



International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Building a “Local Government Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction”

Second Consultative Meeting

Meeting Report

Chengdu, 12-14 November 2008



United Nations

Background

Local level implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action is a vital goal, requiring the active participation and involvement of local government actors at different levels. It is at the local level that development planning is expected to first take place, and where disaster risk reduction must be first integrated into development processes. In view of the above, the UN/ISDR secretariat is facilitating the development of a “Local Government Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction – LGA/DRR” with the aim to strengthen the engagement of local authorities in DRR.

To this end, the UN/ISDR secretariat and some of its key partners convened a preliminary “Consultative Meeting” in Barcelona, Spain on 22-23 May 2008. This first Meeting served as a reality-check and a brainstorming session to obtain preliminary feedback on the proposal to develop the LGA/DRR. Overall, the Barcelona meeting stimulated a constructive debate around the potential scope, objectives and added value of the Alliance. Substantive comments and observations on the LGA/DRR concept were put forward, and initial commitment to the Alliance was reached.

Further to Barcelona, a Second Consultative Meeting was organised by the UN/ISDR secretariat on 12-14 November 2008, in collaboration with UNDP/SU-SSC and the International Training Center of the ILO (ITC/ILO). The Second Consultative Meeting was held in Chengdu, China, and hosted by the “Global Dialogue on Wenchuan Earthquake” organised by the Beijing Normal University and the University of Hong Kong six months after the devastating earthquake in the Sichuan Province.

Goal and Objectives

The goal of the Chengdu meeting was to stimulate further discussions on several issues related to the development of the LGA/DRR, and to gain increased commitment and support towards the establishment of the Local Government Alliance. The meeting was also seen as an opportunity for local government representatives to learn and exchange experiences on DRR.

The Meeting was structured into three parts, each addressed on a different day. The first meeting day (12th November) was dedicated to participation in the “Global Dialogue” on the Wenchuan Earthquake. The second day (13th November) focused on follow up discussions on the development of the Local Government Alliance for DRR. The third and last day (14th November) served as a brainstorming session on “DRR training for local sustainable development” facilitated by the ITC/ILO with support from UNDP/SU-SSC and UN/ISDR.

Major Outcomes

Through participation in the official sessions of the “Global Dialogue”, the meeting provided a good opportunity for local government representatives to enhance their knowledge and understanding of DRR. Some of the presentations made during the plenary and thematic sessions on 12th November provided valuable information in a number of DRR-related areas, including Earthquake Loss Assessment, Post-disaster Psychosocial Support, Information Management and Media Communication during emergency times.

During the second day, the meeting focused on the actual development of the LGA/DRR and followed up on the discussions held in Barcelona. After reviewing the major outcomes of the First Consultative Meeting, participants assessed progress made up to the Meeting in Chengdu, and discussed opportunities for joint work towards the key events scheduled in Geneva and Incheon in 2009. In particular, the following concrete outcomes have been produced by the meeting:

a). Adoption of LGA/DRR ToRs: The meeting adopted final Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Local Government Alliance and agreed on the Roles and Responsibilities of the LGA/DRR Advisory Group. Both documents will be circulated to all participants by email and published on the UN/ISDR website in due course (<http://www.unisdr.org/lgadrr>).

b). Establishment of Advisory Group: Participants in the meeting also agreed to formally establish a temporary “Advisory Group” for the LGA/DRR, which will guide the development of the Alliance during the early stage through the support of the UN/ISDR secretariat. For a comprehensive list of Advisory Group Members please refer to Annex I (updated 26th November 2008).

c). Assessment on HFA Implementation: Participants agreed to promote the LGA/DRR and its activities in their respective country, and to follow up with their national counterpart regarding the implementation of the HFA. The meeting agreed that UN/ISDR would be sending additional information on how participants’ countries have reported on the HFA implementation to the secretariat. Local governments would then be able to assess how DRR activities at the local and sub-national levels have been reflected in such reports and whether there is room for improving the current reporting format in order to make it more comprehensive and relevant from a local government perspective.

d). Collection of Good Practices: The meeting agreed that the Alliance should start collecting and documenting good practices and lessons learned by local governments in disaster risk reduction. To this end, UN/ISDR will be sending out guidelines and a specific template for submission of content. UN/ISDR will be

responsible for editing and designing the final publication, which is expected to be launched during the next session of the GP/DRR. The first compilation of good practices will highlight the key role played by local governments in reducing disaster risks and vulnerabilities and will not have a specific thematic focus. In addition to the good practices publication, local governments are also encouraged to submit relevant information and documents, including videos and other materials, through PreventionWeb (<http://www.preventionweb.net>). More information on how to submit content to PreventionWeb will be circulated by UN/ISDR in due course.

e). Preparation of Geneva and Incheon 2009 Events: (i) Geneva, GP/DRR session, 15-19 June 2009: UN/ISDR will be sending out an official announcement to national governments and will forward it to the LGA/DRR Advisory Group. Inputs on the purpose and content of the event to be organised by local governments at the GP/DRR will be encouraged at a later stage. (ii) Incheon, Official Launch of the LGA/DRR, 24-26 August 2009: UN/ISDR and Incheon Metropolitan City will be sending out the draft agenda of the event in due course, and request inputs and recommendations on how to prepare different thematic sessions of this event. Participants have also agreed to produce a flyer of the LGA/DRR in order to better promote its activities and secure good participation from local governments in the above events.

f). UN/ISDR World DRR Campaigns: The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss lessons learned and opportunities for collaboration within the framework of UN/ISDR's World Disaster Reduction Campaigns "Hospitals Safe from Disasters" and "Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School".

As mentioned above, a specific session on "DRR training for local sustainable development" was facilitated by ILO on 14th November 2008. Although formally a separate session, this meeting was seen as an integral part of the LGA/DRR Consultative Meeting. The ILO meeting was aimed to review the potential content, structure and target audience of an English training course on DRR that will be delivered to local government officials as of next year. Participants agreed that this may be one of the first added-value services provided by the LGA/DRR to its members and external audiences.

Tentative Timeframe

A tentative timeframe to follow up on the Second Consultative Meeting is provided below. The table reflects the activities to be undertaken by the Advisory Group as outlined in the previous sections.

Timeframe

Activity	Deadline
1. LGA/DRR ToRs	
1.1 Circulate final ToRs and Advisory Group “Roles and Responsibilities”	<i>26th November 2008</i>
2. HFA progress reports	
2.1 Share national HFA implementation reports submitted to UN/ISDR secretariat	<i>19th December 2008</i>
3. Good practices and lessons learned	
3.1 Send out guidelines and template for collection of good practices	<i>19th December 2008</i>
3.2 Edit, design and print final good practices publication	<i>12th June 2009</i>
3.3 Send out guidelines for submission of content to PreventionWeb	<i>19th December 2008</i>
4. LGA/DRR Flyer	
4.1 Prepare draft content for LGA/DRR flyer	<i>13th February 2009</i>
4.2 Edit, design and publish LGA/DRR flyer for advocacy purposes	<i>12th June 2009</i>
5. Geneva and Incheon Events	
5.1 Send out official GP/DRR announcement and gather inputs for preparation of LGA/DRR event	<i>February 2009</i>
5.2 Send out draft agenda for Incheon conference and request inputs for preparation of thematic sessions	<i>February 2009</i>

Annex I

Advisory Group Members

(as of 26th November 2008)

- **Mr. Richard Davies** - Head of Risk and Emergency Planning, Audit and Risk Division, Leeds City Council, UK.
- **Mr. Cedric Daep** - Head, Albay Public Safety & Emergency Management Office, Provincial Disaster Operation Center, Philippines.
- **Mr. Eon Joo Noh** - International Cooperation Division - Incheon Metropolitan City, Korea.
- **Mr. Sam Ebukali** - Chairman of Bukedea Local Government, Bukedea District, Uganda.
- **Mr. Stephen Muller** - Director, Infrastructure and Planning for the Overstrand Municipality, Western Cape Province, South Africa.
- **Mr. Victor Bai** - Vice President of IAEM Asia & China Representative International Association of Emergency Managers.

Annex II

List of Participants

	Name	Organisation	City	Country	Email
1	Mr. Eon Joo Noh	International Cooperation Division - Incheon Metropolitan City, Korea	Incheon	Korea	eonjoo@gmail.com
2	Mr. Jung Jin Park	Incheon City Hall, Incheon Metropolitan City, Korea	Incheon	Korea	eonjoo@gmail.com
3	Mr. Victor Bai	Vice President of IAEM Asia & China Representative International Association of Emergency Managers	Beijing	China	victorbai@hotmail.com
4	Prof. Xiulang Zhang	Wenchuan Earthquake Taskforce, Beijing Normal University	Beijing	China	zhang99@bnu.edu.cn
5	Mr. Cedric Daep	Head, Albay Public Safety & Emergency Management Office, Provincial Disaster Operation Center, Philippines	Legazpi City	Philippines	cedricdaep@yahoo.com
6	Mr. Stephen Muller	Director, Infrastructure and Planning for the Overstrand Municipality, Western Cape Province, South Africa	Cape Town	South Africa	smuller@overstrand.gov.za
7	Mr. Sam Ebukali	Chairman of Bukedea Local Government, Uganda	Bukedea District	Uganda	lifteso@yahoo.com
8	Mr. Richard Davies	Head of Risk and Emergency Planning, Audit and Risk Division, Leeds City Council, UK	Leeds	United Kingdom	richard.davies@leeds.gov.uk
9	Ms. Zenaida Willison	South-South Disaster Risk Reduction Advisor, UNDP/SU-SSC	Bangkok	Thailand	zenaida.willison@undp.org
10	Ms. Alice Voza	ILO/Delnet	Turin	Italy	a.voza@itcilo.org
11	Ms. Feng Min Kan	Senior Coordinator, UN/ISDR secretariat	Geneva	Switzerland	kanf@un.org
12	Mr. Michele Cocchiglia	Programme Officer, UN/ISDR secretariat	Geneva	Switzerland	cocchiglia@un.org