

Statement of Understanding of Participants

Regional Workshop on Networking and Collaboration among Non-Governmental Organizations of Asian Countries in Disaster Reduction and Response

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Asia is the worlds' most disaster prone region. Over the past fifty years, it has suffered from about half of the worlds' major disasters, causing widespread loss of lives and property, with serious impact on society, economy and cultural heritage. Disaster risk is growing dramatically jeopardizing the development process and worsening the poverty situation.

To counter this trend, it is imperative that organisations at national, regional and international levels implement disaster risk reduction strategies on an urgent basis.

Recognizing the important role played by NGOs, the participants at this workshop agreed on a number of steps aimed at promoting and strengthening networking and collaboration among NGOs in Asia in disaster reduction and response.

There was consensus that the following strategies shall be adopted:

1. Establish a collaborative network among participating NGOs.
2. Build upon the confidence and trust generated among NGOs in this workshop.

In line with these strategies, the participants recommended that the following actions be implemented:

1. This network shall be initially called the Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network. (ADRRN). The network shall work in close coordination with governments of various countries and at various levels with the objective of playing a complementary role in disaster risk reduction and response.
2. ADRC and UN-OCHA Kobe office shall initially serve as the focal point and co-ordinator for this network.
3. ADRC and UN-OCHA Kobe office shall develop an electronic forum that will facilitate the free exchange of ideas and information, as well as the sharing of resources among the network members.
4. The participating NGOs are encouraged to develop and share a directory of all NGOs within their own country. This shall include information on contact points, resources, capacity, capabilities and disaster reduction and response activities.
5. The participating NGOs shall act as facilitators to promote a network and/or strengthen existing networks at the national level.
6. The ADRC and UN-OCHA Kobe office shall initiate the formation of a working committee to draft the terms of reference and formulate strategies to further enhance co-operation among participating NGOs in consultation with workshop participants.
7. An Annual Regional Workshop shall be organised.

Endorsement

We, the participants of the "Regional Workshop on Networking and Collaboration among Non-Governmental Organisations of Asian Countries in Disaster Reduction and Response", hereby endorse this Statement of Understanding.

22 February, 2002

Portpia Hotel, Kobe, Japan