

Report on ADRRN Annual General Meeting

Meeting Duration: December 6-8, 2016

Venue: Windsor Suites Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

Introduction:

Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN) is a network including different NGOs which are working in the field of disaster risk reduction in Asia Pacific region. We got the membership from ADRRN in 2007. From that period we are attending in the annual meeting of ADRRN. Every year ADRRN secretariat organizes an annual meeting. In 2016 the secretariat organized meeting in Bangkok, Thailand during



December 6-8, 2016 where I was one of the participants on behalf of COAST Trust. Other organizations like Dhaka Community Hospital Trust, Bangladesh, Dwip Unnyan Shangstha, Bangladesh, SEEDS India, SHEEP Indonesia, MERCY Malaysia, Japan Platform, UN-OCHA, ICVA, National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET), Nepal, STAR Afghanistan, UNISDR, HIF, IFRC and Centre for Disaster Preparedness, Philippines. The meeting was organized by UNOCHA, Bangkok.

This year the meeting has been divided into two slots: 1st slot is the Meeting on Regional Innovation Forum (RIF)-Asia and 2nd is Annual General Meeting, ADRRN.

RIF-Asia is a collaboration to 'Solve the Unsolved' in Disaster Risk Reduction and Response in Asia. It is noted that Asia Pacific region is the home to 40 per cent of all natural disasters and 84 per cent of people affected by the natural disasters worldwide, there is need to innovation and collaboration to solve the unsolved.

RIF-Asia is a creative forum for fostering multi sectoral partnerships to solve the unsolved problems that are hindering disaster risk reduction and humanitarian efforts in the Asia region. RIF will bring together local practitioners and thought leaders from countries across the region's key innovative practices.

RIF-Asia will provide a facilitated space to develop innovative solutions to regional challenges through collaboration between partners from civil society, the private sector, government and academia. The goal is to generate specific innovation projects and the partnerships that will bring them to reality.

Objectives of RIF-Asia

- To provide annual platform to various business, science, civil societies, UN and other stakeholders in the region to sharing of their innovative ideas to solve the 'unsolved',
- To generate specific cross-sectoral innovation projects, which can provide evidence based solutions, as concentrate outcomes of the forum,
- To seek linkages of these innovative solutions to local/national disaster risk reduction plan and policies.

Thematic Areas for RIF-Asia 2016:

- Localizing disaster risk reduction. How to maximize the ownership for more impact?
- Stay or relocate? Solutions for communities living with high recurrent risks.
- Safe water for all. Is filtering an only option? Addressing root causes.
- Alleviating malnutrition during disaster. Is reducing the need possible?"

The organizers of the meeting:

ADRRN, OCHA ROAP-Regional Office for Asia Pacific, Integrated Research of Disaster Risk (IRDR) and UNDP.

The supporters of the RIF-Asia:

- Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU)
- Japan CSO Coalition for DRR (JCC-DRR)
- ICVA
- Thammasat University

- ACT Alliance
- Humanitarian Innovation Fund
- Japan Platform

Inaugural Session ADRRN Annual General Meeting:

The meeting was inaugurated by the Chairperson of ADRRN **naming transforming Asia’s disaster resilience: A four year journey to move from the most vulnerable to the most resilient region.** He described his messages for strengthening the bond of communication among the ADRRN members. All the members of ADRRN should address the vulnerable people in respect of climate change impact. The Chairperson of ADRRN expressed his extra commitment for making the network more effective and active and also keeps the network in place for the betterment of disaster and climate change victims. He also told that the disaster risk reduction can be minimized if there will be strengthened local government, community people and skill development of NGOs. He mentioned that, born in 2002 at a meeting of Asian CSOs in Kobe, Japan, ADRRN is helping bridge the gaps. Since then, it has rapidly evolved from an awareness raising network to a prominent regional voice in advocacy and capacity building. Today, it is known as the civil society voice of Asia. Over the year, ADRRN’s work has focused around local leaders, accountability and innovation-the very issues currently being championed in the sector globally.

Annual Report and Accounts 2015:

Mr. Takeshi Komino Secretary General of ADRRN presented the ADRRN annual report and Mihir Joshi, Coordinator ADRRN presented the accounts. The major achievements for 2015-2016 are i) Sendai Spring National level consultations in different ADRRN member countries, ii) development of Resilient Guide for local leaders, iii) joining Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR in Delhi, iv) contribution to regional IASC meetings, v) proposal for resource mobilization for ADRRN, vi) partnership with other national networks in the region, vii) documentation of ADRRN activities for last three years, viii) Advocacy during WHS and follow up, ix) External evaluation of ADRRN works supported by DFAT and x) Coordination meeting with secretariat and Executive Committee members. After an inclusive discussion the house approved the annual report and accounts.

My presentation on Strengthening Accountability: CAOST Experiences



COAST believes that:

- COAST practices the right based approach equally mentioned in UDHR (universal declaration of human rights).
- Rights of TRANSPARANCY and PARTICIPATION from equal level of development actors and beneficiaries.
- COAST is always ready to accept and handling any complaints within the framework of the policy to ensure its accountability in all levels.

Key approaches in integration of Accountability in COAST:

Stakeholders	Practices
Member participants and beneficiaries aim to assist	Inception meeting Information dissemination Participatory review Functioning of People’s Organization as alternative power structure including in highest decision making

	<p>body The designated officials address with phone numbers available in groups, offices and website. Counter vailing process Practicing the values</p>	<p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still some managers shown resistance but due to the high commitment of management it is being removed gradually • Culture of silence vs. culture of questioning • Women hardly know their location identity • It's an attitude, required long time interaction 	<p>Pass books</p>
<p>Staff members</p>	<p>Policy based transparent recruitment process Code of conducts Two way appraisal process Induction training Meeting systems Trainings and orientations Staff conferences and application of open secret method to improve management behaviors Support supervisions High relation and high accountability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political orientation toward equity and justice society is a pre-requisite <p>Overcome Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership commitment. • Frequent orientation with staff, member participants, beneficiaries aim to assist and stakeholders • Counseling the supervisors to be more accountable to the member participants, beneficiaries aim to assist and stakeholders • Taking complaints positively and time frame for handling complaints 	
<p>Donors and partners</p>	<p>Program and financial reporting Regular jointly audit and monitoring Publishing monthly news letters Avoiding conflict of interest through finance and other policies Annual auditing by the renowned Auditfirm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous learning from the Complaints • Using the high penetration of mobile phones also in the community levels • Maintaining cross communication but the line decisions in all levels. • Frequent meetings, orientations, training and interactions in the different levels. 	
<p>Government Authority</p>	<p>Certification and periodic renewal Inception Meeting Progress Sharing and Updates Participation to NGO Coordination Meeting Joint program visit Periodic participatory review</p>	<p>ADRRN Major Actions for 2017-2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating Asia Local Resilience Forum • Strong fellowship programs • Communication strategies • Regional level campaign • Thematic working groups • Fostering of partnership • Enhancing member's monitoring and evaluation • Promoting social accountability • 'Networked' response 	
<p>Overall stakeholders</p>	<p>Participatory program designing News letters Regular updating website contents Annual budget copy in the local offices Iftar party in field and principal office Levels</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of civil society roles • Research and promotion of grassroots innovations • Improving financing 	

Lessons learned being Accountable:

- Decreased supervision cost
- Created strong demand side for accountability
- Reduced the risk of central management
- Increased image of organization to all levels
- Decreased drop out of staff and member participants and beneficiaries aim to assist
- Credibility gained in ground level

- Assisting through professional and technical expertise of DRR and CCA.

My learning

- i. Communication strengthened through the sharing of knowledge and information with other participants.
- ii. Relation with the international persons like OCHA, UNDP, HIF has been improved and I think I will maintain all the communications with them.

Closing session:

The third day is concluding day of the meeting. The Chairperson gives the vote of thanks to all participants and he draws attention of all to be more active in their respective areas for reducing the vulnerability of people in respect of climate change and other disaster. He also wishes to all to participate in the next Annual General Meeting.

Report prepared by

Sanat K. Bhowmik
Bangkok, Thailand.
Date: December 8, 2016