

ADRC DRR Policy Peer Review in FY2009 HFA Priority 3 Review of Thailand

Reviewer:

- Naoki Shiratsuchi, Japanese Red Cross Society
- Dr. Alvaro Antonyan, President, Armenian National Survey for Seismic Protection Agency
- Mr. Adthaporn Singhawichai, Director, Research and International Cooperation Bureau, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Ministry of Interior, Thailand
- Ms. Maki Yoshida, Researcher, ADRC

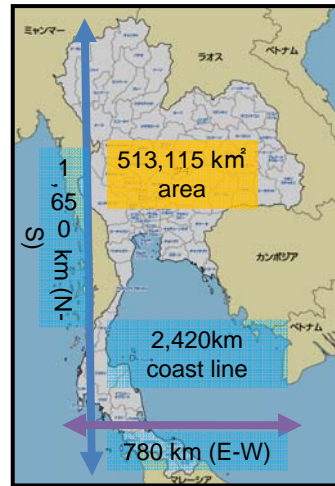
Overview of the Mission to Thailand

- **Counterpart in Thailand**
Mr. Adthaporn Singhawichai
Director of Research and International Cooperation Bureau
Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) ,
Ministry of Interior
- **Mission Date**
17-18 November 2009
- **Organizations Visited**
 - 1) DDPM
 - 2) National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC)
 - 3) Ministry of Education
 - 4) Thai Red Cross Society



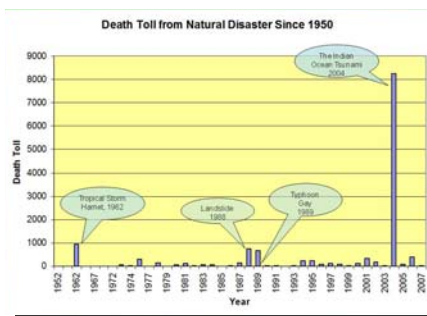
About Thailand

- located in the center of South East Asia
- two climate zones
 - Upper – three distinct seasons
 - Lower – tropic
- population 66 million
- Govt/Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister
- 20 ministries
- 75 provinces
 - 926 districts, 7,408 sub-districts, 74,427 villages and 1 Bangkok Metropolitan



Disaster in Thailand

- Major disasters
 - floods, drought, landslides
 - forest fires, typhoons, wind storms, lightening, hail, tsunami et al.
- Indian Ocean Tsunami was the most destructive natural disaster in Thai history
 - 8,345 death
 - USD 1.5 Billions economic loss



Disaster Mgt System in Thailand

- **Legal System**
 - Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Act (2007)
 - Legal framework of national DM system
 - Defines authorities/responsibilities of each national/local agencies
- **Organization**
 - National and Provincial Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Committee
 - responsible for DM policies and submitting DPM Plan
 - DDPM(Dept of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Ministry of Interior)
 - responsible agency for coordinating DRM activities by all related organizations at all levels;
 - » With other ministries, provinces, local governments, non-governmental agencies

Current Efforts in Disaster Risk Education and Public Awareness in Thailand

- Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM)
 - Training at DDPM's Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Academy (DPMA)
 - Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Programs
 - Involvement of Civil Defense Volunteers *about 1.2 million
 - "Mr. Disaster Warning" project
 - Information Dissemination Through the Media
 - ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management
 - Provincial Education Drill Twice a Year for Every Province

Current Efforts in Disaster Risk Education and Public Awareness in Thailand (cont.)

- The National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC)
 - Issues early warnings of tsunami, typhoon and flood
 - Tsunami and typhoon evacuation drills and trainings
- Ministry of Education
 - Some disaster topics covered in social studies, science, and health
 - Pilot project with JICA/ADRC to publish supplementary school books and implement DRR programs at 30 schools
 - Personnel Capacity Building project
 - Pilot Project with DDPM (training student in Disaster Management)
- Thai Red Cross Society
 - Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction project in 55 communities in four provinces



Strength Based on Observation and Analysis

- Thai government's strong commitment to making DM a priority
- Active for strengthening cooperation in DRM in ASEAN
- Well established institutional arrangement in national and local govt
- Stipulated strong cooperation by existing MOUs between related agencies
- Budget allocation for DRM at national level
- High level of awareness, motivation, capabilities of officials at national level
- diligence, educational level, discipline of Thai people
- "Home-court advantage", existence of many international DRM organizations in Thailand (UNISDR, ADPC, IFRC), Also available regional support by JICA and ADRC.
- some breathing room (time) to prepare, as Thailand is not a particularly disaster-prone country

Points to Consider for Further Improvement Based on Observation and Analysis

- Capacity of personnel at local level in DM
- Need to allocate more money in the local govt budgets to DRM
- Local governments should give more priority to disaster management
- Securing qualified personnel at local level, as many roles are played by a small number of prominent members of the community, such as school teachers
- Activity monitoring, data collection and analysis, outcome measurement
- Further promotion of the ASEAN Cooperation

Findings and Recommendations of Reviewers

1. Maintain and develop the pace of efforts at the central government level
2. Strengthen efforts at the local and community level
Trainings, budgets
3. Set priorities
e.g., types of hazards, regions, target groups
4. Further promote partnerships and cooperation with relevant organizations
5. Monitor activities and measure outcomes
6. Explore ways to further promoting the ASEAN Cooperation



Thank you