

Holistic Approach to Disaster Reduction
– Total Disaster Risk Management (Part1)

“Objectives and Strategies for Implementation of the TDRM Approach”

10:40 - 12:30 (Wednesday, 15 January 2003) Venue: Room 401/402

The Total Disaster Risk Management (TDRM) approach was jointly developed by ADRC and OCHA/ADRU Kobe, based on the gains of IDNDR and ISDR and with the support from the ASEAN Foundation and the Japanese Government, to strengthen capacity in disaster reduction among member countries, and has been promoted also by ADPC, WHO, and other organizations. The TDRM approach looks at the entire cycle of disasters and involves all sectors of societies and communities in disaster management and encourages partnership to reduce risk and vulnerability to natural hazards. In this session, participants were informed of the basic concept of TDRM as well as its strategies for implementation. Best practices in different countries in line with the TDRM concept were reported as well. Shared the specific image of TDRM through those examples, the gaps to be filled were identified.

Coordinator: Mr. Terje Skavdal (RDRA, OCHA/ ADRU Kobe)

Rapporteur: Ms. Elma Aldea (OCD, Philippines)

Speakers:

- Mr. Emmanuel de Guzman, Consultant of ADRC and OCHA Kobe, Alliance for Emergency Response Training, Inc, “Achieving A Holistic Approach to Disaster Reduction Through TDRM: Objectives and Strategies for Implementation”
- Dr. Markus Zimmermann, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Switzerland, “Integrated Approach for Disaster Reduction in Switzerland: Strategy and Implementation”
- Dr. Masashi Nagata, Japan Meteorological Agency, Japan, “Prediction of Meteorological Phenomena and Information for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness”
- Mr. Veasna Bun, Mekong River Commission, “Integrated Flood Management in the Lower Mekong Basin”
- Mr. Shunsuke Mutai, Fire and Disaster Management Agency, Japan, “Voluntary Fire Corps and Voluntary Disaster Prevention Groups”
- Ms. Elma Aldea, OCD, Philippines, "Comprehensive, All Hazards, Multi-Agency and Multi-Sectoral Approach to Disaster Reduction In The Philippines”
-

Questions and Comments from the Floor

Session Summary

Everywhere in the world, disasters should be recognized as development issues that require government priority and action, and the people’s commitment and cooperation. During this session, six presenters from Philippines, Cambodia and Japan reported on their recommendations to reduce disasters.

Mr. E. de Guzman, Consultant of ADRC and OCHA Kobe, underlined the critical need for a holistic approach to disaster reduction in view of the growing prevalence of risk and vulnerability

evaluation in Asia. In order to achieve the holistic approach, he emphasized the importance of multilevel, multi-dimensional and multidisciplinary cooperation; hazard mapping and vulnerability assessment; good communication and efficient exchange of reliable information; appropriate enabling mechanism; and implementation of the disaster risk management process from national to community level. These comprised the strategies of the TDRM approach

Dr. M. Zimmermann, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, introduced Integrated Approach for Disaster Reduction in Switzerland. He gave an overview of Swiss methodology of identification and assessment of hazards, determination of protection goals and the lack of safety, planning measures and emergency preparedness. He pointed out that vulnerability and risks are not sufficiently taken into account into a land-use policy even in Switzerland.

Mr. M. Nagata, Japan Meteorological Agency, Japan, laid emphasis on accurate prediction, quick and secure dissemination of user-oriented information through Japan's practice.

Mr. Veasna Bun, Mekong River Commission, gave an overview of MRC's key programme for TDRM such as structural measures, mediation of trans-boundary issues, flood emergency management, land-use management and up-stream coordination and collaboration.

Mr. S. Mutai, Fire and Disaster Management Agency, Japan, gave an example that 95% of the people were rescued by community at Great Hanshin Earthquake, 1995. He stressed that voluntary activities of citizens for disaster prevention should be encouraged and community based organization of volunteers should be strengthened, enabling a strengthen bottom-up approach in disaster response

Ms. Elma Aldea, OCD, Philippines, introduced Philippine's TDRM Approach through the practice such as Comprehensive Emergency Management Framework, Risk reduction projects and activities, Development of Contingency Plan, and Government & Local & NGO's collaboration.

Conclusion

The session underscored the critical need for a holistic approach to disaster reduction through the Total Disaster Risk Management approach. In response to the growing prevalence of disaster risks in the region, the approach seeks to reduce risk and vulnerability to natural hazards by addressing identified gaps in the disaster reduction cycle and encouraging involvement of and collaboration among all sectors of societies and stakeholders to achieve effective disaster reduction. The approach which builds on the gains of IDNDR and ISDR shares five component strategies for achieving a holistic approach, i.e. (1) multilevel, multidimensional and multidisciplinary collaboration and cooperation; (2) decision-making based on reliable disaster risk information from hazard mapping, risk and vulnerability assessments; (3) good communication and efficient exchange of reliable information; (4) enabling mechanisms; and (5) the disaster risk management process.

The presentations cited the impact of natural disasters and the various disaster reduction initiatives underway in Switzerland, Japan, Indochina, and the Philippines, which are in consonance with TDRM strategies. These included hazard mapping and vulnerability assessments, coordination in flood mitigation and control, enhancement of early warning systems, capacity building of national focal points and community-based organizations, planning and legislation, and volunteerism for disaster reduction activities. The presentations emphasized disaster reduction as a long-term development concern and the need to sustain the momentum of disaster reduction initiatives and ensure their effective implementation through a holistic approach.