



ADRC Highlights Vol.87

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Biweekly News

February 16, 2004

➤ The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2004 was held in Siem Reap, Cambodia

The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2004, consisting of the 6th ADRC International Meeting and the 3rd ISDR Asian Meeting, was held from 4 to 6 February 2004 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The Conference was organized by the Governments of Cambodia and Japan, the UN



Group Photo with Participants

Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), and the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC). It was participated by more than 130 people including high dignitaries and officials from Cambodia and twenty-two other countries, mainly from Asia, along with representatives of the United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), representatives of various UN agencies and other international organizations. The Conference was honoured by the address by H.E. Mr. Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia, expressing his support for disaster reduction in Asia and for the Conference deliberations. Co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Nhim Vanda, Senior Minister, First Vice President of NCDM, Cambodia, and H.E. Mr. Tatsuo Sato, Special Adviser to the Prime Minister, Senior Vice Minister of Cabinet Office, Japan, the Chair Summary of the conference was issued.

□ Objectives of the Conference

The conference aimed at building a framework for disaster reduction for Asia, within which short-term and longer-term measures to reduce risk and vulnerability could be proposed, including concrete solutions that could be incorporated into national and local policies. The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2004 stressed as a major point that the biggest challenge lies in finding effective ways to translate concepts into practice, institutionalize disaster risk reduction programs at the community level, and fill in any existing gaps in the disaster reduction cycle. Concrete measures, tools and mechanisms need to be improved to achieve this aim. Conceptual frameworks must lead to specific programs of action focused on people and the actual needs of the community.

In this connection, the Government of Japan expressed its readiness to support and facilitate development of fruitful

international cooperation in the field of disaster reduction through activities such as receiving trainees, dispatching experts, assisting disaster reduction programs.

In order to be able to respond to the emerging issues, concerns and challenges and to address them adequately and effectively, the conference agreed that the following actions are especially important. 1) a comprehensive review of national disaster management situation, 2) evolution of national policies for disaster reduction, 3) investment in disaster reduction both structural and non-structural, including development of human resources, 4) communication and information management, and 5) enhancement of partnerships at all levels.



Prime Minister Hun Sen made a speech

□ Towards the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2005

This conference was held as part of a series of international and regional events serving as preparatory consultations for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction to be held in Hyogo, Japan in 2005. The World Conference is expected to mark a major milestone of global efforts towards a safer world. In this context, this meeting in Cambodia provided a unique platform to identify challenges and concrete future action to mitigate the negative impact of disasters in our region by way of important contribution to the Conference.

The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2004 paid tribute to the Royal Kingdom of Cambodia Government for their generous hosting of this important event. In great success of its first time international conference, each NCDM staff is scheduled to be awarded "gold medal of good work" by the Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Hun Sen.

The conference was broadcasted on NHK TV at 7:00 (JST) on February 7, 2004. The Chair Summary adopted by the conference will be made available on our website. For more information, please contact Ms. Tsunozaki (tsunozaki@adrc.or.jp) or Mr. Kochi (kochi@adrc.or.jp).



Bi-lateral talks among Prime Minister Hun Sen, Mr. Nhim Vanda and Mr. Tatsuo Sato

If you have comments or requests for this Newsletter, please write to ADRC at the address on the right.

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