

## **Closing Speech**

**Mr. Ed Tsui**

Director, UN-OCHA New York

As this regional workshop comes to a close this morning, I would like to congratulate the Executive Director of the Asian Disaster Reduction Center, Mr. Satoru Nishikawa, and the Regional Disaster Response Advisor for Asia, Ms. Feng Min Kan of UN-OCHA Kobe office, for their efforts to organize this workshop which is not only relevant to our work in disaster reduction and response, but indeed is very timely and almost preemptive as disaster risks are likely to increase in Asia. I wish also to reiterate our deep appreciation to the ASEAN Foundation and the government of the Hyogo Prefecture for their invaluable support in realizing and ensuring the success of this worthy initiative.

I must say that I am most impressed by the active participation of such a significant number of NGOs from Asian countries and international organizations in the region. Throughout the workshop, you have participated with a strong sense of commitment and urgency and with your sights on the future. The process of achieving consensus among the participants on the objectives and strategies for promoting and strengthening networking and collaboration is indeed laudable. I am convinced that pursuing this process will only further promote and facilitate a common understanding among us, and strengthen confidence that is crucial in establishing and sustaining our collective efforts.

I am sure that I speak on your behalf when I say that we appreciate the significance and success of this conference. However, our work does not end here. On the contrary, we have just embarked on a new and exciting journey. This meeting is just but the first of such steps. The challenge that lies ahead demands even more from each one of us. It requires our firm resolution and commitment. The realization of the follow up activities contained in the statement of understanding depends on your intention and steadfast

commitment to collaborate for the good of all.

On behalf of UN-OCHA, I wish to congratulate all of you. I am pleased to receive the statement of understanding, which embodies the outcome of this workshop and the expressed commitment of the participating NGOs. On our part, UN-OCHA will endeavor to provide you with all the necessary support to ensure the success and sustainability of this important collaborative effort.

I wish you all the best and every success in your future challenges. Thank you very much.

**Closing Speech**

**Mr. Satoru Nishikawa**

Executive Director, Asian Disaster Reduction Center

First, I would like to thank you for your very active participation.

I wish to reiterate that ADRC, together with UN-OCHA Kobe office, is ready to serve the tasks that were written down in the Statement of Understanding. I would like to emphasize one point, though, that in order for this effort to continue and be sustained, your continued and sustained commitment and participation are needed.

I hope you will always remember your stay here in Kobe and will endeavor to continue the network that was formed in these three days.

Once again, I would like to thank all the participants, including the resource persons, and all the people who have supported our workshop.

Thank you very much. And I wish you all a safe trip and success in your work in your countries.

**Closing Speech**

**Ms. Feng Min Kan**

Regional Disaster Response Advisor for Asia, UN-OCHA Kobe

Dear friends, let me first express my appreciation to you for your active participation in this first workshop of NGOs of Asian countries on disaster reduction and response. Let me also thank our three very capable resource persons:

Mr. Manny de Guzman, Vice president and Chief Executive Officer, Alliance for Emergency Response and Training, the Philippines;

Mr. Amod Mani Dixit, General Secretary, National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal;

Ms. Siok Hui Ang, Director, Humanitarian Relief Programme, The Singapore International Foundation

for their great contribution to the success of our workshop. The holding of this workshop reflects the recognition of the organizers and sponsors of the invaluable role NGOs play in disaster reduction and response. Our thanks also go out to the presentors in the first plenary session.

Throughout the workshop, I observed the active interaction among the participants and also the enormous amount of knowledge and experience each NGO participant has to share. This workshop was already highly successful and useful to simply bring us all together to understand our objectives, capabilities and activities. However, I am very pleased that our outcome offers much more. We have achieved a consensus and a common understanding of the compelling need to enhance our networking among NGOs in the region. For this, I wish to congratulate all of the participants and the resource persons.

On behalf of UN-OCHA Kobe office, I would like to endorse your statement of understanding, and my office will continue to support your collaborative initiatives to enhance the achievements of this workshop and make sure they

are sustained and further strengthened.

The organizers are happy to accept your recommendation that UN-OCHA Kobe office and ADRC jointly serve as the focal point of the network temporarily. We know the network can only be successful if we are all committed. And I come away from the three days with you knowing that we are. To conclude, I wish you all an enjoyable end to your stay in Kobe and also wish you a safe journey back to your home country. Thank you.