

### 5-3. Regional Session

The Regional Session allowed for exchange of experiences and lessons learned from each region.

#### 5-3-1. Regional Meeting: Asia

1) **Date**

January 20, 2005

2) **Organizers**

ISDR (International Strategy for Disaster Reduction) Asia Partnership (IAP)

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), United Nations Development Programme/Bureau for Crisis Prevention & Recovery (UNDP/BCPR), United Nations/Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN/ESCAP), United Nations/International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), and United Nations/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN/OCHA)

3) **Objectives of the meeting**

The meeting's theme was recent regional efforts on disaster reduction and role of regional action in implementing WCDR outcomes.

The three objectives of the meeting were:

- To discuss and identify how the WCDR Program of Action would be implemented at the national and regional level in Asia,
- To discuss what the expectations of countries were to the regional institutions for supporting the implementation of the WCDR program of Action, and
- To discuss how regional intergovernmental cooperation organizations and regional institutions and the IAP would facilitate the implementation of the WCDR program of Action.

4) **Meeting Agenda**

1. Introduction: Dr. Chung Rae Kwon (UN/ESCAP)
2. Presentations: "Good practices in regional cooperation and expectations for regional institutions"
  - Seyed Mahmood Fatami Aghda (Natural Disaster Research Institute, Iran)
  - Khusav Sharifov (UNDP Tajikistan)
  - Peou Samy (ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management)
  - Wang Zhenyao (National Disaster Reduction Center, China)
3. Comments
  - Anil K. Sinha (Former Executive Director, National Center for Disaster Management, Government of India)
  - Masayuki Kitamoto (Executive Director, ADRC)
  - Aloysius J. Rego (ADPC)
  - Terje Skavdal (UN/OCHA)
  - Praveen Paradeshi (UN/ISDR)
  - Ti Le-Huu (UN/ESCAP)
  - Helena Molin-Valdes (UN/ISDR)
4. Closing remarks: Chung Rae Kwon (UN/ESCAP)

5) **Outcome of the meeting**

The participants expressed their hope that recent catastrophic disasters such as the Bam Earthquake and the Asian Tsunami would provide the necessary momentum to disaster risk reduction programs across the entire

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region. Multinational disaster risk reduction initiatives should be developed to increase the impact of these programs and optimize the available resources. Regional disaster reduction mechanisms should be developed for implementing the action plan proposed at the WCDR. These mechanisms should focus on the establishment of early warning systems, mechanisms for the assessment of regional expertise, training programs at all levels, and utilization of newly available information such as satellite imagery.

## 5-3-2. Regional Session: Geographical proximity-Common Threats

### 1) Date

January 21, 2005

### 2) Organizers

Regional entities of the ISDR Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction (IATF/DR)

African Union (AU), Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), Council of Europe, European Commission Joint Research Center (EC/JRC), Organization of American States (OAS) / Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR), and South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)

### 3) Objectives of the session

The session's theme was "geographical proximity-common threats".

While the fundamental concept to guide the actions is that learning to live with risk is a necessity, there was consensus that the principal approach should be the integration of disaster risk into socio-economic development processes with four pillars:

- Mainstreaming of disaster management
- Advocacy to incorporate disaster management into development programs
- Strengthening of institutional capacity, and
- Support to research efforts, including those that incorporate information technology and knowledge management.

### 4) Session Agenda

1. Introduction: Suvit Yodmani, (ADPC)
  2. Panel A : Regional and sub regional mechanisms for disaster reduction
    - Regional Strategies : integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development  
Foday Bojang - African Union (AU)
    - Regional disaster reduction strategies, the role of the United Nations Economic and Social Commissions  
Kim Hak-Su: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
    - Regional multi-sectoral policies for disaster reduction  
Daniele Smadja : European Commission, Directorate-General External Relations
    - Regional early warning and preparedness systems : the lessons from EWC-II  
Jeremy Collymore : Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA)
    - Analysis of role and functions of regional disaster management organizations: a 30 year trend  
Jean Luc Poncelet, Organization of American States, Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (OAS/IACNDR)
  3. Discussion
  4. Panel B : Regional entities' roles in implementing the outcomes of the WCDR
    - Awareness raising : challenges in building a regional culture of safety  
Masayuki Kitamoto (ADRC)
    - Transboundary extreme climate threats and exchange of information  
Laban Ogallo, Regional Climate Information Center for Africa (ICPAC)
    - Disaster response & reduction: a catalyst for regional cooperation  
Peou Samy, ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management
    - Networking initiatives for the exchange of information and experiences  
Geronimo Giusto, Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disaster in Central America (CEPRENAC)
    - Regional strategies for disaster reduction related to the health sector
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Mark Keim, Center for Disease Control (CDC)

5. Discussion
6. Wrap-up: Suvit Yodmani, (ADPC)

**5) Outcome of the meeting**

The participants stressed the importance of regional cooperation by pointing out that it is the most effective way to link national and international efforts, generate well-established political, policy and institutional frameworks, and provide sustainability to risk reduction activities. Additionally, by working together, national or local organizations or initiatives have the weight they could never reach if they worked individually.