

“COMMUNITIES LINKING ARMS FOR SAFETY, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE

2ND NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF COMMUNITIES IN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

12-13 September 2008

**Institute of Social Order, Ateneo De Manila University,
Katipunan Ave., Diliman, Quezon City**

Overall Context

The Philippines is a disaster prone country. Community participation in disaster response and preparedness is an important pillar of the Philippine disaster management system. It was formally recognized during the 1st National Conference on Community-Based Disaster Management (CBDM) held on 29- 30 January 2003. After a sharing and assessment of good practices in CBDM, the positive results of community participation in disaster risk management was recognized and the 82 participants (from the 69 organizations from national and local government, communities and NGO) called for the widespread replication of CBDM all over the country, especially in vulnerable communities.

The First National People's Organization Conference on Disaster Management was held on 10-11 August, 2004 with the theme: *“Linking arms of People's Organizations towards Prepared, Disaster Resilient and Safe Communities”* (*“Kapitbisig ng mga Taga-Komunidad Tungo sa Handa, Ligtas at Matatag na Komunidad”*). The 60 participants (32 are from PO's, 3 from Barangay Disaster Coordinating Councils, and 16 others from NGOs, 9 resource persons and secretariat) were one in calling for the replication and development of CBDM through increasing community capacity and applications to reduce disaster risk, especially of vulnerable communities..

Community participation in disaster risk management has gained international recognition. The Philippine government is one of the 168 countries that are signatories of the *Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005- 2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters*, wherein 1 of the 5 priorities “Make disaster risk reduction a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation“ and the participation of communities, volunteers is a cross-cutting theme in all the 5 actions..

As part of the government's commitment to the HFA, the *Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction in the Philippines: Strategic National Action Plan (SNAP) 2009-2019* was formulated through a participatory process with various stakeholders. However, there is still lack of awareness about the SNAP and how communities themselves can be part of its implementation.

The 2nd Community Conference on Disaster Risk Management is a contribution to the dissemination of information on the SNAP and formulating concerted actions which can be done by communities in partnership with local and national government, NGOs, scientists, the academe, the private sector in ensuring the safety and development of communities.

Objectives

The 2nd Community Conference on Disaster Risk Management is a venue where the share of experiences, articulate positions, provide inputs and recommendations as well as participate in current activities related to DRM. The theme of the conference is: *“Communities Linking Arms for Safety, Disaster Preparedness and Resilience”* (*“Kapitbisig ng mga Taga-Komunidad Tungo sa Handa, Ligtas at Matatag na Komunidad”*).

The specific objectives are as follows:

1. Understand the significant role of communities in the Disaster Risk Management through the sharing of exchange of experiences and practices;
2. Determine the immediate and long-term requisites and needs of the communities in DRM;
3. Gather broad range of supports from various stakeholders;
4. Strengthen the partnership among communities who engaged in DRM.

Participants

About 100 participants coming from People's Organizations, Barangay and communities. They are expected to share their community activities and efforts in DRM and commit to continue action points discussed and agreed upon in their communities and organizations.

Exhibit

Communities are invited to prepare exhibits about their community's or organization's DRM activities.

For further information, contact CBDRM Training and Learning Circle c/o Center for Disaster Preparedness 926-6996 at cdp@info.com.ph and Fatima Gay Molina fatimagaymolina@gmail.com as well as Christian Aid c/o Jocel Pangilinan jocel.pangilinan@gmail.com.