

Hanoi RCC5 Statement on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management in Development (MDRD) in Asian Countries

Hanoi, 20 May 2005

We, the delegates from RCC member countries, viz., Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor L'este and Vietnam, having met in Hanoi, Vietnam from 18th to 20th May 2005 for the 5th Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC) organized by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), co-hosted by the Government of Vietnam.

Recognizing that the devastation in the region caused by the 26 December 2004 tsunami once again demonstrated that natural disasters result in serious economic and social setbacks to the development and poverty reduction initiatives of developing countries in Asia, cause damage to housing, schools, hospitals, government buildings, roads, bridges and agricultural crops and livelihoods; and divert scarce resources programmed for development to relief and rehabilitation efforts;

Recognizing that assessment of disaster risk impacts is yet to be an integral part of project design and development decisions and that development activities may sometimes induce new risks;

Realizing that disaster risk management (DRM) is not a stand-alone sector but an essential concern that operates at all levels and across all sectors; and that significant action is required to mainstream disaster risk management (DRM) in the process of development policy, planning and implementation; and a proactive approach is required by decision makers and planners in planning agencies and Ministries of all levels of Government, the donor community; UN and development agencies;

Recalling that the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) on Disaster Management comprising heads of National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) of 25 Asian countries was established in 2000 at the initiative of Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), to focus attention on identifying priority needs of member countries for disaster reduction and on learning lessons from experience and; that RCC had at its first two meetings identified integration disaster reduction into development as a priority area of action; and

Affirming the decisions of the 3rd and 4th RCC meeting to launch a Regional Program of the RCC on Advocacy and Capacity Building for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management in Development Policy, Planning and Implementation in Asia (MDRD);

Recognizing that RCC member countries are developing comprehensive multi-hazard disaster management strategies and implementing innovative initiatives; which provide valuable lessons for further action on MDRD.

Affirming the adoption by the global community at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) in January 2005 of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005 – 2015: "Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters whose first priority for

action calls for "Integrating Risk Reduction into Development Policies and Plans at all levels of Government, including poverty reduction strategies and sectors and multi-sectoral policies and plans" (Para 15.1(i)(b) of HFA).

Welcoming that the MDRD Program of the RCC has been registered in January 2005 with the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) as a WCDR Partnership;

Welcoming the active presence as observers in RCC Meetings of International Financial Institutions (namely, World Bank and Asian Development Bank); UN Agencies (namely UNDP, UN-ESCAP, FAO, UNESCO, UNISDR, UN-OCHA, WHO); RCC Partners (ADRC, EWC ICIMOD, MRC, PDC, the ProVention Consortium) and bilateral Donor Agencies (namely AusAID, DANIDA, EU, ECHO, GTZ, Dutch Netherlands, OFDA/USAID, and SIDA),

This 5th Meeting of the RCC calls upon every RCC member country to Mainstream Disaster Risk Management into Development over the coming decade, to include amongst others:

Mainstreaming DRM into National Development Policy, Planning and Implementation,

- National Development Plan and National Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs);
- In-Country Assessments and the Multi-year Program Framework of International Development Agencies (ADB, EU, World Bank and Bilateral Donors); the UN Common Country Assessment and UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Process;
- Developing and Implementing the National Disaster Risk Reduction Plan with inputs from all Relevant Ministries and Agencies;
- Institutionalizing of Community-Based Disaster Risk Management in Government Policy and programs at National, Provincial and District levels.

Mainstreaming DRM in priority sectors such as:

Agriculture - Promoting programs of contingency crop planning; crop diversification; supplementary income generation from off-farm and non-farm activities; and effective insurance and credit schemes to compensate for crop damage and loss to livelihood;

Urban Planning and Infrastructure - Introducing Disaster Risk Impact Assessments into the construction of new roads and bridges; and by promoting the use of hazard risk information in land-use planning and zoning programs;

Housing - Promoting the increased use of hazard-resilient designs in rural housing in hazard-prone areas; utilization of national building codes; and the compliance and enforcement of local building laws in urban hazard-prone areas;

Financial Services – Incorporating flexible repayment schedules into micro-finance schemes; and encouraging financial services and local capital markets to finance DRM measures;

Education - Introducing DRM modules into the school curriculum; promoting hazard resilient construction of new schools; and introducing features into schools for their use as emergency shelters;

Health - Vulnerability assessment of hospitals in hazard-prone areas; promoting hazard resilient construction of new hospitals; and implementing of disaster preparedness plans for hospitals; and

Environment and Natural Resources - Including Disaster Risk Impact Assessment into Environmental Impact Assessments for new development projects; linking with the National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) under the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change, and action on other environmental hazards and links between environmental degradation and disaster risks.

Agree that the national and local level mainstreaming in sectors will not be limited to the priority sectors or themes listed above but will involve a greater number of sectors, agencies and themes; and **emphasize** that the mainstreaming of enhanced disaster resilience be done in post-disaster recovery programs of all disaster prone sectors;

Welcoming the willingness of member countries to implement Priority Implementation Projects (PIPs) on MDRD in ongoing development programs funded from national budgets and ongoing external funding; and **recognizing** that the process of implementation will be an active learning experience to understand how mainstreaming can be achieved;

Recognizing the need to document and share information on good practices and initiatives undertaken by RCC member countries so that others who are only now starting may benefit and therefore **calls** on Governments and technical support agencies to highlight and make visible existing good practice in implementing disaster resilience and safety in development programs in various sectors by suitably documenting experiences, key success factors and lessons learned.

Recognizing the role of National Platforms to facilitate increased stakeholder participation as a basis/ to serve as a base for mainstreaming, **calls** on all RCC Members to:

- Consider the establishment of National Platforms where none exist and
- Strengthen existing mechanisms through the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders; and
- Encourage the expansion of the activity of existing mechanisms to address the implementation of the HFA

and **calls** on the technical support agencies to:

assist these mechanism to improve their coordination in the sharing of information and improving their effectiveness within the context of disaster risk reduction at the national level.

Recognizing the responsibility of the RCC as a mechanism, offers to serve as a useful forum and reporting mechanism through which the progress of the implementation of

the HFA can be monitored by ISDR, and advocates that the 10-year HFA framework should be broken down into 2-year milestones of accomplishments to facilitate a workable implementation of the HFA for each of the RCC Member Countries.

Highlights the need for action by development partners (UN Agencies, Donors, International Financial Institutions and others) to:

- Enhance links between development and humanitarian assistance programs and budgets of their agencies;
- Incorporate disaster impact assessments into their project appraisal and review processes and;
- Include comprehensive assessments of disaster risk in their country assessments and country assistance strategies; and
- Adopt Policy Recommendations of the UNDP, ISDR and ProVention documents on integrating disaster reduction into development compatible with the local situation and conditions.

Requests ADPC in its capacity as secretariat of the RCC mechanism to continue to be the support agency of the RCC MDRD program through following actions:

- Developing a set of Guidelines documents for mainstreaming DRM, and
- Supporting implementation of PIPs in member countries and developing a set of milestones to track the progress of the program.
- **Appreciates** the support of the Government of Australia and expressions of interest by other countries and UN Agencies to support implementation of its MDRD program by:
 - providing funding for PIPs and meetings;
 - supporting development and publication of Guidelines; and
 - providing active linkage with the regional and national capacity building and technical assistance initiatives of various development partners.

Calls on other agencies and donors and countries to partner with the RCC and its member countries in the implementation of its MDRD program.

On Enhancing Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management in Asia

Further affirming the Bangkok RCC-2 Statement on future directions of ADPC Regional Consultative Committee on Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management, approved in the 2nd RCC meeting in November 2001.

Appreciates the overall benefits of the RCC mechanism and calls for ensuring sustainability of the RCC mechanism

Welcoming the progress made in implementing these agreed directions as reported at the 5th RCC meeting in the "Follow-up Actions on Recommendations of Previous RCC Meetings 1-4" (Document 20)

Recognizing the progress made on Mainstreaming DRM into development as reflected in part A of this Statement

Recognizing the significant work done in new regional programs by ASEAN and MRC since 2001 through their ASEAN Regional Program for Disaster Management (ARPDM) and Flood Management and Mitigation Program (FMMP).

Appreciating enhanced cooperation and dialogue between the RCC, its member countries and ADPC with ASEAN, MRC, ICIMOD, SAARC and SOPAC,

Calls upon further enhancing of regional networking on disaster risk, preparedness and relief, emergency response and risk reduction in close cooperation with donors, regional and international organizations.

Acknowledge with great appreciation the gracious hosting and warm hospitality extended by the Government of Vietnam for the 5th RCC Meeting.