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| **Regional workshop on Climate Change Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Early Warning Early Action** |
| **26 - 29 March 2013, Bangkok** |



**Community Safety and Resilience Unit**

**IFRC Southeast Asia Regional Delegation**



2013

Report Compiled by: CSRU Team

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**Proceedings of Day 1, Tuesday, 26 March, 2013**

***Theme of the day:*** *Welcoming participants and general introduction to the workshop.*

**Opening Remarks**

**Prof. Pinit Kullavanijaya** (Assistant Secretary General, Thai Red Cross) started the workshop by welcoming all the participants from various National Societies across Southeast Asia and facilitators to the workshop. He highlighted the importance of addressing issues of climate change in our programming. He further highlighted importance of early warning and early action mechanism and quoted the example of Tsunami alert in Indian Ocean in 2012. In addition, he gave few words of advice to the participant to take full advantage of the workshop to enhance the knowledge regarding climate change and find ways how best Red Cross Red Crescent movement can contribute in minimizing the impact of climate change.

**Ms. Indira KULENOVIC** (Head of Community Safety and Resilience Unit, SEARD) highlighted the importance of climate change in modern day world. She stated – “All Disaster Risk Reduction program without addressing climate change issues will only make a partial impact in addressing the needs of vulnerable people.” She also emphasized the importance of transferring the knowledge among and betwee colleagues in National Societies in the region. She expressed her gratitude towards all government officials who accept our invitation and came for the workshop make in it more inclusive and participation ensuring all key stakeholders are discussion issues of common concern. She also promised to continue our efforts to invite respective government official and ASEAN Secretariat representatives in any future workshop conducted/facilitated by CSRU. At the end she wished everyone a successful and constructive workshop.

**Introduction**

Following the opening remarks, **Mr. Knud Falk** (Technical Advisor, RCRC Climate Centre) gave a brief introduction about the objective, agenda and methodology for coming three and half days. He also gave an overview of RCRC Climate Centre and their key areas of work.

***Icebreaker*** was introduced as a thrust that amplifies the interest of the participants in the workshop. Participants were requested to divide in four groups as per their perception of climate change. It was observed that ***16 participants*** – identify themselves in Group C (Understand the relevance of Climate Change for Red Cross but struggle to find practical ways to move forward), ***4 participants*** in Group B (I see hype associated with climate change but struggle to see its relevance for Red Cross), ***4 participants*** in Group A (Fairly well informed regarding climate change) and ***1 participant*** in Group D (No clue regarding climate change).

**Session 1: Introduction to Climate Training Kit**

The presentation highlighted the availability of climate training kit – a resource pool for facilitators. This climate training kit encompasses various modules, which can be adapted by the National Societies as per their needs and priorities. Participants also got chance to hear experience of various National Societies –‘Red Cross Voices’ related to climate change across the globe.

**Session 2: An Inconvenient Truth** *(Voluntary session – yet all participants remained to watch)*

Inconvenient Truth is a 2006 [documentary film](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Documentary_film)  about former [United States Vice President](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vice_President_of_the_United_States) [Al Gore](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Gore)'s campaign to educate citizens about [global warming](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_warming) via a comprehensive slide. The film was credited for raising international public awareness of [climate change](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change) and reenergizing the [environmental movement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_movement). This video was shown to all the participants to set up the tone for remaining three days.

The movie generated a well-directed discussion, is climate change responsible for all modern day disaster directly or indirectly. Facilitator team responded- it has been seen climate change have effect on hydro metrological disaster but other types of disasters are not related to climate change. Participants showed there concern how all these scientific information understood by community to which facilitator team respond- it is a huge challenge to make climate information user friendly, this a gap where our National Societies can play vital role to translate climate science to community friendly information.

**Proceedings of Day 2, Wednesday, 27 March, 2013**

***Theme of the day:*** *Basic facts of Climate change*

**Session 3: Basic Introduction (Climate Science, commitment of movement, adaptation and mitigation)**

Day two started with a quiz to brush up the climate change knowledge of the participants. This session brought about the basic concept of climate change science, participants were acquainted with some basic terminology related to climate change and implication of climate change on humanitarian organization like Red Cross. This session was followed by another presentation which highlights commitment made by Red Cross Red Crescent movement to address the ever growing issue of climate change. It was also brought to the attention of all participants that Climate change commitments are included in the International Federation’s **Strategy 2020.**

Picture : Group work

Following the presentation one of the participant commented about learning from the past, that we have already changed our approach but how can we plan for some extreme event when variability is so high and the data is not very reliable. It was agreed that large part of the Red Cross Red Crescent specialises in disaster management, health, water & sanitation, so our main task is to integrate the increasing climate risk into our existing expertise/programming. Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI) representative stated that PMI Risk Reduction plan already has incorporated climate change issues along with DRR and Health issues.

Then the participants were divided into four groups and were asked to list down climate change adaptation and climate change mitigation activities – to their knowledge and understanding. This group work brought attention to the topic such as Mangrove plantation as climate change adaptation (CCA) or climate change mitigation (CCM) activity. It was agreed, if we do mangrove plantation just for prevention of coastal erosion it is CCA but if we can preserve it for very long period we can consider it as a Climate Change Mitigation (CCM) activity as well.

**Session 4:**  **Climate trends and projections -the facts about Southeast Asia, and what are adaptation options and plans**

This session encompassed climate trends in Southeast Asia with few example of mega disasters that happened during the last decade and extent of damage done caused by those events. It also includeed projection of climate variability across timescale, change in precipitation, seasonal shift, rise in sea level, etc.

**Session 5:**  **Early warning -Early Action (EWEA): Using information on different time scales (including - La Niña/ El Niño)**

This session explain the EWEA concept to the participant, it also covered the issues how Red Cross Red Crescent can make use of climate information on various timescales, from decades to days. It emphasized how forecasts are important for humanitarian action and how different actions are appropriate at different timescales. In addition, it also explains effect of La Niña /El Niño in rainfall pattern in different parts of the world.

Participant from Philippines Red Cross raised a concern about difficulty in explaining to communities using such technical terms. To this Myanmar Red Cross and Myanmar Climate monitoring department shared the experience, how they are building capacity at township level by using all social media in local language to disseminate information. Representative from Indonesian metrological department showed comics developed by their department to make information more users friendly.

Following the presentation and discussion participant were divided in four groups, and were asked to work in Early Warning/Early Action Exercise focusing on – Flood, Drought, Cyclones and Sea level rise across time scale. The group work generated a well-directed discussions, how to respond timely to a slowly onset disasters such as drought. The concern raised was acknowledged by the facilitator and he gave the information regarding availability of drought checklist developed by Asia Pacific Island.

**Session 6: Presentation from Thai Metrological Department**

Representative from Thai metrological department gave a brief overview of climate change effect across Thailand. He also emphasized on collaboration between Thai Red Cross and Thai Metrological department. He stated Thai Metrological department has a lot of data and with support from Thai Red Cross it can reach to community well in advance.

**Session 7:**  **Participatory game: "Paying for Predictions - Early Action"**

This participatory activity aims to support experiential learning and dialogue on the concept of climate-based disaster risk reduction. This game gave a chance where players experience the value of forecasts, investing in preparedness and disaster risk reduction. The game gave a clear indication how our risk multiplies in the face of climate change.

Following the game exercise, one of the participants stated that “investing for preparedness is playing safe, especially if you don’t have access to proper forecast.” One of the facilitator highlighted that this game is a good way to realize the importance of forecast but it does not conclude that forecast is better than DRR or vice versa. DRR is a long term development process to build resilience, whereas, forecast is on seasonal basis.

**Session 8: Demystifying forecasts (Voluntary session)**

International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) - IFRC website browsing exercise, this session gave an overview how to use the information available on the website and plan early action. All participant got a chance to practice where to find information about rainfall pattern in their respective region for next three month. Website: <http://iridl.ldeo.columbia.edu/maproom/IFRC/FIC/index.html>

**Proceedings of Day 3, Thursday, 28 March, 2013**

***Theme of the day:*** *Ways of working with Climate Change Adaptation*

**Session 9: DRR & CCA in community work: similarities & differences**

Day three began by doing a quick recap of day two. DRR and CCA session intended to stimulate discussion about similarities and differences between DRR and CCA. Participants were divided in four groups, list of activities were given to them and were asked to categorize whether those activities were DRR activity, CCA activity or an overlap between both.

To wrap up the session a brief presentation was done to illustrates that there is a broad area of overlap in the fields of DRR and CCA, although some fundamental differences remain, for example, that DRR addresses geo-physical hazards such as earthquakes and volcanoes – and man-made hazards (including conflict, traffic accidents and, possibly, industrial/pollution) while climate change adaptation doesn’t.

**Session 9: Climate Change and health**

This session aims to provide a clear understanding of the effects of climate change on health and examples of how the humanitarian community can respond proactively. In the presentation it was also discussed how suddenly a National Societies can find themselves in even greater demand, perhaps for sanitation or epidemic prevention. In the summary, combining detection/surveillance, baseline resilience and use of climate information is best way to enhance early action to save lives.

Picture 2: Mosquito vs. Human Game

Following the presentation a plenary session was done in which a hypothetical scenario was given to the participants. Participants were asked to develop activities as per timescale to prevent diarrhoea outbreak or minimize impact of an outbreak. See ***Annex 3*** for outcome of the plenary session.

To wrap up the health session, a participatory game was introduced to the participants aiming to enhance knowledge on how to prevent mosquito-borne diseases, and how climate might affect the interaction between humans and mosquitoes.

**Session 10: Addressing community climate risk: incorporating Climate Change in participatory tools (VCA/CBHFA)**

This session gave an overview how climate risk can be addressed through risk assessment. Talking to communities about the changes they experience over years provides a chance to come up with strategies to deal with them and develop **climate smart** risk reduction plan. In addition, this session also gave information regarding information management and follow up with the community related to changing risk and how to cope with it in near future.

Following the presentation, participants were divided in five groups. Each group was asked to choose one tool from VCA toolbox, and work how to make it climate smart, and how they want to facilitate them to the community.

1. Historical Profile: List major extreme events. Have weather & climate related events such as

flood, drought and cyclones changed in frequency or severity?

1. Focus group discussion (FGD): Discussions with elderly people, about their perception of changing pattern in weather events over their lifetime. Indigenous knowledge regarding rainfall prediction, etc can also be explored.
2. Direct Observation: Comparing with information gathered from secondary data analysis or from interviews of elderly in the past. Can we observe obvious sign of changes?
3. Livelihood analysis: Change in livelihood pattern over the years. An experience from Pakistan Red Crescent was shared where in one village people were migrating as fish catch was tremendously reduced. It may be attributed to changing climate.
4. Seasonal Calendar: In this facilitator can observe whether season’s pattern or extreme weather events are changing when compared to last 3 or 4 decades.

To wrap up the session the facilitator again emphasized that one should not be over-reliant on memory of elderly - risk of memory bias; information needs to be verified from metrological department. It is also important to remember, all changes that people observed are not a sign of climate change.

**Session 11: Climate Change Adaptation integration in "community risk reduction plans"**

This session brought about the concept of **climate smart** programming. Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies are doing traditional risk reduction program for many years and considering the fact that global climate is changing, climate smart risk reduction program can be more effective to address the need of vulnerable people. Facilitator emphasized, climate risk management is not a silo program. However, it builds on existing risk reduction program, knowledge and capacities.

Participants were divided in four groups, and were asked to work on four community risk reduction plans collected from different National Societies to make the plans more climate smart. See ***Annex 4*** for components added to make risk reduction plan a **climate smart risk reduction plan**.

**Proceedings of Day 4, Friday, 29 March, 2013**

***Theme of the day:*** *Program opportunities and ways forward*

**Session 12: National policy dialogues and long-term funding opportunities for National Societies**

Day four began with quick recap of day three. Questions on parking lot were also addressed. A quick presentation was made to clarify differences between Climate Change Adaptation and Climate Change Mitigation.

This session gave an overview on development of policy on climate change adaptation around the globe. Participants were also introduced to summary document ‘How to engage in policy dialogue on CCA in your country.’ The session also gave introduction to funding opportunities for climate change adaptation. It was highlighted that in last few years funding has become available. Yet most of these funds are earmarked for governments and implemented with the support of international agencies.

Following the presentation participant from Philippines shared the experience how Philippines Red Cross (PRCS) was advocating for **''Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010"**. It took 14 years to pass that act. They are now finalizing climate change policy as well. PRCS can contribute to integrate CCA in regular DRR programming.

Indonesia doesn’t have separate funding for climate change, but it is one of the important cross cutting issues of all risk reduction program.

**Session 12: “Six good entry points for considering climate change in National Society programmes"**

This session provides a list of things that National Societies who want to be ‘climate smart’ – what they should be considering. Participants were introduced to Entry points for considering climate change in National Society programmes. It was highlighted that Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Guide is a good starting guide.

Following the presentation participants were divided according to their countries and were asked to prioritize top three activities from six entry point that they consider important for their National Society. See ***Annex 5*** for summary of six entry point with priority activity from National Society.

Following the exercise participant from PMI said, we have lot of activities in climate change adaptation but identifying priority and entry point can further enhance the program in coming days.

**Session 13: Strengthen collaboration between National Societies and Government**

In this session participants were divided in three groups with at least one person from metrological department and were asked to discuss on these three questions-

1. List examples (if any) of past ***contacts / collaboration*** between RC and “meteorological departments”?
2. Discuss and list at least 2 things each organization could “offer” the other part
3. List 2 concrete (big or small) things you will do within the next 1 month to reinforce collaboration

See ***Annex 6*** for summary of “Group dating”: Red Cross + the Metrological departments

To wrap up the session participant were asked to write down – does any of “training modules” developed by climate centre stand out as particular useful – and something you would consider taking home and use with your colleagues?

**Closing Remarks**

Mr.Knud from the Climate Centre, summarised the entire three and half day of the workshop by saying that he personally believed all the participant have good experience in DRR programming, making existing program climate smart will add value to the program. He thanked IFRC, for inviting climate centre to be part of the workshop and Thai Red Cross for hosting it in Thailand. He also thanked all the participants for their active participation.

Ms.Emidia (Participant from Timor Leste) thanked all the facilitators and IFRC on behalf of all the participants for organizing Regional climate change workshop. This workshop was an enriching experience to learn how we can make our program climate smart, health impacts of climate change, etc. She added, experience from other National Societies and Government officials and how to engage Red Cross with metrological office was highlight of the workshop. She promised the knowledge gained will be shared with other colleagues in the National Society.

Mr.Boonlert (Thai Metrological Department) thanked Red Cross for inviting Government official in their workshop. He state ‘never thought workshop can be this fun.’ He added Thai metrological department always looks how to support more. Collaboration with Thai Red Cross would be an excellent beginning and can support Thai Red Cross technically. He further added he will play DRR prediction game in their future training.

Ms. Indira gave special thanks to the facilitation team and congratulated all participants on a successful completion of three and half days of workshop. She added this was not just a technical workshop but it also provided a platform to build relationship with government and climate centre and among national societies in the region. She hoped all participants will carry forward the learning of the workshop and apply in their regular work. She expressed her gratitude to the government officials for their active involved in the workshop and enriching the seminar with their valuable inputs. At the end she wished everyone safe journey back home.