

COMMUNIQUÉ on Disaster Reduction in Asia

**An open-ended regional partnership
for risk and vulnerability reduction in Asia**
based on synergy between comparative advantages of each participant

Disaster reduction has become a strategic priority for Asia, the region with the highest percentage of natural disasters in the world causing unacceptable loss of human lives and erasing hard-won development assets every year.

Aware of the importance of risk and vulnerability reduction and sharing common views on the importance of timely action, the UN Inter-Agency Secretariat for ISDR, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) and the Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC) took the initiative of launching an open-ended regional partnership for disaster reduction in Asia in consultation with UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

The goal is to focus on essential initiatives for disaster reduction and bring together regional and national partners whose collective contribution will generate a positive change in the region with regard to risk and vulnerability reduction.

At the same time preparations leading to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2005 as well as the adoption and implementation of its outcome offer an additional key focus for 2003-2005 and an opportunity to stimulate partnerships across the region in view of concrete initiatives for the benefit of communities in Asia.

Why a partnership?

To proceed to building capacities across Asia while preparing for the 2005 Conference and work at developing a sound basis for future regional undertakings, the best option is to start from an open ended partnership.

A number of strategic programmes exist already in a variety of fields relevant to risk and vulnerability. A partnership has the potential, through its active players' action, to create innovative synergy and concrete results.

A partnership can build on existing capacities and ongoing initiatives that can be enhanced through coordinated collaboration and can aim at sparking inter-regional exchange of experiences, bringing to fruition the ISDR global framework

What would the partnership work for?

Promote disaster reduction in the region by conducting strategic initiatives in countries or sub-regions in partnership with other entities as required by each specific case.

Support the process towards the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, including with a survey at regional level to provide input for both the review of the Yokohama Strategy and elaboration of an action programme for 2005-2015.

Nurture a *Forum* for discussion, experience sharing and information exchange to allow all sectors of civil society to have a say and to become active players.

Ensure that recommendations adopted at the 2005 World Conference on Disaster Reduction are followed up in the region.

Pave the way for further developments in the region, including fund raising for major projects in areas such as education, information management, regional networking.

To know more:

Visit our websites

By clicking on the logos at the top of this document,
or by visiting the following sites

www.unisdr.org

www.adpc.net

www.adrc.or.jp