Summary of Group Presentations

The core group members formed themselves into two groups to discuss the following: (1) What you expect to gain from the network; (2) What needs to be done to enhance the network (identification of priorities and strategies); and (3) How we should implement the strategies (specific activities).

Expectations on the network

Group A expressed the importance of membership into the ADRRN and the intention to make the network known and recognized within and outside Asia. The group envisioned ADRRN as a means for promoting and enhancing expertise and exchanging information and resources on best practices and lessons learnt in disaster response and risk management. Moreover, the group expected that ADRRN shall become a major advocate of the integration of the Total Disaster Risk Management (TDRM) concept into development programs and initiatives undertaken by national governments, national and international NGOs, multilateral organizations, donors and UN agencies. The network shall also mentor and support fledgling national NGOs and assist in linking them with national governments concerning disaster response and risk management initiatives.

Furthermore, through ADRRN, Group A expected network members to establish mechanisms for sharing of information, experiences, best practices, technology transfer and resources (personnel and funding). The network shall also endeavor to provide a collective voice and credible organization for Asian NGOs to be heard internationally. Membership to ADRRN shall render its participating NGOs respect and credibility especially before their respective government and society.

Group B conveyed the need for a clear vision and mission for ADRRN and a working committee that shall address organizational concerns and requirements. It was suggested that UN-OCHA and ADRC facilitate and support the organization of this committee. The group also expected the ADRRN to set standards for its members, to facilitate communication between and among NGOs, governments, and UN agencies, to encourage countries without a national coalition or network to form one, and to encourage NGOs and governments to focus on disaster prevention and preparedness.

Strategies for enhancing the network

Group A expressed the need to build the organizational capacity of ADRRN members and strengthen the linkages and networking among them. Moreover, the network members should endeavor to promote the ADRRN as an organization and commit themselves to enhancing the effectiveness of the network.

Group B cited the priority need for improving the network's website, identifying members' responsibilities, releasing an organizational newsletter quarterly or biannually, establishing a formal membership system, outlining programs and activities, and promoting quality assurance in disaster reduction efforts.

Proposed specific activities of the network

Group A proposed the following networking activities:
− Skills training through bilateral and multilateral cooperation
− Direct funding support for projects of network members; partnership of members for funding of projects
− Improving the ADRRN website and facilitating contributions and updates from members
− Setting specific agenda with clear deliverables and timelines for yearly meeting
− Setting up of working groups for each action item on agenda
− Documenting and sharing best practices and initiatives undertaken by network members and within the home country of members
− Implementing a joint pilot project involving network members
− Networking with other similar groups within and outside Asia for professional exchange and benchmarking

− Setting up of email groups among the members
− Creating hyperlinks for the ADRRN website from individual websites and correspondence of members
− Articulating the inclusion of disaster risk management into national development strategies during the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2005

Group B proposed the formulation of a charter and minimum standards similar to SPHERE for disaster reduction and the endorsement of previously developed good practices by participating NGOs (good practice guidelines). Moreover, the group recommended the formation of specialty committees and the conduct of pilot projects.

Consensus of priority action

Both Group A and Group B agreed on the need to address the organizational development requirements of ADRRN and to endeavor to present itself at the UN Conference as a cohesive and acceptable network organization representing NGOs involved in disaster reduction in Asia.