

## **Nomination of Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) for the 2011 Sasakawa Award**

It is my privilege to nominate the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) for the Sasakawa Award 2011.

Most of my work is at community level in India and in now several Asian countries and in my work I have come across the concrete impact of GNDR work from time-to-time. Let me enlist.

- The vulnerable people, people at risk, are not consulted in the measures that aim to reduce the risk they face. GNDR has initiated ongoing global effort to listen to the views of the people and as a result local civil society organizations are demanding more and more listening to the views of the people at risk. Late January this year I was in a network meeting in Delhi presenting my national review of District Disaster Management Plan status in India where the participating NGOs quickly pointed out why Views from the Frontline (VFL) method of GNDR cannot be used in the making of District Disaster Management Plans in India. Those who are at risk must be invited to shape the plans that aim to reduce those risks. I see this realization across NGOs as an impact of VFL on the ongoing national processes of disaster risk reduction in cities and districts in India.
- GNDR has generated more focus on partnership and collaborative work to reduce risks in disaster hotspot countries. In India, AIDMI is inspired with GNDR call for partnership and has joined other leading NGOs such as SEEDS, Swayam Shikshan Prayog, and many more to form what is called Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction for now over three years. The members have realized that risk cannot be reduced without joint efforts. As a founding member, AIDMI has drawn inspiration from this idea of GNDR in its publications and website events to work with these partners and take up collaborative work in many areas, but most notably, on piloting financing overlap of disaster risk and climate risk at community level in six locations. GNDR accelerated this collaborative work in not only in India but in several countries in South Asia including in Afghanistan and Sri Lanka where we have found similar impact of GNDR on local CSO work.

- GNDR has well argued mobilization of Civil Society organization to reduce disaster risk across communities. Drawing from this argument of GNDR AIDMI set up a South Asia dialogue between authorities and activists on Human Rights in Disaster Risk Reduction. Total 61 CSOs participated. The effort was supported by Bern-Brookings Initiative and held in Chennai on April 9-10, 2010 focusing also on urban safety. The collaborative ways of working grew from South Asia to South East Asia and similar collaborative event of CSOs was held in Yogyakarta on May 13-15, 2010 and in Delhi for entire Asia on December 7-8, 2010 with focus on floods. GNDR has inspired such collaborations across cities in Asia including in Indonesia (where I reviewed work of local NGO network) in districts and cities by showing the power of collaborative disaster risk reduction efforts. GNDR has done this with limited resources but with unlimited energy.
- GNDR has effectively promoted the importance of measuring risk reduction from the point of view of those who are at risk. Drawing from this idea of GNDR effort AIDMI planned and launched a regional study to measure risk reduction in the form of client impact for leading six micro insurance agencies in India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. The study was supported by IASA and ProVention at the Second Global Platform and is now finished and will be shared at Third Global Platform to feed into ongoing GNDR processes. GNDR has helped similar studies directly focus on what the poor and vulnerable as our “client” for disaster risk reduction want. In this manner GNDR has made Disaster Risk Reduction more inclusive and broad based not only in action but also in studies and research.

The above four examples point to the direct, concrete, and grassroots impact GNDR has had on AIDMI but more importantly similar hundreds of CSOs across Asia.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

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