

Note: These concept notes are as received from partner organizations.



**Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2016
New Delhi, India
02-05 November 2016**

**Concept Note for Thematic session
Hotel The Ashok, New Delhi**

Event title	Toward a better partnership with faith groups
Event code	PC-7
Date and Time	Wednesday, 2 nd November 2016, 09.00-12.00
Venue/ Room no.	Friendship Lounge Partition 1, Third Floor
Organizers	<p>Lead: Soka Gakkai International (SGI)</p> <p>Collaborators: ACT Alliance, ADRRN, Humanitarian Forum Indonesia (HFI), Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities (JLI)</p> <p>Contact Details* (lead):</p> <p>Name: Nobuyuki Asai</p> <p>Designation:</p> <p>Email id and phone number: n-asai@soka.jp, +81-80-5957-5044</p> <p>Organization name and address: Soka Gakkai International 15-3, Samon-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0017</p>
Session Objectives	This session is aimed at showcasing faith-based organizations and local faith groups' contribution to DRR including relief and recovery activity. We hope to develop a new network of those groups in Asia in the future utilizing this event as a significant step.
Background and context	At the 6 th Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR held in Bangkok in June 2014, and at the UN World Conference on DRR held in Sendai in March 2015, FBO consultation meetings took place and joint statements were launched in both occasions which describe FBOs' unique ways to contribute to DRR. In particular, they showed that FBOs' strength is closely related to

	<p>“Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk” and “Priority 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction” articulated in the Sendai Framework.</p> <p>In July 2015 in Bangkok the “Asian Round Table Dialogue for Faith Based Organizations and Religious Leaders in Humanitarian Action” was organized by the Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN) and UNOCHA Regional Office of Asia and Pacific, as one of the consultations toward the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS). It succeeded in sharing experiences and lessons with each other. In particular, it was recognized among the participants that local and political dynamics are different in different context and a nuanced approach can improve regional co-operation in humanitarian response.</p> <p>Toward WHS, “localization of aid” was repeatedly emphasized as one of the key issues for the summit. As it had been agreed that FBOs’ rootedness in local communities is significant, 8 organizations including ADRRN & SGI co-organized a side event titled “One Humanity, Shared Responsibilities: Evidence for Religious Groups’ Contributions to Humanitarian Response.” This event highlighted, in particular, local religious communities and their leaders in a context of humanitarian response. Two FBOs based in Asia presented their own activities in a crisis which were made possible thanks to local faith networks and the organizations’ collaboration with such networks.</p> <p>In addition, in this occasion “Evidence briefs” were launched by the Joint Learning Initiative (JLI), a leading organization of the event. The briefs contain several cases where FBOs and local faith networks helped to promote relief activity in a humanitarian crisis. In the latter half of the event, a panel discussion was organized and several key points were raised from a global perspective.</p>
<p>Session format and programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks from Dr. Manu Gupta, Chair of ADRRN • Case studies from 3-4 organizations (ACT Alliance, HFI, JLI, SGI) • Comment from Dr. Ranjana Mukhopadhyaya, Assistant Professor of the University of Delhi • Panel discussion of the presenters and Dr. Mukhopadhyaya • Q&A with audience
<p>Intended main outcome and Key messages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showcase good examples of FBOs’ and local faith groups’ contribution to DRR • Showcase good examples of interfaith collaboration for DRR • Identify uniqueness of faith networks in Asia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify significance of collaboration between local authority and local faith groups • Clarify hurdles for promoting such collaboration • Make it a step toward forming a new Asian FBO network
<p>List of Speakers and their interventions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manu Gupta from ADRRN will introduce ADRRN’s activity highlighting communication with local communities. Then he’ll share how faith is relevant to local DRR activity. 2. Tomy Hendrajati from Humanitarian Forum Indonesia will present its unique contribution realized through its own interfaith platform. He’ll make some recommendations for promoting such interfaith collaboration. 3. Takeshi Komino from ACT Alliance will share what they have experienced in other regions and how they apply the lessons to an Asian context. 4. Nobuyuki Asai from SGI will present local organizations’ contribution to relief activity as a case in a highly secular country. In addition, he’ll introduce an interview project with tsunami victims and a book containing their testimonies published in March 2016. The interviews showcase how local faith networks functioned in the crisis. 5. Dr. Mukhopadhyaya will share her views on faith groups’ contribution to DRR. In addition, she’ll give suggestions regarding how to improve other stakeholders’ understanding of their contribution from an academic perspective.
<p>Technical Equipment</p>	<p>Projector, computer, microphones, others: not necessary</p>