

Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Government Side Event Report “DRR, Mainstreaming and Decentralisation South Asia & South East Asia Government approaches”



Panellist

- 1- **Government of India:** Mr. Santosh Kumar, Director of SAARC Disaster Management Centre, Executive Director of National Institute of Disaster Management, Ministry of Home Affairs.
- 2- **Government of Indonesia:** Mr. Suprayoga Hadi, Director General for Village Development and Community Empowerment, Ministry of Village, Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration.
- 3- **Government of Nepal:** Mr. SomaLal Subedi, Secretary of Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development.
- 4- **Government of Nepal:** Mr Sagar Acharya, Under Secretary of National Planning Commission.
- 5- **Government of Pakistan:** Mr. Ahmed Kamal, Member (DRR) at National Disaster Management Authority.

Background

The Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development and the National Planning Commission of the Government of Nepal recognise the importance of Mainstreaming DRR into the annual development plans to limit the impact of disasters and reduce the loss of development gains. They are currently engaged in the development of a national approach to DRR mainstreaming that will bring a systematic and standardised methodology to ensure risk informed planning in Nepal.

Nepal Government agencies recognise the important experience and efforts of other countries in the Region and in the Zone in the same thematic area. Sharing experiences and establishing a strong coalition among Governments addressing this complex subject would reduce the time in the process to ensure risk informed planning, reducing in turn economic losses and poverty in the midterm.

With this collaborative spirit that has been reflected and strongly highlighted in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Government of Nepal invited to participate in a side event during the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction the Governments of India, Indonesia and Pakistan. Each Government presented their national approach to DRR Mainstreaming.

Key messages

- 1- All governments highlighted the importance of DRR Mainstreaming to reduce the economic losses due to disasters. An example of \$37 billion loss during the last 66 years was given.
- 2- All countries concurred on the fact that the transition from a reactive national attitude, prioritising response and recovery, to a preventive practice is a process and requires sustained effort.
- 3- Panellists highlighted that political leadership at the highest level is fundamental and that this strong drive usually appears after a major disaster. Nevertheless, regional and zone coalitions may be useful to stimulate the attention of political leaders where a devastating disaster have not yet happened.
- 4- National policy, law and regulations are considered an important step in the process mentioned above. Each country have different arrangements but all of them specify clear roles and responsibilities of the institutions and bodies responsible for integrating DRR into the annual development plans.
- 5- A national disaster management reform was required in the panellists' countries. Most of them have undertaken this important endeavour post mega disaster with the subsequent economic and human lives losses. Political leadership and prioritisation of disaster management resulted from these tragic events.
- 6- This reform established the institutional framework with institutions mandated and resourced to ensure DRR mainstreaming at all levels. Decentralisation was presented by all panellists as a fundamental step to understand and address risks. Decentralised bodies are in better positions to analyse hazards and vulnerabilities and engage stakeholders in participatory planning.
- 7- Multi-stakeholder engagement at all levels has also proved to be important. Academia, development partners, government, private sector and very importantly civil society organizations engaged in dialogue platforms can unleash potential and generate change. Multi-sectoral platforms has helped to integrate DRR into the different sectoral plans.
- 8- All countries discussed the importance and complexity of institutional capacity building. Standard training packages are required; policy reform should address the needs to tasked

- national training institutes with the responsibility to build the capacity of dedicated bodies on DRR Mainstreaming; resources to deliver training needs to be assigned.
- 9- Understanding risk requires multi-stakeholder involvement and tools. All panellists explained the need to agree on risk assessments tools that generate information that can be digested and understood by decision makers at all levels. Tools must be able to aggregate information, since the process of assessing risks is prolonged in time and requires inputs from very different stakeholders.
 - 10- Panellists described different tools to present risks and to help risk informed planning, amongst them risk maps (GIS) and sectoral risk informed check lists that has produced very useful results. It was also highlighted the benefits of establishing DRR budget codes and minimum DRR budget expenditure.
 - 11- Monitoring systems will help to understand levels of implementation and identify blockages. Monitoring is the first step for accountability, that will help to translate policy into action. Some of the panellists presented tools to help the monitoring of DRR measures, for instance performance contracts and indicators linked with budget allocation. These measures help central bodies to hold accountable and monitor the performance of decentralised bodies.
 - 12- All countries highlighted the necessity to identify and utilize the role of SAARC Disaster Management Centre for regional preparedness.

Recommendations

- 1- **Gain political leadership:** In most of the cases, this has been achieved after a mega disaster. Regional coalitions of DRR champions might be able to generate a strong commitment at the highest political level.
- 2- **Establish a national multi-stakeholder dialogue platform:** members from all sectors (Ministries), academia, civil society, private sector and development partners, in particular those responsible for planning should be engaged in the discussions.
- 3- **Policy, regulation and law revision:** Importance to a preventive national practice must be given. The revision has to clarify roles and assign resources to government bodies ensuring risk is understood and risk informed planning is a regular practice.
- 4- **Risk Assessment and planning tools:** tools to aggregate and display analysis should be developed. Information should be tailored to the needs of the different stakeholders. Simplicity in tools will reduce training costs. Consider decision makers across sectors and national levels.
- 5- **Institutional capacity development:** Development of training packages for government bodies on DRR Mainstreaming in collaboration with government training institutes. Plan training delivery assigning sufficient resources and considering the transfer frequency within government staff.
- 6- **Monitoring and accountability:** establishment of monitoring tools that allow to understand the progress in the implementation, draw lessons learnt and hold accountable responsible bodies.
- 7- **Strengthening regional and sub-regional partnership**

Participant list

S.No.	Name	Organization/Country
1.	Giveseppe Forino	University of New Castle / Australia
2.	Gopi Khanal	Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development / Nepal
3.	Rishi Raj Acharya	Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development / Nepal
4.	Yoko Tanone	Etrust co, ltd / Japan
5.	Sylvie Montenblaut	ECHO
6.	Fayyaz Shah	Malteser International/
7.	Naraya Pd Sapkota	Bharatpur Sub-Metropolitan City/ Nepal
8.	Patricia Cassidy	Action Aid
9.	Olly Parsons	GSMA
10.	Gehendra Bdr Gurung	Practical Action/Nepal
11.	Clare White	Secretariat of Pacific
12.	Jhapper S Vishokarma	Ministry of Education / Nepal
13.	Collin Mcquistan	Practical Action UK
14.	Nahoko Okamoto	Japenese Red Cross College of Nursing
15.	Florence Lepaucier	Handicap International
16.	Khadga Sen Oli	NSET / Nepal
17.	Kell S Roisli	Plan
18.	Yadav Mainali	Save the Children
19.	Shiva Pd Upreti	Department of Education/ Nepal
20.	Dr. Youb Raj Paudyel	Department of Education/ Nepal
21.	Yang Fang	UNDP China
22.	Anam Zeb	LEAD Pakistan
23.	Ratri Sutarto	Mercy Corps
24.	Bilc	USAID
25.	Michael Ernst	USAID/OFDA
26.	Kenner Bogei	SESRIC

27.	Lauren Reagen	USAID/ Nepal
28.	Loy Rego	
29.	Chinatsu Endo	Flagship 5, NRRC / Nepal
30.	Alejandro Barcena Berzosa	Flagship 4, NRRC / Nepal
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