

Asia NGO Consultative Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction

Bangkok, 27-28 May, 2008

Final Agenda

Background:

Disaster risk reduction is a cross-cutting issue that needs to be mainstreamed into development sectors, especially at the community level. Building resilience to disasters cannot be done without the active participation of NGOs, which often work with poor communities vulnerable to the impact of disasters. The role of NGOs in DRR has been very crucial – such as advocating policy changes to mainstream DRR into development, increasing public awareness in communities at risk, building capacity and knowledge transfer of good DRR practices.

Recognizing the important role of NGOs in DRR, the UN/ISDR secretariat initiated in 2006 the development of a “Global Network of NGOs for DRR - GNDRR”, in collaboration with the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation - UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok. The Network was officially launched in June 2007, and is currently facilitated by a Steering Group of 11 representatives from international and local NGOs, including Action Aid, ADRRN, BOND DRR Group, Duryog Nivaran, Huairou Commission, InterAction, ProVention Consortium, Tearfund and World Vision¹.

The Network aims to increase the effectiveness of civil society to build disaster resilient communities, by bringing the concerns and interests of vulnerable people into the heart of the global DRR policy and practice. One of the objectives of the GNDRR is to build South-South and South-North cooperation among NGOs through information sharing, knowledge exchange and capacity building. However, this can only be done if there is wider ownership to the platform from local, national and regional DRR actors.

Oxfam Hong Kong has been recently calling for increased participation of local, national and regional NGOs in global DRR efforts, such as those of the GNDRR, to inform policy development on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Therefore, Oxfam Hong Kong and UN/ISDR, in consultation with some of the key players in the region, proposed a consultative meeting on disaster risk reduction in Asia to support the efforts of the GNDRR at the regional level.

The consultations will bring together development, civil society and non-governmental organisations from Asia to examine challenges to disaster risk reduction and potential for collaboration among regional stakeholders. The meeting will cover four main themes: 1) Emerging disaster issues in Asia; 2). Urban risks in Asia; 3). Climate Change, extreme events, conflict and migration (with a special focus on environmental migration in Asia); 4). Cross cutting solutions - Training and learning concepts on DRR.

In addition to discussing potential for collaboration around these thematic areas, the meeting will aim to develop a regional framework allowing NGOs and civil society organizations to provide inputs to the Global Network of NGOs for DRR. We envisage that this consultation will help set up

¹ For more information visit : <http://www.unisdr.org/ngos>

a co-ordination mechanism for NGOs and their networks working on disaster risk reduction in Asia.

The consultations will be held on the 27th to the 28th of May 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand, and will see participation from representatives of the GNDRR and non-governmental organizations working to enhance disaster risk reduction in Asia. Participants in this consultation will share a common background in DRR and a strong commitment to address disaster risk reduction issues in Asia.

The meeting will be facilitated by a steering committee that includes the Asia Disaster Risk Reduction Network (ADRRN), Oxfam Hong Kong, and the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation and UN/ISDR.

Objectives of the Meeting:

The meeting aims to stimulate discussions on the following topics:

- Purpose and added value of a regional coordination framework on DRR for NGOs in Asia.
- Incentives for participation and involvement of NGOs in DRR coordination.
- Mechanisms to sustain coordination on DRR in the medium and long term.
- Possible structure and governance of a regional framework on DRR in Asia (links with UN/ISDR and GNDRR?)
- Measurement of performance of such a coordination framework (quality and quantity)

Day 1		
Agenda Item	Brief Description	Time
Session One	Opening Session of the meeting	09.00 am – 10.15 am
Registrations and Tea	Participants register their names, organisation name, designation etc. This time will be used by participants to meet each other.	09.00 am – 09.30 am
Welcome and Keynote Speech	Why should Asian NGOs be concerned with DRR? - Highlighting key issues, challenges and opportunities for DRR in Asia. – <i>Address by Rajan Gengaje, Regional Disaster Response Advisor, UNOCHA</i>	09.30 am – 09.45 am
Introductions & agenda	Introduction of the participants, sharing agenda of the meeting and agreements	09.45 am – 10.15 am
Session Two	Presentations followed by plenary discussions.	10.15 am – 12.30 pm
Presentation	Emerging disaster issues in Asia <i>-by Mehul Pandya (All India Disaster Management Institute, India).</i>	10.15 am – 10.30 am
Presentation	Urban risks in Asia <i>- By Amod Dixit (National Society for Earthquake Technology, Nepal).</i>	10.30 am – 10.45 am
Presentation	Climate Change - Extreme events, conflict and migration (with a special focus on environmental migration) <i>-by Atiq Rahman (Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, Bangladesh).</i>	10.45 am – 11.00 am
Presentation	Cross Cutting Solutions - Training and learning concepts in DRR <i>-by Lorna Victoria (Centre for Disaster Preparedness, Philippines) & Prasad Sevekari (Red R, India).</i>	11.00 am – 11.15 am
Q and A	This time is allotted for plenary discussions and Q and A on the presentations	11. 15 am – 11.45 am
Session Three	Exploring the potential for collaboration on DRR among NGOs	11.15 am – 03.00 pm

Presentation followed by Q and A	Global Network of NGOs for DRR (GNDRR)- updates and review - <i>by Marcus Oxley (GNDRR)</i>	11.45 am – 12.30 pm
Lunch	Venue tbc	12.30 pm – 01.30 pm
Plenary Discussions	What are the issues on DRR for collaboration? What is the potential for collaboration on DRR among NGOs in Asia?	01.30 pm – 03.00 pm
Tea	Working Tea	03.00 pm – 03.15 pm
Session Four	Working Group Discussions on exploring collaboration on DRR among NGOs in Asia	03.15 pm – 06.00 pm
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What would be the purpose and added value of such a mechanism in Asia? • What would be its objectives and activities? • What would be the incentives for participation and involvement in such a mechanism for NGOs? • What criteria would ensure a broad participation of stakeholders - across themes? • How can NGO collaboration improve the linkages between DRR and CC? 	03.15 pm – 05.30 pm
Plenary	(5 min each) Presentations on summary for working group discussions	05.30 pm – 06.00 pm
Day 2		
Session Five		
Presentation	Recap from Day One and Introduce Plan for the Day	09.00 am – 09.15 am
Presentation	Input on Regional Mechanisms on DRR --- <i>by Zenaida Delica Wilson, (UNDP South South)</i>	09.15 am – 09.30 am
Session Six	Plenary Discussions	09.30 am – 12.30 pm
	Mapping Asia Networks -Who is doing what and where?	09.30 am – 10.45 am
Tea	Working Tea	10.45 am – 12.30 am
Lunch		12.30 pm – 01.30 pm
Session Seven	Working Group discussions on gaps and opportunities for collaboration among NGOs – Mapping session three and session six.	01.30 pm – 04.30 pm
Working Group Session	Presentations	01.30 pm – 03.00 pm
Tea break	Working Tea	03.00 pm – 03.15 pm
Plenary	Recommendations and closing – Ways forward	03.15 pm – 04.30 pm
Session Eight	Synthesis and Closing	04.30 pm – 05.30 pm
Presentation	Synthesis <i>by Terry Cannon (Greenwich University)</i>	04.30 pm – 05.00 pm
Closing	Vote of thanks	05.00 pm – 05.30 pm