

Thailand Report on progress towards implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action

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Part A: Cover Note

Reporting organization : Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Ministry of Interior

Scope of organization's : mandate (e.g. national authority for disaster management, NGO and INGO, and international organization networks) Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation is the core organization of disaster management in Thailand. The 2 main laws which contribute DDPM's duty and mission are Civil Defense Act 1979 and Bureaucratic Reorganization Ministerial Statute, Ministry of Interior 2002.

● Duty and Responsibility :

1. Formulate policy, guideline and identify criteria for disaster management.
2. Study, analyze, conduct the research and develop disaster prevention, and warning systems.
3. Develop information technology system for disaster prevention, warning and mitigation.
4. Mobilize people's participation to engage in disaster prevention and mitigation.
5. Create awareness and preparedness among the general public.
6. Arrange the trainings and drill on disaster prevention and mitigation, rehabilitation and on providing relief to the victims as stated by law.
7. Promote, support and implement disaster prevention and mitigation activities, relief operation, and rehabilitate devastated areas.
8. Direct and coordinate the relief operation for disaster victims and rehabilitate the area devastated by large scale disaster.
9. Coordinate with local and foreign organizations for technical assistance in disaster prevention, mitigation, rehabilitation and in relief operation.

● Mission :

1. Materializing disaster and civil emergency prevention and warning systems and creating preparedness in all disaster prone areas.
2. Directing and implementing disaster and civil emergency mitigation activity systematically, rapidly, equitably and thoroughly.
3. Procurement of materials, equipments, and vehicles, indispensable for disaster prevention, mitigation, suppression and for relief operation.
4. Rehabilitation of damaged public utilities, physical and mental recuperation of disaster victim, and restoration of

livelihood. All these activities are carried out on thorough, equitable and rapid basis, and are in harmony with the needs of the victims.

5. Mainstreaming and collaborating disaster prevention and mitigation system, programme, the implementation evaluation with other national and international agencies.

Country, region, or : other area being reported on Reporting on own organization

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Part B : Summary Analysis

Highlight national circumstance

Even before the tsunami incident in 26 December 2004, Thailand has placed the importance to all phases of disaster management, particularly in prevention and mitigation to reduce disaster risk in the country. Disaster management system in Thailand has mainly based on Civil Defence Act 1979 and the National Civil Defence Plan 2005. The National Civil Defence Committee is the main policy making body. Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Minister of Interior, has been established in October 2002 to take responsibility in the disaster management of the country and as the Office of National Civil Defence Secretariat. The National Civil Defence Plan serves as the master plan for all agencies concerned, and provides guidelines for the formulation of operational plan of agencies responsible for management of disaster. The plan is to be reviewed and updated every three year, and further proposed to the National Civil Defence for approval. Consequently, the local authorities, under the Act 1979, will build up the operation plan which will be updated every year.

Due to the climate change, Thailand, like many countries in the world that the trend of natural disaster occurrence becomes more frequent and severe in every year. Whenever the disaster occurs, it will impact seriously on economic, social and environmental resources of the country. The greatest natural disaster on 26 December 2004, the total financial impact of this earthquake/tsunami is estimated at more than USD 2 billion and affected to tourism, fisheries, agriculture and etc. This year (2007), Thailand has enfaced many kinds of incidents such as haze in the Northern, drought in many areas (more than 60 provinces) of the country and earthquake in the Northern. We have learned the great deal from the occurrences of these disasters and has launched various disaster risk reduction schemes which are in line with Hygo Framework for Action so as to build the resilience of community at risk. Nowadays, DDPM adopted Strategic National Action Plan (SNAP) for Risk Reduction in collaboration with UNISDR and ADPC. The working group has been set up to develop SNAP for Thailand. The SNAP is on process to be drafted.

Progress towards achieving the Hyogo Framework for strategic goals;

Thailand has stepped forward to adopt proactive disaster management approach which can reduce the damage and the impact of disaster substantially. Public awareness and knowledge is a very important aspect of DDPM's scheme to improve public safety of all sectors of the people, with the priority of those who are at

risk. DDPM has applied “Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM)” approach to generate the awareness and to implant the culture of safety for the people in risk prone areas. Besides, this approach will attract the intervention of local people in all phases of disaster cycle. Since 2004 – 2006 DDPM has continuously launched CBDRM training in 1,316 at risk communities, and in this 2007 fiscal year, 360 more communities at risk, with the particular of flashflood and mudslide prone areas will be targeted. Furthermore, DDPM has published continuously the documents and leaflets to educate the people and to create awareness in disaster prevention and mitigation of various types of disaster such as tsunami, flood, landslide etc., and distributed to local authorities and agencies.

Furtherly, DDPM has enhanced the capacity of local authorities. It's realized that local authorities are at the front line to respond all types of disaster should it occurred. DDPM cooperates and collaborates with the agencies concerned to endeavor to strengthen and enhance their capacity to cope with disaster. Besides, the role in responding, Thailand has as well increased the role of local authorities in disaster prevention, mitigation and rehabilitation so as to enable them to build up the more resilient localities. This endeavor has been translated into action by

- 1) developing know – how and skills of local staffs in disaster management through training;
- 2) equipping local authority with disaster management related equipments and tools;
- 3) allocating the annual central budget to local authority for disaster management;
- 4) more empowering to local authorities in regard to disaster management;
- 5) increasing the number of community – based trained and registered civil defence volunteers. Each of 76 provinces in Thailand is obliged increasing the number of civil defence volunteers at the rate of 2% of the total number of the population

Another initiative to enhance the capacity of localities in disaster management is “One Tambon One Search and Rescue Team” project, DDPM has launched in October 2005. It has been targeted that within the next three years, every tambon (the Thai administrative unit next from grass root unit of village: approximately 7,255 tambons) will have its own search and rescue team. The most recent initiative in 2006 “Mr. Warning” under the programme “Flashflood and Mudslide Warning Programme”. Thailand. The approximately 6,455 villagers were trained and assigned to be “Mr. Warning” basing in their respective villages.

Networking is the core of collaboration in disaster risk reduction. DDPM has signed MOU with various local national agencies concerned such as Department of Provincial Administration, Department of Local Administration, The Meteorological Department, National Park Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department, National Disaster Warning Centre, and Thai Red Cross including ADPC (Asian Disaster Preparedness Center) for building capacity in disaster prevention and preparedness, and sharing knowledge and experiences. At the regional and international levels, DDPM is a member of Asian Disaster Reduction Center, and has been appointed to be focal point of many international organizations, such as: ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management, Disaster Working Group of Typhoon Committee, UNISDR. Besides, DDPM has created networking in terms of technical cooperation with many countries and international organization in forms of bilateral and multilateral. The followings are the international organizations that provide the technical cooperation and assistance to DDPM.

- Swedish Rescue Service Agency (SRSA) and UNEP (Launching “Disaster Reduction through Awareness, Preparedness and Prevention Mechanism in Coastal Settlements in Asia : Demonstration in Tourism Destination) : The introduction of APELL (Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at the Local Level : APELL) Two pilot project areas are in Patong, Phuket, and Phi Phi Island, Krabi.
 - ADPC/UNDP (End – to – End Early Warning System and Preparedness for Multi – Hazard in Thailand)
 - ADRC (Technical cooperation and assistance)
 - ADPC (Technical cooperation and assistance)
 - UNISDR (SNAP Project)
 - GTZ (Technical cooperation)
 - JICA (Technical cooperation and expertise)
- etc.

Recommendations in terms of planning and project including in change in policies, rules and regulations

As mention, Thailand disaster management has mainly based on The Civil Defence Act 1979. Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation has proposed to amend this law to the cabinet. The main objectives are as follows:

- a) to facilitate the devolution of authority in disaster prevention, mitigation and rehabilitation to local government of all level
- b) to increase the unity of incident commanding at national and local levels

- c) to facilitate the application of National Civil Defence Plan as the guideline in disaster management.

Currently, the amendment is on process to submit to Parliament for consideration. If the law is approved, it will be the new dimension of the legislative mechanism in the disaster management area.

Part C: Compilation of Information

Action 1 : Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national priority with a story institutional basis for implementation

1. Name of initiative and program :

Strategic National Action Plan (SNAP) in Disaster Risk Reduction

2. Description, objectives, main activities of the initiative or program

Royal Thai Government (RTG) by Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) has cooperated with United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) to initiate the Strategic National Action Plan in Disaster Risk Reduction. DDPM has set up working group to develop SNAP for Thailand.

The objectives are :

- 1) review and assess the RTG policy, organizational, legal and regulatory framework for disaster risk reduction and preparedness,
- 2) identify a comprehensive multi - sector, multi – level, interdisciplinary disaster reduction program of high priority within specific key sectors based on RTG commitment and consensus with donor support
- 3) with overall inter – ministerial coordination by National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) develop and produce astrologic national action plan that is of high priority, effective, achievable and can be funded as appropriate by RTG, multi – lateral and bi – lateral agencies.

Main activities: To collect the information and review the role of organizations related for disaster risk reduction in Thailand, DDPM designed questionnaire and interviewed some Head of Departments. DDPM collaborated with working group to

conduct the national workshop in October 2006. The key objective was to brainstorm agencies concerned for drafting SNAP.

3. Results and achievements made, with indicators if available

The SNAP draft is nearly completed and will be submitted to the National Civil Defense Committee for approval.

4. Major challenges and lessons in implementing the initiative or program and next setups planned

It's the first time that Thailand has adopted the strategy action plan in disaster risk reduction. The challenges in this project are to make agencies concerned to understand and participate in designing this strategy plan. Furthermore, the present Civil Defence Act 1979 has submitted to Parliament for amending and it may affect SNAP in the future.

Action 2 : Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning

1. Name of initiative and program

Flashflood and Mudslide Warning Program

2. Description, objective, main activities of the initiative or program

After Tsunami situation on December 26, 2004, Royal Thai Government set up the National Disaster Warning Centre and constructed completely 74 towers in 6 tsunami affected provinces along the Andaman Coast. The next phase, 48 more of towers will be constructed in the North, the East and along the eastern coast and 144 more towers will be constructed in various vulnerable areas nation wide. Besides, the simple rain gauges and manual siren warning have been continuously installed in disaster prone villages. The rain gauge is extremely low cost and very simple to use. Whenever amount of rainfall exceeds the predefined normal level, the manual siren warning will be signed to warn the villagers through the village news broadcast center.

However, the flood and mudslides/landslides are the most frequent and severe natural disaster in Thailand. Therefore DDPM has initiated the **Flashflood and Mudslide Warning Training Program** to enhance capacity of the local in risk assessment and early warning. Under this program, DDPM has collaborated with Department of Provincial Administration, Department of Local Administration, The Meteorological Department, National Park Wildlife and Plant Conservation

Department, and National Disaster Warning Centre to design “Mr. Warning” training course.

This course aims at creating disaster warning network particularly in flashflood and mudslide prone village. “Mr. Disaster Warning” is the village volunteer who has been selected and trained to function as a vigilant, a forewarner and a coordinator. As the vigilant, he will keep the close watch on the development of the potential flood and mudslide and check the level of rainwater in the simple rain gauge installed in his village. As the forewarner, he will report the village headman if there is any indication that these will be an emergency, then the headman will signed the manual siren to warn the villagers to evacuate to the safe area. As the coordinator, functions as the contact person or the coordinators between his community and the agencies concerned to arrange the warning system and evacuation drill in his village. Since the inception of the program, approximately 6,455 villagers were trained and assigned to be “Mr. Disaster Warning”.

3. Results and achievements made, with indicators if available

This project attempts to prepare the floods and mudslides prone villages by using participatory approach to mobilize the participation and cooperation of the people in those villages. Since in August 2006, DDPM in cooperation with the earlier mentioned government agencies had launched this training course in flood and mudslide prone villages of 51 provinces (out 76 provinces) nationwide. The total number of 6,455 “Mr. Disaster Warning” have been designated and tasked as the “village – based disaster warning volunteers in their respective villages” DDPM made “Mr. Disaster Warning” manual and distribute to villages and agencies concerned.

4. Major challenges and lessons in implementing the initiative or program, and next steps planned

One of the most effective performance that can be cited as the best practice of “Mr. Warning” is the case of Mr. Suthep Sae Pan, “Mr. Warning” of village 6, in Tambon Mae Ngon, Phang district, Chiang Mai province. It was reported on 8th October, 2006, the flashfloods and mudslides triggered by the continuous heavy downpours had ravaged Phang district. This hydrological disaster devastated the villagers’ houses, infrastructures, and disrupted the public utilities, and 7 villagers were reported dead. Whereas in village 6, had kept the close watch at the weather condition and kept checking the amount of rainfalls in the simple rain gauge. Besides, he had noticed that the water level of the canal in the village was rising and the color of water had changed which signified the potential flashfloods. Immediately, he reported the situation to Tambon Administration Organization Committees, Chief of Tambon, and village headman. Based on Mr.Suthep Sae Pan’s information, the authorities had decided to evacuate approximately 100 villagers of village 6 to the

high ground. Mr. Suthep Sae Pan, “Mr. Warning” of village 6, Tambon Mae Ngon, Phang district, Chiang Mai province, has efficiently and effectively interpreted his knowledge equipped from the training into practice which could save the lives of his fellow villagers.

Actions 3 : Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all level.

1. Name of initiative and program

Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Project.

2. Description, objectives, main activities of the initiative or program

Thailand has realized that it is essential to improve public safety for every sectors of the people, particularly those who are at risk, through enhancing the perception of threats posed by disasters of various types among them. The essence of CBDRM approach is to reduce vulnerabilities and to strengthen people capacity to cope with the disaster risk they face, therefore Thailand has attempted to create the awareness and to implant the culture of safety for the people through this approach.

The objectives of CBDRM project are as follows :

- a) prepare and enable the people in community at risk to manage disaster by themselves
- b) create disaster prevention and mitigation network in the village/community level and
- c) set up village task force to take up the key functions of the disaster management in the village.

The activities in this project are ; DDPM has trained DDPM staffs to be trainers in CBDRM approach, furtherly, DDPM has cooperated with local authorities to survey the risk areas and train people in the community. Upon the completion of training, the villagers are well equipped with know – how on risk assessment, evacuation planning and others disaster prevention activities. Finally village task force will be set up to be in charge of disaster management in the village. Currently, DDPM has produced the CBDRM handbooks and distributed to the local authorities to be employed as the guideline in replicating CBDRM training in other vulnerable communities.

3. Results and achievements made, with indicators if available

Since 2004 - 2006 DDPM has continuously launched CBDRM training in 1,316 at risk communities, and in this 2007 fiscal year, 360 more communities at risk will be targeted.

Furthermore, DDPM has cooperated with the international organizations such as ADPC, GTZ, ADRC to educate the people and to create awareness among them; for examples,

- German by GTZ : implemented CBDRM in 2 pilot areas. One is Tsunami risk area of Mooban Taplamu, Lamkaen Sub – district, Training District, Phang Nga province and another area is flood prone risk area of Mooban Tung Kraborg, Sator Sub – district, Kaosaming District, Trad province.

- The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC): “Education for Disaster Preparedness in Primary School Project” is the cooperated project between Ministry of Education and Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation conducted during January – April 2006. Two pilot schools in Phang Nga were selected as the pilot project venues. .

These pilot projects have enhanced the involvement in disaster prevention and mitigation among government offices, local authorities, private sector and particularly people in the community including international organizations. The villagers have been more aware of disaster and learned to cope with disaster by themselves through village task forces. These are some lessons – learned and good practices :

- At the village of Mae Kampong, Chaing Mai province, various task forces that were set up upon the completion of CBDRM training course had cooperated and collaborate to safe the villagers’ life and property in the face of severe flash flood the year before.
- At the community Bo-Poa, Nakorn Thai district in Phitsanulok province, where community encountered the severe flood and landslide, the community established the task forces to solve the arisen problems on their own.

4. Major challenges and lessons in implementing the initiative or program, and next steps planned

The challenges are:

- CBDRM approach requires community participation and prioritizes risk community vulnerability (in 3 key areas: social, physical and economic). Information, communication/cooperation with local level and agencies related to make understanding the approach are essential to ensure the successful CBDRM project.

- DDPM has trained many communities/villages through the application of CBDRM approach. The village task force should be developed continuously and sustainably.

Action 5 : Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response.

1. Name of initiative and program

One Tambon One Search and Rescue Team

2. Description, objectives, main activities of the initiative or program

Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) has recognized the immediate need to establish a range of search and rescue capacities at national, provincial and most importantly, local levels. Thus, DDPM has launched the “One Tambon One Search and Rescue Team” (OTOS) programme which will result in the establishment, training and long – term sustaining of specially trained search and rescue team in every tambon community.

DDPM has incorporated various government agencies and NGO such as Department of Local Administration, Health Insurance Office, Office of Health Promotion and Support Fund, and Thai Red Cross, so as to achieve the following OTOS objectives;

- To ensure the safety of life, and the rapid and efficient search and rescue operation
- To establish efficient search and rescue team at every province, district and tambon in the country
- To enhance capacity and efficiency of search and rescue team through technical training and drilling
- To build up the self – confidence of search and rescue team
- To provide first aid treatment and rapid transfer to the appropriate medical establishment

Each SAR team is composed of 10 persons. The process of the project is as follows : the provincial SAR teams and District SAR teams will be trained as training instructors. Tambon SAR Team members will be trained by local instructors which is standardized by Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Academy. DDPM has cooperated with the local authorities to provide the equipment for SAR Team.

3. Results and achievements made, with indicator if available

The project's target will be completed within 3 years in every tambon (Thai administrative units next to district) in Thailand (approximately 7,255 tambons) will have its own search and rescue team.

The training of 435 provincial SAR Team members to be SAR instructors has been completed. In district level, the 4,400 district SAR team is now undergoing. DDPM is expected the total number of 72,550 tambon SAR team member will be trained completely within 2008.

4. Major challenges and lessons in implementing the initiative or program and next steps planned

The challenges and plan of the project are as follows:

1. to maintain the trainings' standard,
2. to equip OTOS teams with equipments and tools by the local authorities' budget and
3. to monitor and evaluate the performance of OTOS teams for developing OTOS team's efficiency.

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