

### 4.3 Conclusions:

The year 2003 witnessed severe natural disasters occurred in the world. The highest death toll came from Iran's Bam Earthquake, the highest affected population from the floods in China and the biggest economic damage from Korea Maemi Typhoon. Unexpectedly, Europe experienced severe high temperatures and heat wave which claimed heavy human loss and sufferings in the region. In the long run disaster data analysis, it is evident that the low income and low human development countries were affected much in terms of shares of human loss to population and damage to GNI. But the year 2003 showed that developed countries suffered much in terms of percentage of human loss to population. Upper middle income countries also suffered much with the damage in relation to GNI. This demonstrates that even developed countries cannot be complacent of their disaster reduction approaches and counter measures. It is also pointed out that continuous review of their disaster reduction strategies is imperative.

Though developing countries in regions vulnerable to disasters received many development initiatives and investments, the increasing frequency and magnitude of natural catastrophes associated with economic loss and human sufferings have considerably hindered those initiatives. This book has sought to derive conclusions from empirical evidence in order to integrate disaster risk management initiatives into development objectives. It can be seen in the preceding chapters that human development and income levels of a country are crucial determinants for deciding upon how to effectively implement risk management approaches and post disaster management initiatives. In addition, it was found that active and effective participation by women in risk management process is imperative for any meaningful disaster counter measures, especially in the least developed countries.

These generic phenomena can be seen not only in ADRC member countries but also throughout Asia. The obvious vulnerability of this region to geo-physical and hydro-meteorological disasters in terms of demographic, socio-economic, and geo-physical factors justifies the need for prudent development

policies and proactive risk management practices and also further investment for disaster reduction. This book also advocates the urgent need for specific country and regional initiatives to be integrated into cohesive disaster management approach with on going socio-economic development activities. Since disasters impact every single socio-economic characteristics of a country, it can be concluded that designing development-oriented disaster prevention measures that incorporate the strength of human and economic resources would be an appropriate method of ensuring effective and pragmatic sustainable development.