



Name of Event: [Side Event] Looking Ahead to 2020 - A Continuing Mission to Secure Safer Tomorrow

Date of Event: May 12, 2011

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Organizer: Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)

Speakers:

- Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, Executive Director, ADPC
- General Ramos, Government of Philippines
- Mr. Max Dilley, UNDP
- Mrs. M. Golnaraghi, WMO
- Mrs. S. m. Mohamed, Government of Sri Lanka
- Mr. Mukesh Kapila, IFRC
- Prof Ian Davis, Oxford Brooks University
- Mr. Kamal Kishor from UNDP
- Mr. Francis Ghesquiere. World Bank

1) Outline

- How to break the DRR box and move the agenda in the sectors.
- How to use science based information in not only understanding the risk but also be able to make informed decision.
- National level implementation is the key focus with national capacity and resources. However it is vital to get the technical 'know how' from regional agencies, so that capacities in country can be strengthened and upscaled to meet the demands. How do we achieve this?

2) Key messages, outcomes, recommendations

The side event discussed the following as possible innovative approaches (or issues we need to look into) for addressing growing concerns on risk reduction

- Addressing inequality is crucial for achieving DRR. The greatest risk Asia is facing is from 'inequality'. DRR being a development issue, it is crucial to address inequality as it is the 'number one' point of development.
- Urbanisation should be looked as a huge opportunity and not treated as a risk. Thus a positive approach towards urbanization should be adopted.
- Mainstreaming DRR into development is essential, however one should be cautious of not doing it for the sake of passing responsibility, instead we need to make sure accountability lies somewhere specific.
- Training and education should be looked as the biggest investment.
- We need systematic real investments and for this we need to go beyond the rhetoric of DRR and find solutions on how to influence the investments so that the losses from natural disasters are brought down. This is essential but requires different tools and different language to be used with different stakeholders.
- DRR is very much a political issue too and should not be always boxed as a technical issue. We need DRR activism to reach the desired height.

3) Conclusions

In the age of growing risk (and more so from the changing climate) solutions for DRR can only come from 'out of box' thinking and having certain level of flexibility in implementation. The very welcomed paradigm shift from response to long-term risk reduction need to be supported by creative thinking across sectors and at all levels and matched with desired capacity.