



12th Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management

Meeting Proceedings

Co-hosted by
The Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs (MoHCA) and
the Department of Disaster Management (DDM), Bhutan; and ADPC
with support from the German Government through GIZ

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Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

RCC REGIONAL
CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE on
**DISASTER
MANAGEMENT**



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12TH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (RCC) ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Venue: Thimphu, Bhutan

Dates: 16-18 June, 2015

Inaugurated by: H.E. Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of Bhutan

Co-hosted by: The Department of Disaster Management (DDM), Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs (MoHCA), Bhutan; and ADPC with support from the German Government through the GIZ

Meeting Theme: Risk-Sensitive Development in Asia

Member Countries in Attendance: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam

List of Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADPC	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
AMCDRR	Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BMZ	German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development
CBDRR	community-based disaster risk reduction
CCA	climate change adaptation)
DDM	Bhutan Department of Disaster Management
GIDRM	Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GLOFs	Glacial Lake Outburst Floods
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
HFA	Hyogo Framework for Action
HoA	Heart of Asia
IDRL	International Disaster Response Law
MDRD	Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MDRD	Mainstreaming DRR into Development Policy, Planning and Implementation
MoHCA	Bhutan Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs
NDMO	National Disaster Management Office
NDPRM	National Disaster Preparedness and response mechanism
NDRT	National Disaster Response Teams
NEMA	Mongolia's National Emergency Management Agency
OFDA	USAID/Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance
PEER	Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response
PIP	Public Investment Projects
RCC	Regional Consultative Committee
RCRC	Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SERB	USAID's Strengthening Earthquake Resilience in Bangladesh
SFDRR	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030
SPOT	Strategic Planning and Oversight Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCAP	UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNISDR	United Nations Office for Disaster Reduction
UN-OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
WB	World Bank
WHS	World Humanitarian Summit

RCC Mechanism

Established in 2000 as one of the first regional dialogues to promote consultation and cooperation on reducing disaster risk, the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) on Disaster Management promotes peer advocacy and the exchange of experiences in disaster risk reduction. Its Secretariat, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), initiated the committee to bring countries in the Asian region together to achieve common goals in DRR, explore ways to transform policies into practice, and promote regional cooperation. More specifically, the RCC's role is to provide a consultative mechanism for:

- Guiding implementation of DRR in the Asian region;
- Promoting cooperative DRR programs on a regional and sub-regional basis; and
- Guiding the work of ADPC and its future directions.

The RCC played a pivotal role in supporting the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) in Asia, and will continue this role with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (SFDRR). In addition, the RCC serves as an important forum for senior government officials in preparing for and following up on the outcomes of the Asian Ministerial Conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) and other significant regional events in the field.

Since 2000, there have been eleven meetings of the RCC. The 12th annual meeting was held in Thimphu, Bhutan, following an invitation of the Royal Government of Bhutan and was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs (MoHCA) and the Department of Disaster Management (DDM).

The German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) supported the 11th RCC Meeting in Nai Pyi Taw, Myanmar in 2014 and is contributing also to this year's event through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH within the framework of the Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM).

OBJECTIVES

As a follow up to the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in Sendai, Japan in 2015, and the 11th RCC meeting in Nai Pyi Taw, Myanmar in 2014, the objectives of the 12th RCC meeting were as follows:

- Build on and strengthen the work accomplished in the region under the HFA, and identify key priorities of the RCC member countries as part of implementing the SFDRR over the next five years (2015–2020);
- Discuss how the RCC’s national and regional efforts in operationalizing risk-sensitive development under the SFDRR can connect with other global and regional frameworks (such as the Sustainable Development Goals); and
- Establish cross-continental linkages by inviting participants from Latin America for knowledge transfer with the RCC member countries on risk-sensitive public investment planning and management.

THEMATIC FOCUS

In line with the 12th RCC meeting's objective of advancing the discussions and outcomes of the 3rd WCDRR, and preparing the way for ground-level implementation of the SFDRR in Asia, the meeting adopted the overall theme of the WCDRR, that of '*Risk-sensitive development in Asia*'. Similarly, and leading on from this overall theme, the sub-themes of the meeting drew on the four priorities for action outlined in the SFDRR.

SUB-THEME 1 **UNDERSTANDING DISASTER RISK**

For DRR to be effectively implemented, risks need to be clearly assessed and understood. Much progress has been made in advancing the science and practice of risk assessments in the RCC member countries. The development and distribution of empirical data on disaster risk ensures that policies and projects for disaster management are science-based, appropriate and effective. In this regard, the RCC member countries have already made substantial progress in assessing disaster risk and establishing risk-monitoring systems. Nonetheless, further work is needed.

In particular, there is a need to critically examine the successes and challenges that the RCC member countries have found while carrying out risk assessments, and to ensure future risk assessment methodologies incorporate learning from the past.

As a result, under this sub-theme:

- RCC member countries engaged in detailed discussion on how risk assessments have developed over recent years under the guidance of the HFA, and what actions are required for advancing the risk assessment agenda in Asia.
- RCC member countries and development partners discussed the community-based DRR frameworks used for assessing local-level risk and share approaches used to address DRM needs at the community level.

SUB-THEME 2 **STRENGTHENING DISASTER RISK** **GOVERNANCE TO MANAGE DISASTER RISK**

An essential aspect of the RCC mechanism is to ensure that disaster risk governance is strengthened both nationally and regionally. Under ADPC's Core Program for application, the agency has been serving the RCC member states by implementing regional and national mainstreaming initiatives. Significant progress has been achieved through the Program on Mainstreaming DRR into Development Policy, Planning and Implementation (MDRD) facilitating the

integration of DRR and climate change adaptation (CCA) into the planning and implementation of development initiatives. ADPC's MDRD program concludes its third phase in 2015, and the fourth phase of the mainstreaming program needs to be developed.

Under this sub-theme:

- A discussion paper analyzing the RCC's MDRD program in terms of successes, challenges and learnings was presented for further inputs.
- Preliminary findings of the regional sector-specific mainstreaming needs assessment were shared for more discussion by the RCC members.
- A discussion was held on creating a regional road map for mainstreaming DRR and CCA into development to be implemented over the next five years. This road map will guide the fourth phase of RCC's MDRD program.

SUB-THEME 3
INVESTING IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
FOR RESILIENCE

Investment in DRR in both public and private sectors is necessary for sustainable growth. Already, across the RCC member countries, governments have committed significant resources in pursuit of resilience. However, the role of the private sector is especially critical and there is a need to up-scale the efforts to increase private sector investment in DRR. For this, governments need to facilitate and encourage private sector investment through policy and market-based mechanisms. Numerous analytical studies have demonstrated that investment in DRR by both private and public sectors is cost-effective over the long-term and greatly facilitates sustainable development. The RCC mechanism is pursuing analytical options for cost-benefit analysis in order to extend and encourage government and private sector investment in resilience.

Under this sub-theme:

- A draft framework with options, methods and strategies for cost-benefit analyses of DRR investment was shared for discussion and inputs.
- An opportunity for inter-continental knowledge exchange was created between Asia and Latin America by presenting and discussing a tangible solution from Peru. Learning from best practice, the Peruvian Ministry of Finance and Economics presented its approach to targeting the systematic integration of disaster and climate risk management information into public investment planning. Experts from GIZ supported the session.

SUB-THEME 4
ENHANCING DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FOR
EFFECTIVE RESPONSE, AND TO “BUILD BACK
BETTER” IN RECOVERY, REHABILITATION AND
RECONSTRUCTION

Disaster preparedness is critical in order to minimize losses of life, injuries, and damages caused to property in an extreme event, and to ensure that efficient rescue and emergency management

services can be provided following a disaster. Early warning systems are vital to disaster preparedness and timely response, and should be an integral component of any nation’s disaster management strategy. Recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction stages are an opportunity to build back better, meaning that the buildings, infrastructure and other systems are constructed to a higher standard so that they are better able to withstand future disaster events. In addition, it is now also understood that an effective response requires an inclusive approach that addresses the needs of women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. This enables an inclusive and equitable recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.

Under this sub-theme:

- ADPC and GIZ shared experiences from establishing early warning systems, discuss the need to harmonize alert levels, and reflect on how early warning systems contribute to enhanced preparedness at the community, local and national levels;
- Recent research was presented demonstrating how recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction are key stages in the implementation of vulnerability reduction measures.
- Experience-sharing on disaster preparedness for effective response: This discussion included a focus on safe schools, as well as presented results from the Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER) and USAID’s Strengthening Earthquake Resilience in Bangladesh (SERB) programs as models for preparedness;
- A discussion took place around the role of women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction stages, and options and strategies for improving the inclusion of gender considerations in post-disaster phases will be identified and explored.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS OF THE 12TH RCC MEETING

Output A: RCC Action Plan 2015–2020. This action plan will outline key priorities, goals, objectives and activities for operationalizing risk-sensitive development in the RCC member countries and regionally over the next five years. The action plan will draw heavily on the SFDRR and seek practical ways to implement the SFDRR at the national level and regionally. As a component of this, the action plan will develop clear linkages with sub-regional plans, frameworks and activities currently being implemented by sub-regional bodies such as ASEAN and SAARC.

Output B: MDRD Program Phase IV (2015–2020). The phase IV road map will outline key priorities and objectives for the MDRD program to be pursued over the next five years. The road map will form the basis of a more comprehensive program document to be prepared based on contributions from the RCC member countries during the meeting, as well as based on an internal review and programming.

SESSION 2 HOST COUNTRY PRESENTATION



Chair: Ms. Dechen Tshering,
Disaster Risk Management
Specialist, World Bank

The chair, Ms. Dechen Tshering, World Bank, welcomed participants to the second session, highlighting the objective of the session being to give participants an opportunity to hear the progress within the Kingdom of Bhutan in preparing the country for disasters as well as upcoming DRR activities and initiatives. Bhutan is affected annually by a number of hazards particularly flooding, earthquakes, landslides and Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs). Climate change is increasing the frequency and magnitude of hydro-metrological hazards, and combined with other risk multipliers including population growth and urbanization, there is a growing risk of a large disaster occurring in the near future. However, the Bhutanese government has taken action to mitigate those risks. Significant progress has been made to prepare the country for future disasters including the establishment of the Department of Disaster Management in 2008.

The first presenter was the Director of the Department of Disaster Management, Bhutan, Mr Chhador Wangdi. He outlined the hazard profile of Bhutan and how Bhutan has become better prepared during the period of the HFA, what current initiatives are being carried out currently by DDM and what are the plans for the future under the SFDRR.



Photo: Mr. Chhador Wangdi,
Director of the Department of
Disaster Management

Mr. Chhador Wangdi's presentation allowed participants to appreciate the significant amount of work being carried out in Bhutan. The successful mainstreaming of DRR at the national level is a reflection of the political will of Bhutan. Policy makers and politicians have worked hard to ensure that Bhutan is reducing the risk of future disasters. This can be seen in the inclusion of "Improved disaster resilience and management mainstreamed" as one of our 16 National Key Result Areas in Bhutan's 11th five-year plan.

However, there will be significant challenges that face Bhutan in the future, particularly with climate change as well as the rapid urban population growth. But Bhutan is also better prepared than ever before and is taking steps to ensure the country continues to prepare for future disasters.

Following Mr. Chhador Wangdi's presentation, a plenary discussion was held by participants guided by the following questions:

- *Have similar interventions been undertaken in other countries?*
- *Do the challenges faced by Bhutan also exist in other countries?*
- *What can other countries learn from Bhutan's experiences?*
- *Is there any advice from other countries for Bhutan in terms of its DRR and mainstreaming initiatives?*

The key comments from the discussion included:

Potential to reduce information gap regarding risk assessment using specific assessment tools. Mr. Sanny Jegillos from UNDP highlighted the importance of emergency response capacity and the need to mainstream DRR into sectors which protects vulnerable groups including children and disabled persons. Mr Chhador Wangdi, highlighted that Bhutan has made significant strides into developing policies and guidelines in development which consider disaster risk and continues to make progress. There is significant political will to make disaster risk reduction a priority. The challenge now is implementing at the community level and improving the capacity of disaster responders.

SESSION 3 THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, RCC MECHANISM AND REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT



Chair: **Dir. Romeo F. Fajardo**,
Deputy Administrator, Office
of Civil Defense, Philippines



Co-chair: **Mr. Shane Wright**,
Executive Director Asian
Disaster Preparedness Center

The session introduced the new global DRR policy framework, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR), as well as outlined the key linkages between the framework and other regional initiatives. The objective of the session was to encourage concentrated discussion on what the global SFDRR means, from an operational perspective, for Asia and the RCC member states. This session also provided a space for discussion and suggestions on the future role of the RCC mechanism.

The first presenter was Mr. Sujit Mohanty, Programme Officer for the United Nations Office for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), Asia

Pacific Office. Mr. Mohanty's presentation titled "Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster" started by giving the background context from which the SFDRR arose from. He then outlined how the new framework's scope now includes slow-onset, small-scale and biological and man-made hazards as well as increases the scope of action in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. The presentation followed with description of the core guiding principles of the SFDRR as well as the follow up actions needed from the UN general assembly, States themselves, Stakeholders, and the UN and by UNISDR.



Photo: **Mr. Sujit Mohanty**,
Programme Officer – UNISDR, Asia-
Pacific Office

Following from Mr. Mohanty's presentation, Madam Corazon Alma G. De Leon, Vice Chair, Board of Trustees for ADPC presented on the role of the RCC mechanism within the region, and options for redefinition. Her presentation started with an

overview of the RCC followed by the value addition of the RCC compared to other regional mechanisms. Madam Cora then proposed what RCC's new scope could be, including how it could align with global development strategies and DRR frameworks particularly the need to be redefined to complement the four priorities for the SFDRR. She also proposed establishing a Strategic Planning and Oversight Team (SPOT) to guide the mechanism. The proposed roles of member countries were then highlighted which included strengthening membership, improving ownership of the mechanism and ensuring accountability of the DRR programs.



Photo: Madam Corazon Alma G. De Leon, Vice Chair, Board of Trustees for ADPC

Mr. Ahmed Kamal, Member of Pakistan's NDMA, (Co-lead HOA) presented next on how to create synergies between RCC and the Heart of Asia mechanism. He outlined the role of the RCC currently in Asia followed by how the Heart of Asia –Istanbul Process evolved and its current status. This was followed by Pakistan's progress within the HoA and finished with how RCC and HoA can create synergies including linking regional and capacity development events. The key statements between the positive synergies proposed by HoA for the RCC are to: develop a joint regional agenda on DRM for the next 3 years, which includes organizing regional meetings, capacity development events, technical research studies, and linking HoA with RCC and other regional forums and networks. Other potential synergies proposed by the HoA include: meetings primarily attended by NDMOs, with development partners and technical organizations as observers, designing country-specific DRM-related programs and projects if requested by HoA member countries. Heart of Asia is also looking to assess regional response capacity with inputs from each member countries, prepare a consolidated RCC-HoA risk profile for all member countries, and extend technical advice on future comprehensive risk assessments for RCC-HoA countries. Furthermore, HoA seeks to develop collaborations by supporting the mainstreaming of DRR and CCA into development planning at different levels, develop high-level advice for key decision-makers, and capacity development programs for development planning and other key government officials in DRR and CCA.



Photo: Mr. Ahmed Kamal, Member of Pakistan's NDMA (Co-lead of Heart of Asia)



Photo: Dr. Puji Pujiono Regional Adviser on DRR in the Bangkok-based UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

The next presentation came from Dr. Puji Pujiono Regional Adviser on DRR in the Bangkok-based UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, on how synergies can be created between RCC and ESCAP's regional mechanism. He highlighted the position that UNESCAP is within the UN system and how its role in creating regional policies; as a think tank; as a regional voice; and as a sharing platform. Comparisons were then

made between different aspects of the RCC, AMCDRR and ESCAP. UNESCAP saw potential synergies by moving towards an alignment of RCC and other regional DRR-related mechanisms including the AMCDRR and the ESCAP as the formal binding mechanism from the declarations of the RCC and the AMCDRR which are to be monitored. The practical steps proposed by UNESCAP is for the RCC host country and ADPC taking the RCC policy recommendations to ESCAP DRR committee, advocating these recommendations to the regional commission, and then RCC to consider ESCAP as the platform to elevate good practices into regional practices standards.

The final speaker for the session was Mr. Daniel Gilman, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, UNOCHA, Thailand who presented on how synergies can be created between



Photo: Mr. Daniel Gilman,
Humanitarian Affairs Officer,
UNOCHA

RCC and the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS). His presentation described the WHS which will be held in 2016 which will connect critical stakeholders engaged in humanitarian response including national governments, humanitarian organizations, community responders, and associated partners. He then outlined the consultative process that is currently being undertaken including regional, thematic and global consultations. He proposed four possible linkages between the RCC mechanism and the WHS:

1. Outcomes of 12th RCC meeting will go into WHS process
2. Ongoing opportunities to shape the discussion to reflect key regional priorities and link to RCC initiatives
3. RCC provides a strong platform to link implementation of Sendai Framework to implementation of WHS outcomes
4. 13th RCC meeting will take place just after WHS – opportunity to discuss and operationalize key agreements

OPENING CEREMONY



Photo: RCC 12 Opening Ceremony with H.E. Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of Bhutan

The RCC meeting participants travelled to the Royal Convention Center for the official opening ceremony with welcome speech from Dasho (Dr.) Sonam Tenzin Hon'ble Secretary, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, welcome remarks from Mr. Martin Hoppe, Head of Division, BMZ, Germany, and Ms. Cornelia Richter, Managing Director of GIZ, Germany, followed by ADPC's Dr. Krasae. The participants also received the inaugural address from Prime Minister H.E. Tshering Tobgay, who understood well the importance of having a platform like RCC after visiting affected areas in Nepal.

Photo: RCC 12 participants in the opening ceremony





Mr. Martin Hoppe,
Head of Division, BMZ,
Germany

12th RCC Welcome Remarks

18 June 2015

*The Honorable Prime Minister,
Honorable Ministers and Members of Parliament,
Dignitaries,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Disaster risk management is to a large extent about efficiency, a virtue, Germany is famous for in the world. So I beg your understanding that in the spirit of efficiency I economized on protocol. I will also not bore you with numbers and figures to underpin the importance of disaster risk management. The most recent earthquake in Nepal is still very present on our minds and it has done so very tragically.

I would rather like to focus on a few political messages that I would want to share with you on behalf of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

In the face of the wide array of disaster risks, this conference must send a strong message: we know, we prepare and we prevent. Any loss of property, any loss of cultural assets due to a lack of preparedness is negligence. Any loss of life due to a lack of reasonable prevention is murder. Let us therefore work on an ambitious outcome document for this conference that focuses on results and that is truly action oriented.

Effective disaster risk management is not for national governments alone. We must all act together - at communal, regional, national and at international level. And it takes all actors: governments, academia, private enterprise and civil society must work together and hold each other accountable. For example governments must encourage academia and private enterprises to provide technical solutions. Civil society must hold institutions and governments accountable. Only when we cooperate will we be able to develop and implement suitable means to deal with disaster risks.

Germany is willing to assist partners in disaster risk reduction. That is why we have launched the Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management. The idea is to bring together relevant stakeholders and provide to partners the technological know-how and the expertise they need. It is therefore my pleasure that the managing director of our national implementing agency GIZ, Ms. Cornelia Richter is present here today and I have asked her to introduce to you in more detail this important initiative.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Government of Bhutan for generously hosting the 12th RCC, and I would also like to thank the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center for co-organizing this important event. Let us send a strong signal from Thimphu: we know, we prepare and we prevent.

Thank you very much.



Ms. Cornelia Richter,
Managing Director GIZ,
Germany

12th RCC Opening Remarks

18 June 2015

Dear distinguished Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, Secretary Tshering Dorji, delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would also like to extend my gratitude to the Government of Bhutan and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center for organizing the 12th Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management.

It is important that we have come together here to discuss the practical steps on how to put into action what we have agreed on three months ago in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR).

To work towards risk-sensitive development in Asia, one of the most affected continents by disasters, concerns all of us. Over the last decade (1994-2013), Asia has experienced about 41% of all disasters that have been recorded worldwide. Further, Asia has suffered 50% of all economic losses from disasters during these years. As a federal enterprise, we have supported the German Government for over 50 years to achieve its objectives in international cooperation. Offering demand-driven, tailor-made and effective solutions for sustainable development is the core business of GIZ. To accomplish this, we need to integrate disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning, and programming at all levels. When we address issues such as poverty reduction, rural and urban development or good governance, we have to ensure that our own investments in sustainable development are risk-sensitive. This is particularly relevant for countries that are disaster-prone and might be additionally affected by conflict or fragility.

In line with the DRM strategy of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the focus of our work is to reduce existing risks, to prevent the creation of new risks and to strengthen resilience for sustainable development. The risk of economic losses and damages to private and public assets is rising with the growing concentration of those in exposed regions. Involving the private sector in DRM is critical if this trend is to be changed. Within the framework of the Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM), GIZ has initiated projects that specifically look into creating an enabling environment for the private sector and in particular for SMEs to apply risk informed business practices and investments. Strengthening disaster resilience of SMEs and the tourism industry in Asia are just two examples where GIZ together with its partners ADPC, ADB, UNESCAP and UNISDR (just to name some) can make a difference and contributes to the essential shift from the management of disasters to the management of risks.

There is so much we can learn from each other. Meetings like the RCC provide a unique opportunity for know-how transfer. For many years, GIZ has been working together with the Peruvian public sector to develop a mechanism to integrate disaster

risk reduction into public investment decisions and projects. GIZ has also been working since 2005 on Local Flood and Landslide Early Warning Systems that empower municipalities to manage their local risks. These have been developed in the Philippines and serve more than 750.000 citizens in 10 provinces today.

Having participated in the Sendai World Conference it seems to me that there is no lack of mature DRM solutions but the need to strengthen partnerships and foster the replication of best practices across regions and even continents. Therefore I am very pleased that on behalf of the German Government GIZ can share with you our comprehensive experiences, but also learn from your know-how and expertise here in Bhutan.

The earthquake in Nepal on 25 April that killed more than 8,000 people reminded all of us that our work here is not done. Tragic events like this create a momentum that we will need to keep and direct to longer-term resilient recovery and risk-sensitive development efforts. Post-disaster reconstruction in Nepal provides us with the opportunity to build back better and to strengthen resilience to future hazard events. Investments in a disaster resilient recovery process and DRM mechanisms will pay-off. We are looking forward to build new partnerships here in Bhutan and to gain a better insight into the concrete needs of RCC member states to translate the outcomes of the SFDRR into a risk-sensitive and resilient development process

Thank you very much.



Mr. Win Htein Kyaw,
Director of Relief and
Resettlement Department,
Ministry of Social Welfare,
Myanmar

12th RCC Vote of Thanks from Previous Host Country

18 June 2015

His Excellency Mr. Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bhutan, Mr. Tshering Dorji, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bhutan, Ms. Cornelia Richter, Managing Director GIZ of Germany, Professor Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, Chairman of the ADPC Board of Trustees, Mr. Shane Wright, Executive Director Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, Excellencies, RCC members and observers, Ladies and Gentlemen, It is my honor to deliver a vote of thanks to you as we commence the 12th Regional Consultative Committee Meeting on Disaster Management, here in the beautiful city of Thimphu.

It is our honor to have His Excellency Mr. Tshering Tobgay be here with us at this 12th RCC meeting. On behalf of ADPC and the RCC delegates, I wish to extend him our sincere gratitude for sharing with us your time, experience and vision. The presence of His Excellency Mr. Tobgay is a clear demonstration the commitment by the Government of Bhutan for the advancement of disaster risk reduction. We look forward to learn more about Bhutan's own experience in this field in the next few days.

We want to offer our heartfelt thanks to the Government of Bhutan for receiving us with such a warm welcome to this delightful country and for co-hosting the 12th RCC meeting so willingly and with great generosity. I am sure the hospitality of the Bhutan people will overwhelm everyone in the coming days.

We are extremely thankful to the Government of Germany for supporting the RCC mechanism. The RCC has been recognized as a steadfast, effective regional mechanism for furthering disaster risk reduction initiatives and providing a venue from which to share information, experiences and lessons learnt. The RCC is able to play an important role in supporting the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR in member countries.

The presence of so many distinguished guests and representatives at this important meeting demonstrates the commitment of all RCC member countries to the goal of reducing hazard risks through enhanced information and experience sharing on disaster risk reduction.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our most sincere thanks to all RCC delegates and observers from all represented international and regional organizations for their support and cooperation. We are very much encouraged by the large turnout at this meeting and I would like to further encourage everyone here today to actively participate in the discussion and to offer your inputs, insights and experiences from your respective countries and region on disaster risk reduction.

I also wish to express thanks to our partner organizations in Bhutan who have helped us with logistical arrangements and in detailed planning of the meeting. I

am especially thankful to our colleagues from the Department of Disaster Management under the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs for their extraordinary efforts in co-organizing this meeting and without whom the arrangements could not have been successfully accomplished. It is our privilege to be working alongside such supportive, patient and adept colleagues.

Lastly, I wish to call your attention to the effort by the dedicated staffs of ADPC. They have put in many months of hard work to organize and plan for this 12th RCC meeting. They deserve to be recognized for their tireless energy and firm resolve for making this meeting a reality. It is a clear testament of their commitment to risk reduction and the promotion of safer communities and sustainable development. I extend my heartfelt thanks to you all for your continued efforts in pursuit of this important cause.

I wish you all a very fruitful discussion and let us look forward to the outputs from these three days of experience sharing, partnership building and vision setting.

Thank you all very much.



Prof. Dr. Krasae
Chanawongse,
Chairman, ADPC

12th RCC Opening Remarks

18 June 2015

His Excellency Lyonchen Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of Bhutan, Dasho Dr. Sonam Tenzin, Honorable Secretary, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs of Bhutan, Mr. Martin Hoppe, Head of Division, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, member of the press, and Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, or ADPC, it is our great pleasure to be here today in Thimphu for the 12th Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management or the RCC. As the Secretariat of the RCC mechanism, we are deeply honored to be working with the Department of Disaster Management under the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs of Bhutan to organize this event attended by senior government officials from 15 countries in the Asia region.

The recent powerful earthquake in Nepal is a stark reminder to us all of the natural disaster risks we are facing in the region. The outpouring of support and assistance to Nepal from all over the world and especially the help from Bhutan are the commitment of the countries to help one another in time of needs and I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for all of your support to Nepal.

But the earthquake in Nepal is another clear indicator that we need to focus on reducing the impact of disasters as it will enable us to save more lives and also minimize the damage to important infrastructures that will set back any hard earned development gain.

It is under this context that we are gather here today to foster the spirit of collaboration and partnerships among RCC member countries to serve as the foundation for building disaster resilience and to protect the livelihood of local communities in Bhutan and other countries in the region. We will also tackle the important task of laying down an actionable roadmap for the implementation of the recently adopted global agreement, the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction to achieve our common goal of safer communities and sustainable development through disaster risk reduction.

Thank you very much.



Inaugural address by H.E.
Tshering Tobgay, Prime
Minister of Bhutan

12th RCC Inaugural Address by H.E. Prime Minister

18 June 2015

Distinguished delegates from RCC countries, Development partners, Diplomats, Ladies and Gentlemen, A very good afternoon!

On behalf of the Royal Government of Bhutan and on my own behalf, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the distinguished guests to our beautiful country and to this very important meeting. We are honored to be hosting the 12th meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC) here in Bhutan. It gives me immense pleasure to be delivering the opening remarks as disaster management is a subject that is very close to my heart.

Indeed, this meeting comes at an opportune time in the backdrop of the recent earthquakes in Nepal that devastated the lives and livelihood of the Nepalese people. I would like to take the opportunity of extending the people of Bhutan's utmost condolences for the lives lost and for the sufferings that were inflicted by the earthquake. The international community came together in the hour of need to extend all possible support to the Nepalese people and this, I think is the hallmark of our solidarity and humanity.

Ladies and Gentlemen: as we all know, Bhutan is a small country, prone to various natural disasters such as earthquake, glacier lake outburst floods, landslides, flash floods and in recent times- windstorms. Furthermore, being highly dependent on climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture and hydropower makes us that much more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Bhutan has witnessed a spate of natural disasters in the recent past- the Cyclone Aila precipitated floods throughout the country in 2009, major earthquakes in 2009 and 2011 and fire on Chamkhar town in 2011, and 2012 and severe windstorm in 2013. In terms of the number of lives lost and economic losses, it amounted to loss of 28 lives and damages worth more than Nu. 4000 million (USD 66 million). While these losses may not seem significant compared to the losses suffered by other countries, let us not forget Bhutan's small size, population and GDP. As a small developing nation, these are losses that we simply cannot afford.

However, I am happy to share that Bhutan has made good progress in putting in place a framework to provide the foundation of building community resilience. The National Disaster Risk Management Framework endorsed by the Royal Government in 2006 and the Disaster Management Act of Bhutan passed in 2013, reinforces the collective nature of disaster risk management and outlines a holistic approach to dealing with disasters.

The Disaster Management Act of Bhutan 2013 further strengthens the country's institutional capacity for disaster management, mainstreaming of disaster risk

reduction, and calls for integrated and coordinated disaster management which focuses on community participation, through the establishment of various institutions at the national and district levels to ensure a decentralized disaster management system in the country.

On the practical side, the Bhutan Government has also implemented several activities and programs on the ground in accordance with the Hyogo Framework for Action. Work such as mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into the national planning sector, implementation of the community based disaster risk management programs and building response capacities in the districts are just some of the examples of the Government's commitment to reducing the impacts of disasters on the local communities.

Disasters can set back development and in some cases development itself can exacerbate existing risks and creates new ones as well. But countries can ensure long term sustainable development by minimizing disaster risk as towns and cities grow by adopting risk-sensitive planning and implementation.

I am happy to note that it is within this context, that the 12th RCC meeting will seek to ensure risk-sensitive development in Asia and thereby contribute to the setting of a safer and resilient development agenda for the region. There is a need, across Asia, to ensure that development planning and implementation at all levels consider and integrate disaster and climate change risks. In this regard, Bhutan's development philosophy of Gross National Happiness, propounded by our beloved Fourth King, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, espouses the need for development that puts peoples' happiness at the centre, which essentially means development that is sensitive to the risks posed by disasters to people.

I am pleased to know that this meeting will look at the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and focus on a practical on-the-ground implementation plan that can be adopted to align our existing and future efforts to the new priority areas in order to achieve the targets set forth in the framework. I would like to urge all participants of this meeting to see how principles and indicators of GNH may be used for ensuring risk sensitive development under the Framework.

Finally, in the end we must remember that what we do, should and must, have an impact on the lives and livelihood people in terms of number of lives saved and livelihoods secured. If at the end of the day we are able to do that then I think we would have done our jobs well.

With that, I would like to end my remark by wishing everyone a successful deliberation and please do take time to enjoy your stay in Bhutan.

Thank you very much.



Photo: H.E. Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of Bhutan receiving a plaque of appreciation from Asian Disaster Preparedness Center's Chairman, Dr. Krasae Chanawongse



Photo: H.E. Lyonpo Damcho Dorji, Hon'ble Minister of Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Bhutan receiving a Thai-style tea set as a token of appreciation from Prof. Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, Chairman of ADPC



Photo: Prof. Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, Chairman of ADPC giving Dasha (Dr.) Sonam Tenzin Hon'ble Secretary, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Bhutan a Thai-style tea set as a token of gratitude



Photo (Left to Right): ADPC Directors Mr. N.M.S.I. Arambepola, Dr. Peeranan Towashiraporn, Mr. Sajedul Hasan, with H.E. Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of Bhutan, and Mr. Shane Wright, ADPC Executive Director

Day 2 began with a plenary session based from Session 3: The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, RCC mechanisms and the regional cooperation for resilient development. The floor was opened for a plenary discussion guided by the following questions:

- *What are the main challenges to implementing the SFDRR in member states?*
- *How can the RCC mechanism support the operationalization of the SFDRR in member states?*
- *What do member states want and require from the RCC mechanism in the future?*
- *How can linkages between SFDRR, regional mechanisms and the RCC be optimized? Initiatives?*



Photo: Plenary session from Session 3

Mr. R.K. Jain, Member Secretary of the National Disaster Management Authority of India stated that we need to have a country status report and available monitoring systems, furthermore, he has also mentioned that having too many monitoring systems could be a problem. Sanny Jegillos, Senior Adviser from UNDP, has said that the RCC reinforces the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) and that the SFDRR is a very important strategic document. Mr. Jegillos has also recommended that ADPC and RCC would need to have a focal point to formulate all the key policy-related topics that could be presented in the WHS. Major General Asghar Nawaz, the Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority of Pakistan, followed up the discussion by stating that there is a need to optimize the mechanism between the SFDRR and the RCC, in order to have better linkages, we should not be talking about long-term frameworks, but in a shorter time scale like within 5-years. There are also very strong recommendations to have collective efforts to implement the framework of the RCC, which were echoed by other member countries. There are also recommendations to have monitoring mechanisms by using indicators, which needs to be specified based on the priorities of the SFDRR and should have a target list. It is further recommended by the member states that we should establish a baseline and specific actions plans which can be monitored at the national and regional levels.

SESSION 4 REFLECTIONS AND PRIORITIES FOR REGIONAL DISASTER RISK ASSESSMENT



Chair: Mr. Keshav Kumar Pathak, Joint Secretary, Disaster Management Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, India



Co-Chair: Dr. Poonam Pillai, Senior Environmental Specialist, World Bank, United States

Risk assessment should be the first step when carrying out any DRR initiatives. If we don't understand what the hazards are, who are at risk to these hazards, and the chances of these hazards occurring, then we cannot carry out the most appropriate risk treatments. Unfortunately, it is often the case that risk assessment is seen as a luxury or unnecessary and so is overlooked. Climate change, combined with population growth and rural to urban migration is causing a change in risks. It is essential that risk assessments are continued to be carried out to understand how that risk is changing as well as understand who is most at risk.

The first priority within the SFDRR is “understanding disaster risk”. Policies and practices for disaster risk management should be based on an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment. Such knowledge can be leveraged for the purpose of pre-disaster risk assessment, for prevention and mitigation and for the development and implementation of appropriate preparedness and effective response to disasters.



Photo: Dr. Peeranan, ADPC Director and Head of Disaster Risk Assessment and Monitoring Department

This session concentrated on the importance of risk assessments for risk-sensitive development and provided reflections from the RCC member countries on how and what can be done to improve the uptake of risk assessment information in development planning.

Dr. Peeranan, Director and Head of the Disaster Risk Assessment and Monitoring department at Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, presented the topic of “understanding risk assessments in Asia and options for advancing disaster risk understanding.” Dr. Peeranan reviewed that the SFDRR Priority 1 focuses on understanding disaster risk, where policies and practices for disaster risk management should be based on an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment. Further discussing the disaster risk assessment process, and stating that disaster risk assessment is a scientific

approach for effective policy making. According to Dr. Peeranan, risk information derived from disaster risk assessments must be used for:

1. estimation and visualization of the **physical damage and economic loss**;
2. **decision making on the measures** to be applied for physical preventive measures;
3. provision of **baseline for monitoring progress of risk treatment measure** undertaken;
4. provision of inputs to define **changes or modification to public policies** to lessen disaster impacts;
5. scenario analysis for **early warning system, emergency preparedness and simulation**;
6. provision of quantitative baseline for **defining financial needs** for recovery and reconstruction in case of future disaster events;
7. and integration into **future development planning process**.

There are preexisting challenges in undertaking risk assessments, such as the lack of data, including its quality, access, acquisition and information sharing. Other challenges include: the limited understanding of stakeholders of how to effectively use risk assessments; rapid changes in Asia due to exposure and vulnerability; and the complexity from climate change impacts. There are also evident challenges in the use of risk assessments, such as: lack of proper communication; limited dissemination/sharing of data; lack of monitoring and follow-up mechanisms; limited understanding of the linkages between risk assessment and policy-making; and limited number of "champions". The recommendations were to:

- have a holistic approach for project funding;
- more capacity building and advocacy;
- monitoring and follow up mechanisms; and
- to have a multi-stakeholder approach.

The plenary session that followed had a good discussion on the disaster risk assessment needs and gaps for each countries and the partners. Some of the concerns raised from GIZ were to use risk assessment for development, instead of understanding what has happened in the analyzed area, we should be trying to understand what should be there in the future, and current risk maps do not tell us about this. Dr. Peeranan added that we have to look into the future scenarios and projections which are not only based on land use, but also population growth and climate projections such as intensity and frequency).

Following the presentation, the floor was opened for a plenary discussion guided by the following key questions:

- *How has risk assessment information been used to support development?*
- *What are the current gaps and needs in-terms of technical application and the use of risk assessments for development in the urban and rural areas?*
- *How can we integrate the use of disaster risk assessments into climate change adaptation practices?*
- *What ways can ADPC support member states to address these challenges?*

The key comments from the member countries includes the following: The representatives from Pakistan NDMA discussed that there is an issue of accessibility to risk assessment maps including the ownership of these. Furthermore, the participants discussed the proper use of the risk assessment maps, it was mentioned that risk maps should be used as a tools for national development and

not strictly for NDMOs – but these maps should support risk-sensitive development by imposing the use of the data for the development planners, implementers. While these groups need to be mandated to use disaster risk assessment into their planning and should be put into law/policy. ADPC has the potential to support member states which includes technical support and cooperation and would need to include development partners. It is understood that the four targets of the SFDRR is about reducing losses. In order to achieve this, there is a need to increase collaboration between countries, governments and technical service providers and development partners, we also will need support to help drive the process of open data.

SESSION 5 UNDERSTANDING DISASTER RISK AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL



Chair: **Mr. Suporn Ratanakin**, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Ministry of Interior, Thailand



Co-Chair: **Ms. Indira Kulenovic**, Resilience Coordinator, Asia-Pacific Zone Office, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

This session provided an opportunity for reflection on the role of communities and community-based activities for achieving resilience. Member countries outlined their experiences of developing and implementing community-based DRR frameworks and approaches..

General Badral Tuvshin, Chief of Mongolia's National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Mongolia proceeded to discuss about the case study of community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) in Mongolia. According to General Tuvshin, CBDRR framework was needed in Mongolia due to the following:

- the increase of occurrences and frequencies of natural hazards, particularly climatic hazardous phenomena caused by climate change in the country and geological threats;
- the increase of the percentage for children affecting in incidents and disasters;
- the implementation of the State Disaster Protection Policy (2011) which needs community active participation;
- the Hyogo Framework underlined the importance of seeing the impact of disaster risk reduction activities at the community level.



Photo: General Badral Tuvshin, Chief of Mongolia's National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)

General Tuvshin concluded that Mongolia has achieved a great deal under CBDRR in the past 10 years, but it is still necessary to improve communities' capabilities and capacities for possible natural and human induced hazards and increase financial investment for building community's resilience. There is also a legal act which has been drafted on disaster protection and is currently being submitted to the Parliament of Mongolia. The draft of the National Program on CBDRR is

currently being developed and would be the document which continues the sub-national program on CBDRR and to implement the SFDRR



Photo: Ms. Indira Kulenovic, the Resilience Coordinator, Asia-Pacific Zone Office, IFRC

The next presentation came from Ms. Indira Kulenovic, the Resilience Coordinator, Asia-Pacific Zone Office, IFRC, whose presentation is titled: “Community Based DRR: Learning from HFA and options under SFDRR for effective implementation in Asia. Ms. Kulenovic has discussed IFRC support to the HFA and SFDRR in the context of building resilience at the community level. Some of the key challenges are about: scaling up community-based interventions to make it multi-sectoral, multi-hazard and to have a more inclusive approach; develop one common model to enable easier scaling up, replication, and sustainable and should have community ownership; integration of community-based interventions into the government development plans or local development plans; and to have a multi-stakeholder partnership which can be scaled up. Ms. Kulenovic has also addressed how IFRC contributes to the SFDRR priority areas at the national and local level. The following can be seen below:

IFRC Contribution to Priority Area 1:

Addressing policies and practices for DRR

- Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment
- Sectoral assessment
- GIS /MRA (PMI)
- RMS
- Community Resilience programming
- Public awareness and public education
- Formal and informal school education

IFRC Contribution to Priority Area 2:

Addressing disaster risk governance at all levels

- Mainstream DRR into RCRC policies and plans
- NS DRR Frameworks /DRM Strategies
- Integrated NS development strategies and plans
- National DRR Platforms
- Integrated multi-sectoral community based initiatives/programmes
- Disaster Laws (DRR&DR)
- Gender sensitive DRR
- Beneficiary communication

IFRC Contribution to Priority Area 3:

Addressing public & private investments in DRR to build resilience of individuals, communities, and countries

- Allocation of 10% of EA for DP/DRR
- Promotion of DRR legislation at national and community level
- Community Resilience Building initiatives /programming (integrated / multi-sectoral)
- Partnerships in resilience building
- Various livelihoods initiatives (cash distribution, IG projects, etc)

IFRC Contribution to Priority Area 4:

Addressing strengthening of disaster preparedness for response, integration of DRR in response preparedness and capacity building

- National Disaster Preparedness and response mechanism (NDPRM) which include the below points:
 - National Society Contingency plans
 - HCT /Cluster Coordination, Pre-disaster meetings
 - People centered Multi-hazard, multi-sectoral EWS
 - Emergency stock-piling /buffer stocks
 - Post-emergency planning
 - Capacity building in disaster preparedness and response (National Disaster Response Teams –NDRT, BDRTs)
 - Simulation exercises /Mock drills
 - Mainstreaming DRR into recovery & Build Back Better approach
 - Mainstreaming Gender and diversities into all programming tools and implementation
 - Promote IDRL
-

The floor was opened for a plenary session guided by the following questions:

- *What have been the experiences of other countries in terms of community-based DRR?*
- *Which countries would be interested in developing Community-Based DRR Frameworks?*
- *What are current challenges to working with communities for resilience?*
- *How can ADPC support member states with community-based initiatives?*

The need for strong CBDRR mechanisms is clearly understood, however, there are still existing gaps within countries and funders. For example, CBDRR is usually prepared by external funders, however, when the project ends, there would no continuity. It is needed that the projects/ programs of CBDRR implementers are in-line with government DRR processes. There is also a need to mainstream community-based risk assessment into local development planning, and for the local community to take the lead in this.

SESSION 6 NEED FOR MAINSTREAMING DRR AND CCA INTO DEVELOPMENT



Chair: **Shri R.K. Jain, Member Secretary, National Disaster Management Authority, India**



Co-chair: **Mr. Sanny Ramos-Jegillos, Senior Advisor, United Nations Development Programme, Thailand**

The Asia-pacific region continues to be the most hazard prone region in the world however with advances in health-care, food security and quality of housing the risk of human fatality has increased relatively slower when compared to the risk of economic loss which has risen dramatically over the past 10 years. It is essential that development does not create new risk or exacerbate the risk already there. Development can, when disaster risks are considered, reduce the risk of a disaster happening.

The session explored issues in and opportunities for mainstreaming DRR and climate change adaptation (CCA) into development planning and programming in Asia. Findings from recent research on mainstreaming needs in Asia were also presented.

Mr. N.M.S.I. Arambepola, Director at ADPC, presented “Mainstreaming DRR into development in Asia: Challenges and Avenues for Progress”. According to Mr. Arambepola’s presentation, the key challenges has been in the development and accountability; usable risk information for planning agencies; use of different terms and concepts; lack of adequate institutional access to the development planning agencies; over prioritization on economic growth while principles of green economy, growth and development are overlooked; lack of sufficient support and ownership from governments; and public disclosure and media arrangements on DRR, where we see a lack of engagement with DRR and



Photo: Mr. N.M.S.I. Arambepola, Director, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center



Photo: Mr. Sajedul Hasan, Director, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

CCA, similarly, media reports on disaster impacts, but to not contribute to broader debates on DRR and CCA. Mr Arambepola also added the avenues for practical mainstreaming as: need to focus on sectoral mainstreaming at the national level; focus on develop planning at local levels; adapt and design instruments for implementation and monitoring; demonstrate the economic benefits of DRR mainstreaming; build coordination between NDMOs and central planning agencies; and improve risk information and conceptual clarity for mainstreaming.

Mr. Sajedul Hasan, Director, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, discussed the “Findings of the Regional Report on Sectoral Mainstreaming Needs Assessments”. The sectors most commonly seen as the priority sectors for MDRD were: agriculture and food security; education; water resources; housing, infrastructure and urban development; and health. Under the Agriculture and Food Security, the sector needs: to revise sectoral policy, plans, etc, and undertake risk assessments to generate required information on this; establish DRR focal points; capacity building of planning teams in DRR; improved budget allocation for DRR and development of specific incentives. Under the education sector, they need: revised sectoral policy and plans; established DRR focal points in relevant departments; improved capacity for teachers to teach DRR and integrate DRR into national curricula; improved budget allocation of DRR. Under water resources, the sector needs: to revise sectoral policy and plans; establish DRR focal points in relevant departments; improve capacity of technical waste in DRR; improve budget allocation and develop incentives. Under the housing, infrastructure and urban development, the sector needs: to revise sectoral policy, plans etc., establish construction guidelines, develop laws for implementation; establish DRR focal points in relevant depts.; undertake advocacy program of resilient housing; improve construction project evaluation at local level, and develop incentives for resilient building. Under Health, the sector needs: to revise sectoral policy,

plans etc., improve accessibility to risk data, develop DRR strategy for sector; establish DRR focal points; improve capacity of technical staff in DRR, build capacity of health facilities and systems to respond; develop guidelines for resilient health facilities, and develop incentives to encourage private sector engagement.

SESSION 7 SYSTEMATIC INTEGRATION OF DRR AND CCA INTO PUBLIC INVESTMENT PLANNING AND COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS



Chair: Major General Asghar Nawaz, Chairman, National Disaster Management Authority, Pakistan



Co-chair: Mr. Stephan Huppertz, Regional Coordinator Asia, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Germany

The session explored experiences of investing in resilient development and undertaking cost-benefit analyses for integrating DRR and CCA into development. Presentations were given by delegates from Asia and Latin America, permitting exchange of information between the two continents.

The benefits of investing in DRR initiatives have been proven to be cost effective over and over, with the common statistic that for every *one dollar spent on DRR saves 7 dollars* in emergency response. What is harder to prove is the cost benefits of mainstreaming DRR into development? Without having this proof, it is difficult to convince decision makers and financial persons that it is worth mainstreaming DRR into development. In this session we will

explore the options, methods and strategies for this sort of cost benefit analysis followed by a presentation on the experience in Peru of integrating DRR and CCA into public investment planning.



Photo: Prof. Vinod Menon, Independent Consultant

Prof. Vinod Menon, from India, presented “Options, methods and strategies for a cost-benefit analysis on mainstreaming DRR into development”. According to Professor Vinod, it is imperative to estimate the costs and benefits of the selected programme to the beneficiaries and the society at large; it is also very difficult to establish the DRR impact of specific programme as “mitigation is a disaster has not happened and avoided damage of protected assets”; the counterfactual needs to be examined and analysis; and at an aggregated-level, it is difficult to identify how much adverse impact has been minimized by the disaster risk reduction investments.

The next presentation looked into the “Integration of DRR and CCA into public investment planning in Peru: Presentation and discussion on the experiences in Peru and their application and adaptation to the Asian context. This session also saw the presentation on the “Demonstration of the process and methodology of integrating DRR and CCA into public investment planning in Peru and their application and adaptation to the Asian context. The presentations were facilitated by Ms. Nancy Zapata, Principal Advisor to the Office of Risk Management, Ministry of Finance



Photo: Dr. Karen Kraft and Ms. Nancy Zapata

and Economics, General Directorate for Public Investments, Peru and Dr. Karen Kraft, Adviser for Public Investment in the Context of Climate Change, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Peru.

Dr. Kraft and Ms. Zapata discussed the integrating of DRR and CCA into public investment planning in Peru and their application and adaptation to the Asian context, they have also demonstrated the process and methodology of integrating DRR and CCA into public investment planning in Peru and how it can be applied in Asia. Based from the presentations, it is understood that there

is a need to include risk-sensitive development into the financial setting.

The first presentation was about “Disaster Risk Management in Public Investment Projects (PIP): the Peruvian Case”. The presentation discussed the national system for public investment in Peru, which certifies the quality of public investment projects. They have discussed that disaster risk management in public investment is a gradual process. Starting from prospective risk management, to prospective and corrective risk management, and finally to risk management and climate change.

Some of the measures which integrates disaster risk management in public investment are the:

- legal framework for National System for Disaster Risk Management, which points out that the DRM should be considered in public investment;
- promotion of regional and local public investment fund, where resources are allocated by competition;
- budget program for vulnerability reduction and disasters emergency care; municipal incentive program establishes goals associated with DRM; and
- Latin American Network for Disaster and Climate Change Risk Management, where Peru is the technical secretariat.

A demonstration was given on the practical example of the incorporation of DRM in a Climate Change Context in a public investment project, where the focus was on the “expansion and improvement of tourist services in the tourist route in Rosalina Beach, – Choquequirao site – Yanama, Santa Teresa District, La Convención Province, Cusco”

SESSION 8 EFFECTIVE EARLY WARNING AND INTEGRATION OF GENDER APPROACHES INTO POST-DISASTER PHASES



Chair: Mr. W.M. Bandusena,
Secretary, Ministry of Disaster
Management, Sri Lanka



Co-chair: Dr. Bagus Tjahjono,
Chief of Disaster Training and
Education Center, National
Authority for Disaster
Management, Indonesia



Photo: Mr. Olaf Neussner, DRM
Specialist, GIZ/GIDRM, Germany



Photo: Mr. Daniel Gilman,
Humanitarian Affairs Officer, UN-
OCHA

This session concentrated on the need for effective early warning systems and disaster preparedness to facilitate response, and linked to experiences in recent large disasters such as the Nepal Earthquake of May 2015. It also explore the role of gender in response, recovery and reconstruction processes.

Early warning systems are vital to disaster preparedness and timely response, and should be an integral component of any nation's disaster management strategy. Recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction stages are an opportunity to build back better, meaning that buildings, infrastructure and other systems are constructed to a higher standard so that they are better able to withstand future disaster events. In addition, it is now also understood that an effective response requires an inclusive approach that addresses the needs of women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. This enables an inclusive and equitable recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.

The first speaker of the session Mr. Olaf Neussner, DRM Specialist, GIZ/GIDRM, Germany, presented on strengthening national, sub-national and community-level early warning systems for better preparedness and response. His presentation covered the need for improved EWS, looking at national, sub-national and community levels. He then presented some success stories in creating EWS as challenges, lessons learned and recommendations.

The second presentation came from Mr. Daniel Gilman, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, UN-OCHA, Thailand, on Emergency Response preparedness and sustainable development lessons from Nepal. In his presentation, Mr Gilman described the role of OCHA as well the different actors that they engage and how OCHA's role is focused primarily on the response preparedness and response stages of the DRR cycle. They coordinate the received international assistance including logistics and



Photo: U Win Htein Kyaw, Director of the Relief and Resettlement Department, Ministry of Social Welfare and Relief and Resettlement, Myanmar



Photo: Dr. Mahbuba Nasreen, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

infrastructure; legal frameworks and customs agreements; and multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms.

The third presentation of the day was by U Win Htein Kyaw, Director of the Relief and Resettlement Department, Ministry of Social Welfare and Relief and Resettlement, Myanmar, titled “Ready for Recovery: Reflections from Myanmar”. His presentation highlighted the disaster risks that impact Myanmar and how the Myanmar Government is upgrading its post-disaster systems and capacities through strengthening Myanmar’s capacities for post-disaster needs assessment and recovery planning as well as supporting ASEAN countries for a recovery planning guideline.

The fourth presentation was by Dr. Mahbuba Nasreen, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, who presented on mainstreaming gender into post-disaster phases. Her presentation highlighted why there is a need to consider gender both in post-disaster phases as well as in preparation and mitigation phases of the disaster cycle.

The session was concluded with a plenary discussion, with the following guiding questions:

- *What are countries’ experiences with improving preparedness and response?*
- *What are countries’ experiences with building back better?*
- *How can findings from Nepal, Myanmar and Vanuatu be useful in other countries?*
- *What actions are required by member states to better integrate gender aspects into DRR generally?*

Key discussion points were:

That agriculture was one area which was severely missed as priority in the response to the Nepal earthquake during the disaster response and recovery stages. However it is always a challenge to meet all needs during these stages so OCHA is constantly trying to improve its way of identifying the priority needs in the disaster response.

The technology presented by Mr. Olaf Neussner for landslide early warnings was discussed as particularly useful in the Himalayan countries of Nepal, India and Bhutan. Mr. Olaf Neussner highlighted that GIZ are not working alone on this and many institutions across Asia are working towards creating early warning systems that are cheap and that produce information which is accessible to communities. The landslide early warning systems shown during the presentation very easy to reproduce as well as ship to needed areas.

SESSION 9 DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS: SUPPORTING RISK-SENSITIVE DEVELOPMENT



Chair: Mr. General Badral Tuvshin, Chief, National Emergency Management Agency, Mongolia



Co-chair: Mr. Martin Hoppe, Head of Division, Peace and Security, Disaster Risk Management, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)



Photo: Senior Environment Specialist in the Social, Urban, Rural & Resilience Global Practice in South Asia Region



Photo: Senior Advisor for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Thailand



Photo: Regional Advisor for South Asia USAID/Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)

The penultimate session focused on how partners can support risk sensitive development. Development partners were given an opportunity for sharing details of their initiatives related to DRR/CCA that their current agencies are currently undertaking in RCC countries.

The first speaker was Ms. Poonam Pillai, a Senior Environment Specialist in the Social, Urban, Rural & Resilience Global Practice in South Asia Region based in Washington D.C office of the World Bank. Her presentation provided an overview of the World Bank (WB)'s engagement on DRR and Climate resilience in South Asia region. She showed how the WB approaches reducing disaster risk through: making governments and decision makers aware of disaster risk; providing options to manage and reduce contingent liability; prioritizing DRR investments. Different countries' resilience programs were also highlighted.

Mr. Sanny Ramos-Jegillos, Senior Advisor for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Thailand, presented the experience of UNDP focusing on Climate and Disaster Resilience. He also highlighted UNDP's Strategic Plan 2014-2017 which attempts to create a more unified approach to address DRR, climate change, poverty reduction and conflict under the integrating concepts of 'resilience' and 'sustainable human development'.

Mr. Michael Ernst, Regional Advisor for South Asia USAID/Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), introduced participants to USAID's OFDA and their approach to saving lives; alleviating suffering and reducing the social and economic impact of disasters. OFDA works with a variety of different actors including different UN agencies, NGOs and other donor governments. OFDA's DRR programs focus on three core areas



Photo: Mr. Alf Ivar Blikberg, Programme Officer for the Trust Fund for Tsunami Disaster and Climate Preparedness, UNESCAP

- Prioritizing and strengthening early warning, preparedness, mitigation, and prevention activities
- Integrating preparedness with response, recovery, and transition to build resilience
- Supporting diversified livelihoods strategies

UN-ESCAP's presentation was given by Mr. Alf Ivar Blikberg, Programme Officer for the Trust Fund for Tsunami Disaster and Climate Preparedness, UNESCAP, Thailand. He gave an overview of ESCAP and how it contributes to SFDRR by providing evidence for policy making on DRR mainstreaming, providing regional advisory services to high-risk, low-capacity countries, and managing the Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness.



Photo: Mr. Kim DeRidder, Director of Environment Programs, The Asia Foundation, USA

The next presentation was given by Mr. Kim DeRidder, Director of Environment Programs, The Asia Foundation, USA. He outlined how the Asia Foundation works to improve disaster preparedness, risk reduction response and climate change resilience through:

- Improving Institutional Development and Capacity Building
- Multi-stakeholder engagement
- Improving Policy and Planning
- Carrying out Research and Monitoring to Inform Policy & Practice
- Outreach & Education
- Providing Post Disaster Services



Photo: Ms. Ronilda Co, Disaster Risk Reduction Specialist of World Vision International

Ms. Ronilda Co, Disaster Risk Reduction Specialist of World Vision International presented next on World Vision's experiences in implementing DRR initiatives. This included giving examples of how they build the capacity of local governments and communities through CBDRM giving case studies of Viet Nam, Papua New Guinea and Philippines. Other activities World vision are carrying out include carrying out national simulation exercises in collaboration with partners and stakeholders and strengthening food security and economic resilience as well as many other programmes.



Photo: Mr. Shafqat Munir, Regional Rights in Crisis Coordinator Asia, Oxfam, Thailand

The final speaker of the session was Mr. Shafqat Munir, Regional Rights in Crisis Coordinator Asia, Oxfam, Thailand who presented on the experience of Oxfam. Oxfam defines resilience as 'the ability of women, men, and children to realize their rights and improve their well-being despite shocks, stresses, and uncertainty'. Oxfam's approach to resilience is one that considers inequality and power, ensuring that all vulnerable groups have input. Mr. Munir highlighted Oxfam's focus over the next five years as well examples of how Oxfam has improved resilience of communities.

SESSION 10 LOOKING AHEAD



Chair: Mr. Amit Kumar Baul,
Additional Secretary, Ministry
of Disaster Management and
Relief, Bangladesh



Co-chair: Mr. Puji Pujiono,
Regional DRR Advisor, United
Nations Economic and Social
Commission for Asia and the
Pacific (ESCAP), Thailand

This session focused on ensuring that the 12th RCC meeting was effective and productive, by seeking to finalize key outputs of the meeting. Countries were invited to express their perspective on supporting the implementation of SFDRR.



Bhutan's representative, Mr. Chhador Wangdi, expressed his thanks for participants' inputs during the RCC meeting. He expressed a need for a baseline to be taken to understand the current status of DRR initiatives that have been carried out in Bhutan and what impact they have had. This baseline would then be the starting point to be compared to with the future work done under the Sendai Framework for DRR. He also expressed the need for a five-year action plan for mainstreaming DRR into Bhutan's future development.



Bangladesh's representative, Dr Mahbuba Nasreen, highlighted the work they had carried out over the last ten years in the field of MDRD including work with the Integrated Risk Governance Project and Oxfam as well as the number of consultations they have had with a variety of stakeholders including the private sector and academic institutions. She echoed Bhutan's need for a baseline assessment to be carried out on DRR initiatives as well as MDRD work.



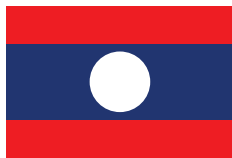
Cambodia's representative, Mr. Ross Sovann, appreciated the support from all partners of the meeting. He stated that DRR mainstreaming needs the involvement of sectors including planning and finance and that NDMOs need to work together with other actors such as the private sector and academia.



India's representative, Mr. Keshav Kumar Pathak, stated that there is still much to be done in the field of disaster management, with a great need to be complementary to other sectors. There is a need for technical support in creating a DRR baseline and five-year MDRD plan, a role which ADPC could potentially play. He restated India's commitment to preparing the country for disasters through the SFDRR.



Dr. Bagus Tjahjono read out **Indonesia's** statement which highlighted how RCC was a useful forum for creating high-level discussion. He felt ADPC should continue to be a useful resource for supporting technical implementation of DRR initiatives. He also described how the RCC mechanism was useful for different country NDMO's to share their experiences. He stated Indonesia's commitment to the SFDRR and that there was a need for a five year action plan into implementing it. There is also still a lot of work needed on mainstreaming DRR at both the national and regional level which will need the support of NGOs.



Lao PDR's Mr. Souphasay thanked all the organisers including Bhutans DDM, GIZ and ADPC. He stated the need for a strategy to implement DRR into RCC member countries both at a regional and a national level. He urged development partners to continue to support efforts to creating resilience.



Mongolia's representative, Brigadier General Tuvshin Badral, described how the momentum of the meeting should be continued with scheduling of meetings with national partners as well as ensure improving relations with new partner countries and new development partners met during the RCC meeting. He also highlighted that future RCC meetings would be improved with more member countries being present.



Myanmar's representative, Mr. Win Htein Kyaw, highlighted that the country's goal was to make Myanmar safer to protect both lives and livelihoods. He expressed that this could only be done by enhancing communities resilience as well as enhancing national operations and coordination between RCC member countries.



The powerful linkages created during the 12th RCC meeting was highlighted by **Pakistan's** representative, Major General Asghar Nawaz, and that future DRR work would need to be mindful of the mistakes made during the HFA era. He described how Pakistan was aggressively pursuing DRR actions through its DRR policy 2013-2020. Multi-hazard risk assessment was needed across the country as well focus on creating urban resilience and improving response management. He also highlighted that indicators were needed for SFDRR to ensure action to properly address SFDRR. Strengthening communities was seen as central to creating a country prepared for future disasters along with gender considerations. The representative also expressed Pakistan's interest in hosting the next RCC meeting.



The representative from the **Philippines**, Dir. Romeo Fajardo, extended their appreciation to RCC member countries, Bhutan particularly for hosting, as well as partners GIZ and ADPC. He felt that discussions were timely particularly as disaster risk was changing with climate change and population growth. He expressed the Philippines commitment to the SDRR. He highlighted that there was a need to make DRR information more accessible ensuring the carrying out of pre-disaster risk assessments. There was also a need to engage the private sector and the creation of DRR legislation.



The **Sri Lankan** representative, Mr. W.M. Bandusena, read their statement which expressed the need for action to address the SFDRR. This included the importance of strengthening DRR governance and that the measuring of past DRR work to measure performance was essential. He felt that with the new government in Sri Lanka, that this was an opportune time to implement DRR with redefined actions. He also expressed that there was a need to identify gaps in the DRR work carried out in Sri Lanka to ensure future work addresses them.



Thailand's representative, Mr. Suporn Ratananakin, described how there required a robust collaboration between RCC member countries and that working together was necessary. He expressed that the RCC should continue to support countries and that establishing baselines would be useful to evaluate success. He also highlighted that Thailand's Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation would need technical support to assess the current state of DRR in the country as well as support for developing a five year road map for SFDRR.



Viet Nam's Mr. Dang Quang Minh expressed his country's strong commitment to the SFDRR and that there was a need for incorporating a well-thought-out strategy to meet the framework's goals. He also describe Viet Nam's support in implementation of DRR into future projects and programmes.

Finally at the end of the session the Thimphu statement, drafted in the morning by the steering committee, was read out to allow participants to give feedback and inputs to the statement. This included a change to ensure that age, disability and cultural considerations were integrated into the national DRM action plans of member countries. Once these changes were made, the Thimphu statement was accepted and endorsed by all member countries present.

CLOSING CEREMONY

The closing ceremony was hosted by the Secretary of Cultural and Home Affairs of the Royal Kingdom of Bhutan with the wrap up of the 12th RCC from Mr. Shane Wright, a vote of thanks from Mr. W.M. Bandusena, and closing remarks from Mr. Martin Hoppe, Madam Corazon Alma De Leon, and H.E. Damcho Dorji.



Mr. Shane Wright
Executive Director, Asian
Disaster Preparedness Center

12th RCC Wrap-up

18 June 2015

His Honorable Lyonpo Damcho Dorji, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs of the Kingdom of Bhutan, Madam Corazon Alma G. De Leon, Vice Chair of ADPC Board of Trustees, Mr. W.M. Bandusena, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management, Sri Lanka, Mr. Martin Hoppe, Head of Division, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, RCC members and observers, ladies and gentlemen.

Thank you very much for your kind contribution for the past couple of days and the discussions have been very lively and productive. For the next several minutes, I will try to make a quick wrap up of the past couple of days.

The RCC opened with the discussion of the rationale, purpose, and the expected outputs of the RCC meeting. We also saw a presentation from Director Chhador Wangdi about the current and upcoming DRR activities and initiatives, as well as discussed broader issues related to resilient development and risk management in Bhutan. We also saw the re-introduction of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and how the framework outlines key linkages between other regional initiatives. The first day of the RCC has also saw the possible positive platforms for regional cooperation between other regional partners

There were a lot of great constructive comments regarding the potential synergies between RCC and the regional cooperation for resilient development, discussing that we need to have country status reports and available monitoring mechanisms, noting that having too many monitoring systems could be a problem. It is recommended that we should establish a baseline and specific actions plans which can be monitored at the national and regional levels.

We saw the reflections and priorities for regional disaster risk assessment. The plenary session that followed had a good discussion on the disaster risk assessment needs and gaps for each countries and the partners. We talked about the need to understand disaster risk at the community level. The need for strong CBDRR mechanisms is clearly understood, however, there are still existing gaps within countries and funders.

There is also a need to mainstream community-based risk assessment into local development planning, and for the local community to take the lead in this, discussing the issues and options on mainstreaming DRR into development in Asia, and the findings of the regional report on sectoral mainstreaming needs assessment.

This was then followed by the examples of systematic integration of DRR and CCA into public investment planning and cost-benefit analysis, exploring on experiences of investing in resilient development and undertaking cost-benefit analysis for integrating DRR and CCA into development.

We then had our development partners present how they support risk-sensitive development, this was a space for our partners and donors to present on initiatives related to DRR and what their agencies are currently doing and planning to do.

We ensured that the 12th RCC meeting is effective and productive by seeking to finalize the outputs of the meeting. The meeting discussed and adopted a five-year action plan for the RCC member countries and have presented the Thimphu Statement, which included how the RCC mechanism needs to transform into actionable measures for meaningful implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction at the regional and national level.

This 12th RCC was very successful, and we all had positive feedbacks from the participants, from both the respective NDMOs and the development partners.

Thank you.



Mr. W.M. Bandusena,
Secretary, Ministry of Disaster
Management, Sri Lanka

12th RCC Vote of Thanks

18 June 2015

His Excellency Lyonpo Damcho Dorji, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs of the Kingdom of Bhutan, Madam Corazon Alma G. De Leon, Vice Chair of the ADPC Board of Trustees, Mr. Martin Hoppe, Head of Division, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Mr. Shane Wright, Executive Director of ADPC, RCC members and observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the RCC member countries, I would like to offer our sincere thanks to our host, the Department of Disaster Management, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs of Bhutan for their warm hospitality for the past 3 days and for the effective arrangement of the 12th RCC. The meeting has been a great success and we have achieved a lot in understanding the Sendai Framework for DRR and how to move forward with a plan for action.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the German Government for their generous support to the 12th RCC. The Global Initiative on DRM is a truly innovative program and their funding support to the RCC mechanism has been very important in maintaining success of the RCC as the leading regional mechanism to move forward the DRR agenda here in Asia.

For our colleagues from Peru, I would like to thank them for sharing their experiences on "integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into public investment planning in Peru" including its application and adaptation into the Asian context. As we face similar hazards and situations with countries in South America, this type of south-south cooperation and learning is greatly appreciated by all RCC member countries.

Last but not the least, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center and its dedicated staff. They have been working tirelessly for the past a few months it is only through their hard work and facilitation that we have a successful meeting.

With that, I would like to wish everyone a safe travel back home and we will have the opportunity to see you again in the next RCC meeting.

Thank you very much.



12th RCC Closing Remarks

18 June 2015

*Honorable Minister,
Dignitaries,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Allow me to first of all thank the Government of Bhutan for hosting us so very generously throughout the entire conference. I have attended quite a few international conferences but hardly any of them had been organized quite as well as this one. I wish to extend my appreciation to all who have contributed: ADPC, the city of Thimphu and not least the staff of our hotel. You have all done a wonderful job. Thank you very much indeed.

Mr. Martin Hoppe, Head of Division,
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

When you do an investment, you seek return. The same was true when my government decided to co-fund the RCC12 conference. And I am happy to state that indeed our investment paid off. We have agreed on an outcome document that is very concrete and which is the first big step in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. When I made my opening statement, I pointed out that we need to have a strong message from this conference. The Thimphu declaration does exactly that. It contains a strong commitment to invest more in awareness, preparedness and prevention at all levels as well as in regional cooperation. I've also learned of quite a few very interesting, very concrete initiatives being discussed at the margins of this conference. I look forward to seeing them become reality in the very near future. Germany is ready to provide support either through bilateral development cooperation or through our Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management.

We've all endorsed Pakistan's offer to host RCC13 next year. I want to thank the Pakistani Delegation for making this announcement at early stage and I pledge Germany's continuous support for the work of the RCC. I am certain by then, we will have new success stories to share but of course also new challenges to face. So I look forward to seeing you all again next year in Pakistan.

Thank you very much.



Madam Corazon Alma G. De Leon,
Vice Chair, ADPC Board of Trustees

12th RCC Closing Remarks

18 June 2015

His Honorable Lyonpo Damcho Dorji, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs of the Kingdom of Bhutan, Mr. W.M. Bandusena, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management, Sri Lanka, Mr. Martin Hoppe, Head of Division, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Mr. Shane Wright, Executive Director of ADPC, RCC members and observers, Ladies and Gentlemen.

For the past couple of days, I have observed some really good exchange among the participants on the important issue of advancing DRR under the new global framework of the Sendai Framework on DRR. I hope that everyone has benefited from the discussions and has the opportunity to learn from each other which is one of the main purpose of the RCC to create peer learning for the national disaster management organizations in the Asia region.

On behalf of ADPC, I want express my sincere thanks to all participants for making this a great successful meeting. We could not have achieved it without your valuable contributions and input. We take great honor in organizing a successful RCC meeting with our partner of the Department of Disaster Management, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs of Bhutan, Mr. Chhador Wangdi, Director of the Department of Disaster Management, and Mr. Thinley Pelden, Program Officer of Department of Disaster Management. And the generous support from the German Government through their Global Initiative on DRM.

The spirit of collaboration and partnerships we have witnessed during the 12th RCC meeting will serve as the foundation for a successful implementation of the Sendai Framework on DRR here in the region. I look forward to see more of this type of neighbor to neighbor, sub-regional to sub-regional collaboration for the ultimate benefit of the local communities that we serve.

Once again, I would like to thank you all for your kind participation and I would like to wish everyone a safe journey home and hope to see you all at the next RCC meeting.

Thank you very much.



12th RCC Closing Address

18 June 2015

Mr. W.M. Bandusena, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management, Sri Lanka; Mr. Martin Hoppe, Head of Division, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development; Madam Corazon Alma G. De Leon, Vice Chair of the ADPC Board of Trustees; Mr. Shane Wright, Executive Director of ADPC; RCC members and observers, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my pleasure to join you for the closing of this successful 12th Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management held here in capital city of Thimphu.

H.E. Lyonpo Damcho Dorji
Hon'ble Minister,
Ministry of Home and
Cultural Affairs, Bhutan

As you all know, Bhutan is a small Least Developed Country in the Himalayas, we are now faced with serious threats to our people, their livelihoods and to sustainable development with increasing occurrence of disasters and climate change issues. While we are small and vulnerable, we have always acted as a responsible member of global community. For Bhutan, it has been a great privilege to host this regional meeting as it created an avenue for learning and discovery of diverse innovative approaches to build disaster resilience and an opportunity to share the challenges faced in managing disaster risk in our region. Such workshop in essence provides a platform to further strengthen our Disaster Risk Reduction capacity.

I hope everyone in this room has gained enormous benefit from the best practices and experiences shared by our neighbors in the region. The discussion on the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and also the possible synergy with the World Humanitarian Summit demonstrated the true value of the RCC mechanism to the national disaster management organizations in Asia.

But our work and commitment does not end here. We all need to continue working together as we face these many common challenges. We should continue the dialogue and sharing of experiences among all of us so that we can learn from each other.

This is our closing ceremony but I hope this closing will not be the end but the beginning of our renewed concerted efforts on disaster risk management in our region.

In conclusion, with all these achievements, it's my pleasure to inform the floor that the 12th RCC meeting has greatly contributed to the RCC Mechanism in fulfilling its role of promoting regional cooperation in enhancing disaster risk management in the member countries.

Lastly, on behalf of Royal Government of Bhutan, I would like to thank the Government of Germany for supporting the RCC mechanism and the hard work of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center for making excellent facilitation and coordination to make this 12th RCC meeting a great success.

I hope you have enjoyed your short stay here in Bhutan and wish you all a safe journey back home.

Thank you very much and Tashi Delek.



Photo: Post-closing ceremony with Mr. Martin Hoppe (Head of Division, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development), Madam Corazon Alma G. De Leon Madam Corazon Alma G. De Leon (Vice Chair, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center Board of Trustees), and H.E. Lyonpo Damcho Dorji (Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Bhutan)

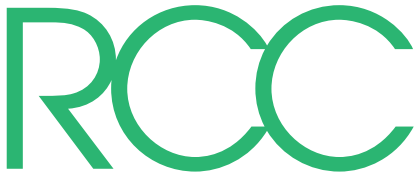
ANNEX. I PARTICIPANT LIST

Country	Name	Designation
Bangladesh	Mr. Amit Kumar Baul	Additional Secretary Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Bangladesh
Bhutan	Mr. Dasho Tshering Dorji	Honorable Minister Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Bhutan
	Dasho Dr. Sonam Tenzin	Honorable Secretary Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Bhutan
	Mr. Chhador Wangdi	Director Department of Disaster Management, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Bhutan
Cambodia	Mr. Ross Sovann	Deputy Secretary General National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM), Council of Ministers, Cambodia
India	Mr. Keshav Kumar Pathak	Joint Secretary Disaster Management Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, India
	Mr. R.K. Jain	Member Secretary National Disaster Management Authority, India
Indonesia	Dr. Bagus Tjahjono	Chief Disaster Training and Education Center, National Authority for Disaster Management (BNPB), Indonesia
Lao PDR	Mr. Souphasay Komany	Director of Secretariat Department of Disaster Management and Climate Change (DDMCC), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Lao PDR
Mongolia	Brigadier General Tuvshin Badral	Chief National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Mongolia
Myanmar	Mr. Win Htein Kyaw	Director Relief and Resettlement Department, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Myanmar
Pakistan	Major General Asghar Nawaz	Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Prime Minister's Secretariat, Pakistan
	Mr. Ahmed Kamal	Member (DRR) National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Prime Minister's Office, Pakistan
Philippines	Dir. Romeo Fajardo	Deputy Administrator, Office of the Civil Defense Department of National Defense, Philippines
	Mr. Joe Mar Perez	Government Service Office of the Civil Defense, Department of National Defense, Philippines

Sri Lanka	Mr. W.M. Bandusena	Secretary Ministry of Disaster Management, Sri Lanka
Thailand	Mr. Suporn Ratananakin	International Cooperation on Disaster Management Specialist Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Ministry of Interior, Thailand
Viet Nam	Mr. Dang Quang Minh	Acting Director Disaster Management Center (DMC), Viet Nam

Organization	Name	Designation
The Asia Foundation	Mr. Kim DeRidder	Director of Environment Programs
University of Dhaka	Dr. Mahbuba Nasreen	Director and Professor Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies (IDMVS)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO- UN)	Mr. Andrew Sobey	Country Programme Officer Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific Food and Agriculture Organization FAO Regional Office
BMZ	Mr. Martin Hoppe	Head of Division Peace and Security; Disaster Risk Management, Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
GIZ	Ms. Cornelia Richter	Managing Director Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Government of Peru -Ministry of Economic and Finance	Ms. Nancy Adriana Zapata Rondon	Coordinator Technical Area of Risk Management and Climate Change, Directorate General of Public Investment, Ministry of Economic and Finance
GIZ Peru	Dr. Karen Elaine Kraft	Senior Technical Advisor Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH , Proyecto IPACC, BMUB/GIZ
GIZ-GIDRM	Mr. Stephan Huppertz	Regional Coordinator Asia Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM), Deutsche Gesellschaft für, Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
GIZ-GIDRM	Mr. Olaf Neussner	Disaster Risk Management Specialist Consultant for Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management, Deutsche Gesellschaft für, Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Independent Consultant, India	Prof. Vinod Chandra Menon	Independent Consultant (DRR, CCA and Public Policy Analysis), Founder Member National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Government of India &

IFRC Asia Pacific Zone	Ms. Indira Kulenovic	Resilience Coordinator Disaster Management Unit, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
SAARC	Mr. Singye Dorjee	Director South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, SAARC Secretariat
UNDP	Mr. Sanny Ramos-Jegillos	Senior Adviser United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub
UNESCAP	Mr. Puji Puijono	Regional Adviser on Disaster Risk Reduction Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP)
UNESCAP	Mr. Alf Ivar Blikberg	Programme Officer Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP)
UNISDR	Mr. Sujit Mohanty	Programme Officer UNISDR Regional Office for Asia-Pacific, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA)	Mr. Daniel Gilman	Humanitarian Affairs Officer Regional Partnerships Unit, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
World Bank	Ms. Poonam Pilai	Senior Environmental Specialist Disaster Risk and Climate Change Unit, The World Bank, South Asia Region
World Bank	Ms. Dechen Tshering	Disaster Risk Management Specialist Disaster Risk and Climate Change Unit, The World Bank, South Asia Region
World Vision	Ms. Ronilda Co	Disaster Risk Reduction Specialist World Vision International – Asia Pacific
Oxfam Pakistan	Mr. Shafqat Munir Ahmad	Regional Rights in Crisis Coordinator Asia Oxfam
US Forest Service International Programs	Mr. Donald Edwin Price	Incident Management Adviser, ASIA US Forest Service International Program, Myanmar National Emergency Operations Center



REGIONAL
CONSULTATIVE
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