.**

In conclusion, he recalled the RCC 07 meeting held in Colombo in 2007, where member countries reaffirmed the commitment to take up national programs on Community based disaster risk reduction (CBDRM) reflecting the evolving perspective of CBDRM with move towards community leadership for DRR, called for greater engagement, partnership and integration with local government mechanisms for disaster management and development. They reaffirmed to identify solutions for upscaling CBDRM and affirmed the need for enhanced resources from national and local government and prioritized implementation plan for CBDRM focusing on high risk sub regions in each member country. ADPC, for the last 20 years has been playing a vital role in the region to advocate for and build capacity on Community based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) and its long experience of working with national and local partners on CBDRR has led to the development of the **Critical Guidelines on CBDRR.**

As the regional DRR resource centre in the Asia and Pacific, ADPC led the following six events as given below;

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

The technical Segment 3 (TS-3) on **CBDRR; Involvement & empowerment of local Governments and non Governmental Organizations** and the High Level Round Table 3 (HLRT-3), headed by Dr. Bhichit discussed **decentralization, resource allocation and empowerment of local Government and communities for DRR** focused on the theme, "How to facilitate decentralization process and allocation of resources to local initiative and strengthen capacities for CBDRR at the sub national level i.e. Provincial, District, and City level".

"Although decentralization is favored by governments, traditional hierarchies and political context often creep in to interfere with newly established structures and decentralized development decision making is therefore is yet to become a reality. While decentralized government institutions - whether elected or bureaucratic, traditional or modern-have a mandate, they lack capacity and resources to address local development and risk reduction demands", stressed Dr. Visaka Hidallage; Duryog Nivaran, South Asia while sharing their experiences in the region.

"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." The most widespread Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement experience was shared by Mr Arifin Mohammed Hadi, Head of Relief Department, Indonesia Red Cross (PMI), Indonesia.

Sri Lankan experiences on promoting culture of volunteerism at local and community levels as key for community safety was shared by Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Minister of Disaster Management & Human Rights, Sri Lanka.

"Decentralization, resource allocation and empowerment of local governments and communities were the key in achieving community resilience" Dr. Bhichit Rattakul pertinently pointed out.

A set of recommendations with particular reference to the governance structures in Asia on decentralized disaster risk reduction, which can be followed up and monitored at the biannual ministerial meetings and HFA reporting process was discussed at the HLRT -3.

The side event on **"Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development; experiences and lessons learned from Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) Program on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development"** provided a forum for the RCC member countries to share their experiences on undertaking Priority Implementations Partnerships under the program on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development. Presentations were made by the Governments of Nepal, the Philippines and Sri Lanka on various initiatives under the program and advancement of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development in the countries.

The approach adopted by the program to advance mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development includes developing *RCC Guidelines* and undertaking *Priority Implementation Partnerships* between RCC members and national and sectoral agencies on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction. Capacity building, advocacy and knowledge management on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction forms other essential pillars of the program.

"Philippines recognized the value of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in critical sectors such as infrastructure, physical framework planning, education, and local governance. With the support provided by the RCC program and donor-agencies, the Philippines have been instrumental in creating the stimulus and perpetuating the momentum to direct stakeholders' energies in working together", informed General Glenn Rabonza, Administrator, Office of Civil Defense and Executive Officer, National Disaster Coordinating Council, Philippines.

The country experiences were followed by panel discussion with representatives from Government of Bangladesh, Indonesia and other development partners. Being a program of the Government, the panel articulated the linkage *the RCC program provided with the ongoing National programs on disaster risk reduction* being implemented in RCC



member countries and its *complementarities with the ongoing efforts of other development partners.*

According to Mr. K.H. Masud Siddiqui, Director General, Disaster Management Bureau, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, Bangladesh, “the ongoing Priority Implementation Partnership on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in Health sector being implemented by the Government of Bangladesh under the RCC program provides an opportunity to strengthen the dialogue between the disaster risk reduction and health sector stakeholders on the need for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and needs to be scaled up through ongoing national programs”.

“The side event provided an opportunity for the RCC members to share their initiatives on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and provided future directions to undertake activities under the program in order to achieve sustainable development and reach the globally agreed Millennium Development Goals”, said Dr. Bhichit Rattakul.

The side event on **reducing disaster risk in urban areas** was led by Mr. N.M.S.I. Arambepola, Director of the Urban Disaster Risk Management (UDRM), ADPC. The session invited implementing agencies in Asia to highlight the city level good practices of hazard assessment, action planning, community based DRM interventions, structural mitigation activities, emergency planning and preparedness interventions etc.



*Mr. N.M.S.I. Arambepola with presenters and participants of the side event on reducing disaster risk in urban areas*

Presentations focused on the key thematic areas of Urban Disaster Risk Management, good practices and lessons learnt. Program for Hydro-Meteorological Disaster Mitigation in Secondary Cities (PROMISE)-experience in implementing Comprehensive Disaster Management Program in Bangladesh was shared by ADPC. The Mayor of Dagupan, Philippines presented, leading from the front–importance of political will and commitment for successful implementation of city level DRM programs. Other presentations included Malaysia and emergency response in earthquake disaster by CITYNET, experience from recent earthquake in Sichuan, RTF-URR.

ADPC, a member of the Harbin Alliance - a worldwide multi-stakeholder partnership of NGOs, UN, research organizations, and intergovernmental bodies committed to the harmonization of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, led the side event-**Linking climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction agenda: Science, institutions, and policy**. The session was chaired by Mr. Aloysius Rego, Deputy Executive Director, ADPC who provided a scientific review of the implications of climate change for disaster risk. United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction's presentation focused on enabling international policy framework and funding mechanisms for linking climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.



*Dr. Govindarajan Srinivasan, Climate Change Scientist, ADPC made a presentation on designing institutional and policy approaches towards linking climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction agenda.*

The event focused on the ongoing discussion on the rationale for linking climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction agenda from scientific, institutional and policy perspectives.



*Apart from that, ADPC's ED, DED & Director of Urban Disaster Risk Management also held separate tri-lateral, bilateral discussions with heads of delegations from Governments, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brunei, Malaysia, Myanmar, Iran, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, International Organizations such as UNISDR, UNESCAP, UNOCHA and Civil societies and networks such as, ADRC, ADRRN, Duryog Nivaran, Mercy Malaysia, NSET etc.*





Media coverage:

<http://web7.bernama.com/bernama/v5/bm/newsindex.php?id=375915>

**Welcoming International Aid for Natural Disasters**

<http://www.brudirect.com/DailyInfo/News/Archive/Dec08/061208/nite04.htm>

**Third Asian ministerial conference in Malaysia - Governments meet to discuss disaster risk reduction action plans**

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/MCOT-7LWE9X?OpenDocument>

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsindex.php?id=376317>

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsindex.php?id=376422>

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsindex.php?id=376030>

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### **Asian Ministerial Conferences**

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction** was organized by the Government of the People's Republic of China in September, 2005 adopted the Beijing Action for Disaster Risk Reduction to promote the newly adopted Hyogo Framework for Action and to seek Asian Governments commitment and action to implement DRR, including through strengthening existing key regional cooperation mechanisms.

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction** was held in India in November, 2007 further reaffirmed Governments commitment to the Hyogo Framework for Action as in the Delhi Declaration and to further expand the biennial Conferences as the Regional Platform with the participation of national Governments, regional and sub-regional organizations, United Nations agencies, financial institutions and other stakeholders including civil societies, scientific and technical organizations the private sector and the media.  
<http://nidm.gov.in/amcdrr/conference.asp>

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction** was held in Malaysia in December, 2008, and builds on the previous Conferences with the theme "Multi-stakeholders Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction from National to Local".  
<http://www.amcdrrmalaysia.com.my/pages.php>

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction** will be held at Incheon, Republic of Korea in 2010.

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