

**H.E. Nhim Vanda, Senior Minister, First Vice President of the
National Committee for Disaster Management
in
The Asian Conference On Disaster Reduction 2004
4-6 February 2003
Siem Reap, Cambodia**

My highly respected Samdech,
Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honor to respectfully report to Samdech and the Presidential Board the activities of the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2004 as following: This conference was held in Siem Reap Province from 4 to 6 February 2004 that was divided into two distinguished International Meetings; The 6th Asian Disaster Reduction Center International Meeting held from 4-5 February 2004 and The 3rd International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Asian Meeting that was held on 6 February 2004 in order to develop and implement effective disaster reduction measures, which will lead to strengthen the process of sustainable development in Asian countries Sharing Lessons from ADRC member countries by sharing best practices in the Mekong River Basin such as: flood control and water resource management for sustainable development together with discussion and assessment over achievements, challenges, and future action to mitigate the negative impact of natural disasters and design longer-term measures to reduce risk and vulnerability, including concrete solutions to incorporate disaster reduction into national and local policies.

This conference was participated by all 24-member countries of the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), UN/ISDR, UN Agencies, International Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations of local, regional and in-country of Cambodia, Ministers, Secretaries of state and Provincial Governors who are also Chairmen of the Provincial Committees for Disaster Management within a quite large numbers in total.

Meanwhile, the four advisory countries also participated in this conference. It is the pride of this conference that the United State of America who had requested to join as a member of the Advisory Countries has now been approved entirely by the conference as a new member of the Advisor Countries.

Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2004 that has been held in Cambodia this time is the preparatory process to the world conference on disaster reduction 2005; Kobe, Japan. The conference was highlighted the vulnerability situation of the Asian countries to the natural disasters and the coping mechanisms that presented by ADRC Secretariat, participating countries and the UN Agencies, International Organization, Non-Governmental Organizations from in-country, regional and global levels.

In the meantime, the conference also discussed in order to seek strategies for mainstreaming disaster management into national policy for development and seek how to consolidate lessons learned of best practices from member countries, and to examine how to adopt the best practices according to respective member countries' conditions, and how to promote and apply Total Disaster Risk Management (TDRM) approach into the national and local planning process.

The conference contributed with strategy to assist Asian societies and communities to become disaster-resilient while through focusing on people and community needs and on all policy at all levels for the promotion with a view to promoting of a culture of prevention as an essential component of sustainable development.

We all who participated in the conference recognized the importance of cooperation in disaster reduction, the key factors for sustainable development, and a contribution to poverty reduction. In order to assist the society in Asia to become peaceful for a sustain development, therefore, the conference has identified that any effort to overcome the disaster management should be based on the following key areas:

1. Enhancing collaboration and coordination at all levels, national, regional and global. We must strengthen, consolidate and expand networks in order to enhance cooperation and information sharing as well as increase information management capacity for disaster reduction.
2. Building partnership with all sectors both in and out disciplines; partnerships for disaster reduction among various sectors in disaster reduction including national and local governments as well as various public and private sectors of the society.
3. Identifying and proposing effective and efficient risk and vulnerability reduction measures based on information exchange and taking account on best practices existing in Asia.
4. Enhancing political commitment of policy making level and high leadership of the government on disaster management work and ensure acknowledgement of the value of efforts and continue to promote and maintain the achievements of the disaster management.
5. Integrating disaster management into government's agenda and daily function;
6. Concrete and proper investment of the three resources; human, finance and material, into disaster management by shifting the culture of response to the culture of prevention and preparedness and start taking in account the development activities that lead to disaster reduction. This requires a joint effort that all must be united, do things together and at the same time.

Those above-mentioned key areas were just a little conclusion generated from the conference's discussion. In order that the conference can learn further a value contribution from the top leadership, I would like to invite Samdech HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the royal government of Cambodia, to provide some recommendations to the conference. Please Samdech!

Siem Reap, 6 February 2004
Thank you!