

## Public Forum: Sharing of Experiences for Safer Asia “TDRM and its Good Practices”

- on the occasion of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction -

Wednesday, 19 January 2005, 9:20-12:00

Room 301, International Conference Center, Kobe

The Total Disaster Risk Management (TDRM) approach was jointly developed by ADRC and UN/OCHA Kobe to strengthen capacity in disaster reduction among member countries. The concept of TDRM centers around the two crucial principles; “involvement of all stakeholders” and “implementation of measures during all phases of disaster cycle”. In the forum, a wide range of up-to-date information on the efforts of TDRM and good practices for disaster reduction in the ADRC member countries were introduced. In addition, the special report on the situation of damage and response in Indonesia of the Earthquake and Tsunami disaster on 26 December was provided.

Besides, signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding between UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and ADRC was conducted for pursuing the long-standing co-operation in the area of natural disaster reduction.

### Summary of the forum

#### <Opening address>

The forum was opened by a congratulatory remark by **Mr. Tadashi Harada**, Deputy Director General for Disaster Management, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan. At the beginning, he expressed his deepest condolences to the families of those who perished in that disaster and his sincerest sympathy to all of the nations and people who have been affected by the devastated Indian Ocean Tsunami disaster. Then, he described the efforts of ADRC, OCHA Kobe, and Hyogo prefecture for reducing negative impact by disasters in Asian countries, and hoped their long term contribution for promoting disaster reduction policies in Asia in the future. He also mentioned that Cabinet Office of Japan had been supporting their activities, and will support future activities of ADRC.

#### <Keynote speech>

**Mr. Masayuki Kitamoto**, Executive Director, ADRC, delivered the keynote speech titled “Promotion of TDRM in Asia”. After the brief explanation about the basic concept of the TDRM as a holistic approach of disaster reduction, he underscored the importance of the promotion of the TDRM in member countries, and introduced the recent publication by ADRC, which is available for the purpose, including detailed explanation about TDRM approach and the good practices in Asia for promoting effective disaster reduction through the approach. Then, he introduced the activities of survey research conducted by

three ADRC survey teams in the affected areas in Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Indonesia. He also extended his deepest appreciation to the kind cooperation of the counterpart organizations of ADRC and former visiting researchers in each country for the efficient visit of the team.

< Signing ceremony of MOU between UNESCO and ADRC >

The signing ceremony of MOU between United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and ADRC was conducted, aimed at establishing cooperative ties between the two organizations for reducing the negative impact by disasters. Following the signing of the MOU and shaking hands by Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General, UNESCO, and Prof. Shigeru Itoh, Chairman, ADRC, Mr. Matsuura expressed their intentions to promote the mutual exchange of information, experience and expertise in the theory and practice of natural disaster reduction between the two organizations. In response to the message, Mr. Ito clarified their expectations to further strengthen the friendly ties between the two organizations for contributing to the disaster reduction of its member countries.

< Special Report “The Earthquake and Tsunami in Indonesia” >

**Mr. Sugeng Triutomo**, Director, Department of Disaster Mitigation, National Disaster Management Coordinating Board, Indonesia, firstly provided an overview of devastating damage in the affected area with statistical data and some pictures. There were more than 215 thousands dead or missing, and close to half a million people displaced. Then he explained about the unprecedented response of the international communities from about 30 countries and more than 45 international organizations. He emphasized the importance of the proper coordination among the involved organizations.

After the report of the recent disaster, he introduced the records and analytical data of the past earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia. He described the tendency of the cyclic occurrence of the earthquake, and identified the importance of the improvement of the preparedness for the future earthquake through TDRM approach.

(During the break of the reporting session, the situation in the affected area was introduced by showing video.)

< Reporting Session on TDRM Good Practices: Summary of Proceedings >

**Mr. Emmanuel de Guzman**, Consultant of ADRC, opened the session as a facilitator of the session by mentioned the importance of sharing the good practice for promoting effective disaster reduction.

**H.E. Mr. Choudhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf**, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, Bangladesh, explained the paradigm shift of disaster management planning from relief & response to TDRM in Bangladesh with the establishment of the Disaster

Management Bureau (DMB) in 1992 and the adoption of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Program (CDMP) in 2003. He cited several program activities of CDMP, including the mainstreaming of disaster management and risk reduction into national policies & institutional and development processes in the country, and enhancing community level capacity. He also introduced their efforts to enhance human capabilities as well as to strengthen food security status of the poor people in the country through the Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP), which lead to the practical reduction of the death toll from 300,000 in 1970 to 107 in 1999.

In her presentation, **Col. Elma Aldea**, Administrator, Office of Civil Defense, Department of National Defense, Philippines, highlighted the successful and sustained collaboration and partnership among the government, NGO and community in the province of Negros Occidental by organizing the Provincial Disaster Management Team. She cited the importance and benefits of building alliances, enhancing information systems, training volunteers, strengthening local coordinating councils, and ensuring active community involvement in disaster management.

In Laos, **Mr. Vilayphong Sisomvang**, Training Manager, Department of Social Welfare and National Disaster Management, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, cited the community based disaster management project in Champasak District aimed at reducing the vulnerability of the community to flood and drought by improving early warning systems through the collaboration with media, increasing community awareness of risks and options for response through establishment of awareness campaign unit, community-based hazard mapping program, incorporating disaster management curriculum in school, and promoting more appropriate agricultural practices that ensure food security at village level.

**Ms. Yuan Yi**, Program Officer, China National Center for Disaster Reduction, reported on the case of Typhoon Ranim in August 2004, whose impact was the worst since 1956. She cited the countermeasures taken by the government from preparedness and early warning through response and reconstruction. She made an historical comparison of the response and cited the importance of emergency plans including establishment of command systems, preparation of emergency materials and funds, the strengthening local capacity for prevention through trainings and drills, and enhancing public awareness and knowledge on disaster risks.

**Mr. A. Rajabov**, First Deputy Minister of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense, Tajikistan and **Mr. Khusrav Sharifov**, Program Officer, UNDP Tajikistan explained the good practices concerning the Lake Sarez Disaster Mitigation Project (LSRMP), which included flood early warning systems, and the effective disaster management planning, coordination and information sharing of REACT (Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team).

The comments on the floor (participants from Kyrgys, Nepal, EU, JICA, and India) cited the

importance of enhanced preparedness, advocacy for prevention, improved coordination, research, volunteerism, early warning systems, and psychosocial care for disaster victims, especially children. Mr. Manny concluded the session by focusing the necessity of the involvement of all the stakeholders for the effective disaster reduction.

<Closing Remarks>

The Forum was closed with a comment of Mr. Kitamoto who emphasized the promotion of TDRM for reducing disaster risks effectively.