



3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2 - 4 December 2008

*“Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster
Risk Reduction
From National to Local”*

Organised by:

National Security Council, Prime Minister’s Department
Government of Malaysia

With the support of Conference Partners



Background

The Asia-Pacific region, home to 61 per cent of the world's population, experiences a disproportionate share of loss of life and impact to socio-economic development. Over 70 per cent of all lives lost due to disasters occur within the Asia Pacific region and among the 10 most affected countries in the world in 2006 in terms of economic impacts, seven are from this region. Moreover, since 1990, floods and windstorms in the region resulted in more than four million people dead, over 3 billion people affected and over USD 400 Million of recorded direct economic damages. More recently, the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004 caused loss of hundreds of thousands of human lives and, in May this year, 130 thousand people were dead or missing in Myanmar, with an estimated 2.4 million people affected as the result of cyclone Nargis. whilst around 70 thousand people were dead and more than 45 million people were affected as the result of the earthquake that struck in Sichuan Province, China.

In view of the increasing vulnerability of the Asia and Pacific region to disasters, disaster risk reduction appears as the unique long-term viable solution to reduce the impact of disasters and build the resilience of communities and nations to disasters. Asian Ministerial Conferences therefore represent unique high-level foras where Governments can reaffirm their commitment to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and exchange practical ways to implement effectively disaster risk reduction at the national and local levels towards sustainable development.

Since 2005, many countries and organisations have realigned their policies, legislations and strategies to respond to the expectations and directions of the Hyogo Framework for Action and to the commitment made in Kobe. In this context, the Asian Ministerial Conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction, that are being organized every two years since 2005 at Governments' initiative, represent unique opportunities for Ministers in charge of disaster management from the Asia and Pacific region, to reaffirm their commitment to HFA implementation and to exchange valuable experiences on successful practices and innovative approaches in implementing HFA's five priorities for action at the national and local levels.

The First Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, organized by the Government of China (Beijing, September 2005) adopted the Beijing Action for Disaster Risk Reduction to promote the newly-adopted HFA and to seek Asian Governments commitment and actions to implement disaster risk reduction, including through the strengthening of existing key regional cooperation mechanisms. The Second Conference (India, November 2007) reaffirmed Governments' commitment to HFA and agreed to expand further the biennial Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction as the Regional Platform with participation of the National Governments, regional and sub-regional organisations, UN Agencies, IFIs and other Stake holders including the civil society, scientific and technical organizations, the private sector and the media.

The overarching theme of the Conference is "Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Asia and Pacific region", with a particular focus on Public Private Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction and community-based disaster risk reduction activities.

Objectives

The objectives of the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction will be:

- a) To review the action taken by the national governments and other stakeholders for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action as a follow up to the Beijing Action for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and Delhi Declaration;
- b) To ensure an effective follow-up to the decisions taken by the ISDR Asia Partnership, as the operative arms of the Ministerial Conferences, in particular in mapping out and reporting on the implementation of Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific;
- c) To take stock of initiatives taken in various sub-regions of Asia for promoting cooperation and building partnerships for disaster risk reduction among nations, both within and outside the governments, including private and public partnership;

d) To share and exchange good practices and lessons learned on disaster risk reduction in various fields including application of science and technology, community based disaster preparedness, public-private partnership and enhance their replication within the region;

e) To discuss the preparations towards key global processes for Disaster Risk Reduction such as the Global Platform and Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction as well as contribution to regional foras on disaster risk reduction;

f) To develop a vision and roadmap to strengthen existing partnerships and forge new ones, and engage new stakeholders' investment in disaster risk reduction in Asia, such as the private sector, re-insurance companies etc;

g) To facilitate a better recognition of community-based activities and local actions on disaster risk reduction by Governments and promote the mobilization of adequate policy and financial support at the national level to facilitate the effective implementation and replication within vulnerable communities.

Expected Outcome

- Conference declaration of commitment with Action agenda.
- Recommendation for follow up national/regional practical action plans for forward action.
- Regional Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Structure and Selected Themes of the Event

The conference is structured to include:

- **Pre-conference events:** Interested partners or Governments are welcome to organize specific discussions of a sub-regional nature to forge a common position from the sub-region that will feed into the Ministerial Conference. The duration of pre-conference events varies according to the Partners' demands.
- **Open Public Forum:** Representatives from Governments, the media, private sector, NGOs, local communities, local authorities, technical and specialized institutions, UN Agencies are invited to exhibit their achievements and initiatives in disaster risk reduction, along the lines of the Conference theme. Exhibition booths will be made available to exhibitors. Media training activities and press related events shall also be organized over the three days. For more information on the booths, please contact the Conference Secretariat.
- **Side Events:** Specific thematic discussions are encouraged during the Ministerial Conference to highlight major themes that may be left out from the six themes retained for the Ministerial Conference. They are expected to bring valuable recommendations / reports to the Ministerial Declaration.
- **Inter-governmental Segment** comprising of:
 - a) Technical Sessions
 - b) High-Level Ministerial Roundtable (HLRT)
 - c) Special Sessions on the Hyogo Framework or Action (HFA) implementation in the Asia Pacific region

(a) The Technical Sessions (TS) will be held with 4/5 technical experts and disaster risk reduction practitioners to address the key technical challenges faced on the selected topic for discussion. They will be composed of a few experts and a Chairperson, who are expected to come up with key recommendations for action. The latter will be conveyed by the Chairperson to the High-Level Round Table on the same subject for Ministers' consideration.

(b) The High-Level Round Tables (HLRTs) will be composed of 4/5 Ministers in charge of Disaster Management from selected countries from the Asia Pacific region who expressed interest in the HLRT's subject. The Chairperson of the related Technical Session will act as the HLRT's moderator and bring to the table the key concerns and recommendations raised at technical sessions, for Ministers' consideration and discussions. HLRTs are expected to come up with policy recommendations that will be reflected as part of the Ministerial Declaration.

(c) Special Sessions (SS): There will be two Special Sessions organized to discuss the advancement in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) in the Asia Pacific region and addressing the specific role of the Regional Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, as the operational arm of Asian Ministerial Conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction.

Proposed Topics for the Technical Sessions and Related High Level Round Tables

- Technical Session 1 - Public Private Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction**
- Technical Session 2 - Community based Disaster Risk Reduction, involvement and empowerment of local governments and NGOs in Disaster Risk Reduction**
- Technical Session 3 - Media involvement in Disaster Risk Reduction**
- Technical Session 4 - High technology and scientific applications to Disaster Risk Reduction, including Climate Change Adaptation**
- Technical Session 5 - Mobilizing resources for Disaster Risk Reduction**
- Technical Session 6 - Public Awareness and Education for Disaster Risk Reduction**

Expected Participation

The Conference is expected to be attended by Ministers in charge of Disaster Risk Reduction/ Disaster Management and other high-level Government representatives from Asia and the Pacific Island Countries throughout the Ministerial Conference, including at High-Level Roundtable Discussions.

Other key partners include senior Government representatives engaged in disaster risk reduction in their respective country, together with disaster risk reduction experts and practitioners, scientists, representatives from the civil society, NGOs, academic institutions, UN Agencies and regional organisations, the donor community and the media.

Conference Language

Working language of the conference will be English.

Conference Secretariat

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