

# PROCEEDINGS

## “A Conversation on Opportunities and Challenges in Disaster Studies and Research in Philippine Universities and Colleges”

August 08, 2008, 1:30 - 5:00 PM  
Bulwagang Tandang Sora  
College of Social Work and Community Development  
University of the Philippines

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### Programme

Opening Remarks  
Dr. Amaryllis Tiglao-Torres  
Dean, CSWCD

### Context of Disaster Risk Reduction and the Hyogo Framework for Action

Dr. JC Gaillard,  
Visiting Professor  
Dept. of Geography College of Social Science and Philosophy  
University of the Philippines - Diliman

### Opportunities and Challenges in Disaster Studies and Research

Dr. Greg Bankoff  
Professor of Modern History  
University of Hull, United Kingdom

### Reactors

Dr. Emmanuel M. Luna  
Professor of Community Development, CSWCD

Dr. Marqueza Reyes  
Course Director, WBI-NDCC-EMI Natural Disaster Risk  
Management Program Global Distance Learning

Open Forum  
Mr. Mon Padilla, Moderator

Synthesis  
Ms. Jessica Dator-Bercilla

Closing Remarks  
Ms. Lorna P. Victoria

Emcee  
*Ms. Emily de Vera*

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*1. National Anthem*

*2. Emcee: Ms. Emily de Vera*

"Good afternoon! Magandang hapon po sa ating lahat. It's nice to see familiar faces. Both sa community at sa academe. At sa mga education cluster. We welcome you all to this learning event..."

*3. Opening Remarks: Dr. Amaryllis Torres, Dean of CSWCD*

"Maraming salamat. Sa mga kapwa kaguruan ng Unibersidad ng Pilipinas. Mga kaguruan ng ibang unibersidad, meron ba? Sa mga estudyante, mga pamunuan, mga kinatawan ng komunidad na nag-aral sa disaster risk preparedness. To our honored guests, para kay JC na magaling pang magsalita ng kapampangan, daig pa niya ako, mula sa Unibersidad ng Pilipinas, Kay Ginoong Greg Bankoff from the University of Hull. Welcome and thank you very much for joining us in this afternoon's conversations.

Sa Pilipino ang 'conversations' ay kwentuhan, balitaktakan, palitan ng pananaw, exchange of ideas, opinions, conversations - these are apparently what we intend to do this afternoon. And it seems so apt to say that we are just going to converse because actually, involvement in disaster is a very personal experience. And there are some of you who perhaps have the misfortune to be very adversely affected by disaster.

Iyong ibang kinatawan dito siguro ng ibang komunidad, taga-San Mateo, ang kwento nila ay may ibang punto at mas makulay kaysa sa mga pinag-aaralan lamang ng mga mag-aaral tungkol sa salantang nagmumula sa baha, bagyo o lindol at iba pang natural and human-made disaster. Iba talaga iyong nakikita natin ang katotohanan at buhay na karanasan ng mga taong naapektuhan mismo ng mga ito.

We in the College of the Social Work and Community Development (CSWCD) are honored that you have chosen to have the conversations in our college. Because part of the strategic plan of our institution is to develop different

research streams or research agenda. And since many of our faculty are already involved in disaster risk reduction advocacy, research and community action, it was very welcome really that you would like to talk about the how to have disaster planning and research in the university setting.

Umaasa sana kami na ang inyong mga pag-uusapan ay magbibigay ng mga suhestiyon kung paano kami makakabuo ng curriculum o mga kurso na makakatulong sa aming gawaing pormal na edukasyon. At dahil kami ay gumagalaw din sa hanay ng mga komunidad, sana ay magkaroon din kami ng mga panukala kung paano namin magagawa ang aming pagiging social worker, community development worker, gender advocates sa hanay ng mga kalalakihan, kababaihan, at kabataan sa iba't ibang komunidad na aming pinupuntahan.

Sana po iyan ay maging isang bunga ng mga pag-uusap ng mga pag-uusapan ninyo ngayong hapon.

Sana ay maging komportable kayo sa aming simpleng tahanan dito sa kolehiyo.

Make yourself at home and more importantly feel free to express and to share so that we can move forward towards community action and research on disaster risk reduction.”

4. **Emcee acknowledged the attendees of the Conversation.** Some of which are as follows:

- a. College of Social Work and Community Development
- b. College of Education
- c. College of Geography
- d. SURP
- e. Community members of San Mateo
- f. Buklod Tao
- g. Children International
- h. National Council Church of the Philippines
- i. Chirsitan Aid
- j. ABS-CBN Sagip Kapamilya
- k. Hope Worldwide
- l. Sustainable Energy Development Program

5. **Emcee introduced Dr. JC Gaillard:**

“JC Gaillard is a visiting Professor at the Department of Geography, College of Social Science and Philosophy, University of the Philippines Diliman and a full time faculty member of the University of Grenoble in France. He has been working on disaster-related issues in the Philippines for more than 10

years. His main research interests include disaster risk reduction, the ethnic and cultural dimension of disasters, post-disaster resettlement.”

#### 6. JC Gaillard lectures on “The Conduct of Disaster Risk Reduction and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015”

“Magandang hapon sa inyong lahat. Ang aking paksa ngayon ay pang-conceptual at pang-historical background kung paano tayo nakarating ngayon sa panahon ng Hyogo Framework of Action. Anu-ano iyong iba’t ibang scientific paradigms, policies at human institutions...”

“In terms of **scientific paradigm**, emerging po iyan noong 1930s to 1940s [basically involves geography, social sciences, sociology, anthropology]. Framework ng mga nasa social sciences, hindi tututok lamang sa panganib ng kalikasan. Imagine in 1940s, Paradigm of the Extreme focused was only in the natural hazards or panganib ng kapaligiran o kalikasan gaya ng lindol, bagyo, pagputok ng bulkan at iba pa ay hindi madalas na nangyayari, madalang iyon. Extreme ang magnitude and rare in real time. Importante ito dahil ang in-emphasized ng mga social sciences diyan ay iyong conception ng mga banta para sa mga tao. Ibig sabihin, kung ganito kadelikado ang isang panganib para sa atin, importante diyan sa panganib na ito, kung gaano kalakas, kadalas ang ganitong panganib.

Ang mga ganung klase ng panganib, lindol, pagputok ng bulkan ay hindi gaanong nangyayari. Kaya ang konsepsyon ng panganib mataas kapag madalas na nangyayari ang panganib.

Batay din sa paradigm na ito, dapat maganda ang ugali o behavior sa oras ng ganitong panganib.

Kung mababanggit ang konsepto ng risks medyo inefficient iyong response ng mga tao. Kahit social science iyang pag-usapan, iyong pinakaimportante iyong panganib pa rin. Kasi iyong behavior ng tao ay andun pa rin in one-way sa panganib.

Iba’t iba ang konsepto sa panganib. Ngayon kung gusto ninyong maghanap ng pera sa research world sa ibang bansa. Importante na malaman ang hazards sa tulong ng statistical methods upang magkaroon ng certainty. Pero ang importante pa rin ang panganib.

Ang nangyayari noong una, ang mga sakuna ay nangyayari sa labas ng social fabric. Extreme siya, hindi siya normal na nangyayari sa buhay ng tao. Wala siya (panganib) sa tao.

**Associated policies** instituted / interest by the scientists ay focused pa rin sa mga panganib. Ibig sabihin may specific measures. Since out of the

social fabric iyong sakuna, kailangan siyang lagyan ng mga specific measures dahil ito ay mga special na sakuna. Kadalasan, ito ay ang DOMINANT APPROACH - technocratic. Kadalasan [top-bottom] strategy. Katulad dun sa Civil Defense ng Pilipinas o Civil Defense ng Chain of command. O kapag may mga kalaban ay giyera. Kapag may panganib, gyera.

Ang mga practical measures, kadalasan **structural focused on the hazards** - Dams, dikes, monitoring, road / bridge widening; land-use planning, huwag tumira sa area na may mga panganib.

Huling aspeto, itaas natin ang perception of risks. Ito ang problema sa komunidad.

Lahat ng iyan ay hazard focused. Ang pinaka element of reference iyong panganib pa rin. Gaya ng campaign to raise people's perception on given hazard. Land-use planning, pinaka focused iyong panganib pa rin. Socio-cultural measures sa mundo ng mga hazards pa rin.

Usually ang mga policies na ito ay usually fostering [warehouse/housefare?] of knowledge, experience, technologies. Mula sa mga areas kung saan konti ang biktima o madalang ang sakuna towards sa areas kung saan marami ang sakuna at maraming biktima. Basically, mula sa northwestern countries papunta sa mga south / developing countries.

Very prominent iyan up to the 1990s. Iyong pinaka-evidence of influence ng paradigm na iyan sa policy making ay sa umpisa ng UN International Decade for Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (1990 declared as the international decade for NDRR). Sa mismong launching noong 1990, may iba't ibang manuscript. Iyong isa ay ganito ang statement:

'Mula sa Nigerian Engineer. Sinasabi niya tungkol sa mga sakuna, dahilan ng mga sakuna: 1. Ang daming sakuna sa mga developing countries dahil may lack of knowledge on hazards. Ang perception on risks, mababa. Fit na fit sa sinabi kanina. 2. Kulang sa monitoring systems / technology. 3. Kulang sa warning system. 4. Kulang sa organization / planning. 5. Lack in concentrating on issues for different reasons - application of loans.

Ang solusyon: 1. Awareness campaign tungkol sa panganib; 2 technologies; 3. training of scientists in destructions; 4. Increasing capacities; galing ito sa north - mula sa Europe, US and Japan din.'

Iyong underlying scheme: housefare of technologies from the north to south.'

Developing countries do not have enough capacities to do it in their own. They have to refer to the developed countries to give them the needed capacities.

Ang ibig sabihin niya, iyong mga north ang mga magdadala ng solusyon sa south. Dapat nga ang mga Pinoy ang magsalita sa harap ng mga dayuhan dahil mas marami tayong alam kaysa sa kanila. Totoo iyan.

40 years na trend, pataas ng pataas ang occurrences ng sakuna. Hanggang 2002 pa lang itong data ko. Sabi ng mga scientists, oo nga iyong mga increase in preparedness plan, may input iyan. Tingnan ninyo, sa US, 50 years ago sa isang hurricane maraming namatay, ngayon konti na lang. Iyong problema sa panahon na iyan, malawak din ang socio-cultural, economic improvements sa society. Mahirap i-attribute ang decrease sa mga disasters sa mga disaster-related activities at hindi sa social/economic progress. Imposibleng i-weigh, imposibleng itimbang kung alin ang pinakamabigat. Of course, economic malaki ang contribution pati ang mga scientist.

Ano ang alternative:

May lumabas na paradigm noong 1970s, British, Americans and French scientists.

Major tenets ng Vulnerability Approach:

1. Bottom-up approach: kailangan pa rin ng input pero ang approach ay bottom-up dapat.
2. Ang tutok sa mga marginalized segments ng lipunan - bata, babae, matanda, disabled, katutubo, nakakulong. Kadalasan geographically, they are living in hazard prone areas. Socially, they are members of minority groups. Politically, their voices are not recognized in the political scene. Hindi lang ibig sabihin kailangan mahirap sila o pobre. Pwedeng marginalized din ang mga mayayaman. Katulad sa Europe, mataas ang mortality rate ng mga matatanda: kadalasan sa bahay lang sila, walang access sa tulong o hospital, namatay sa bahay. Marginalized hindi dahil mahirap.
3. Historical dimension / construction of vulnerability in the local and international scheme. Mahirap i-disconnect ang poor farmers sa Pilipinas sa political situation.
4. Ano ang root causes ng vulnerability? Ito ay naka-anchor sa constraints on political and economic issues. Kahit mataas ang perception of risks ang mga tao ay kailangan pa ring tumira sa hazard prone areas. Halimbawa sa Mayon, within the danger zone, mas gusto nila tumira doon kasi libre ang resources nila - pagtatanim. Kaysa sa kalayuan sila tumira na bibili pa sila ng resources sa land lord. Isang isyu: food security. Kung 50%

- goes to the landlord, what will be left to you. Kung walang makain - hindi na makita ang susunod na panganib.
5. Ang sakuna ay nagiging extension of daily emergency. Bago maging biktima ng sakuna ang tao ay biktima ng buhay araw-araw: kahirapan, ARMM conflict, biktima ng panganib sa araw-araw na setting.

## ALTERNATIVE MEASURES

Walang specific measures dahil ang sakuna nakapaloob na sa social fabric. Naka-integrate na sa pang-araw-araw na kaunlaran - fair access to resources, better access to protection. That's why it is important to make these measures community-based - NGOs and communities are experts in this aspect.

May emphasis din iyan sa coping strategies, low-range, local capacities. Personal point of view: mahirap i-address ang vulnerability. Naka-anchor sa cultural constraints. Mahirap i-address ang poverty. Minsan mas madali i-enhance ang capacity instead of reducing the vulnerabilities.

Indicators - more crucial.

UN revised the policies in 1994. UN Yokohama Message on Strategy and Plan of Action. It recognized the coping mechanisms at the bottom level. *Komunidad na ang may hawak ng solusiyon.*

It stipulate that vulnerable developing countries should be enabled to revive, apply and share traditional methods to reduce the impact of natural disasters, supplemented and reinforced by access to modern scientific and technical knowledge.

There was emphasis on the traditional knowledge. *May support ng technology* but still the local technology has greater weight.

This requires "the application of traditional knowledge, practices and values of local communities for disaster reduction, thereby recognizing these traditional coping mechanisms as a valuable contribution to the empowerment of local communities and the enabling of their spontaneous cooperation in all disaster reduction programmes."

## KOBE CONFERENCE 2005 (HYOGO FRAMEWORK for ACTION)

1. Making disaster risk reduction a priority
2. knowing the risks (in its whole dimension not only its hazard-related dimension) and enhancing early warning system
3. Building understanding and awareness using local and scientific knowledge
4. reducing the underlying (hazard-independent) factors of risk, *hindi lang panganib ang*
5. Strengthening disaster preparedness for effective response at all level

## Crucial points in HFA

1. All measures to reduce the risk must be culturally, socially, economic and political sensitive. Let us remove all blinders.
2. We need to meet the needs of the people
3. Recognize that livelihood is an important part of people's lives.
4. including disaster risk reduction subject matter in formal and non-formal, and informal education and training activities."

Last slide is a graph illustrating the relationship existing among the actors and components of disaster risk management. The vertical axis has two opposing poles. The upper part represents the development and benefits while the lower part is for the disaster and losses. The horizontal axis is divided into two, the leftmost point represents the EXTREME and the rightmost as the QUOTIDIAN (ordinary, commonplace, daily).

All scientists focus on the risks, this is the extreme, to reduce / avoid disaster losses. (placed on the below left quadrant).

Policy makers focus on the EXTREME (planning in a dominant framework). How to reduce disaster losses in terms of policies. (on the left horizontal axis)

People think of improving their daily lives (placed on the upper right quadrant)

NGOs - kahit saan, kasi marami silang mga agenda, iba-iba sila, pwedeng ilagay kahit saan sa vertical axis

Constraints - placed on the lower right quadrant - interplay of the daily life of the people and the possible occurrences of disasters in human lives.

## Problem:

1. gap between PEOPLE and scientists and policymakers. Very distantly placed in the axis.

2. Policy makers and scientists have small gap, thus they can understand each other easily, as well as with NGOs. They speak the language.
3. The biggest gap lies between the people and the scientist, the people and the policymakers in order to reduce the great possibilities of disaster losses.

6. **Introduction of Greg Bankoff:** He works on society and the environment in Southeast Asia. IN particular, he writes on environmental-society interactions with respect to disasters, natural hazards, human-animal relation, development, resources and community-based disaster management. He is a professor of modern history at the University of Hull. Among his publications are Cultures of Disaster, Society and Natural Hazard in the Philippines and Mapping Vulnerability: Disasters, Development and People. His most recent books include A history of Natural Resources in Asia: The Wealth of Nature.

## 7. Greg Bankoff discussion proper

**“Opportunities and challenges in disaster studies and research”** based on my own perspective. The way I see hazards and disasters is based on my own disciplinary perspective as a geographer and historian. There is a need to stress the impossibility of devoted considerations of disaster in the questions of poverty, equity and development because they are intimately connected.

It is very strange and funny that every university I’ve been to, they teach disasters as part of development studies because they are really part of the development studies. I don’t know how many development programs in the Philippines actually include disasters in the curriculum.

Disasters are intimately connected to development issues.

Vulnerable disasters: disasters of the vulnerable groups - aged, women, children, ethnic minorities

Development can be both a course of increasing people’s vulnerability as well as in producing it, depending on how development is actually done.

What are the characteristics of disaster studies most pertinent, most important and most overlooked. What should we be researching and teaching about?

Three topics:

- A. Importance of **HISTORICAL WORK** in understanding vulnerability.
  - B. Need for **dialogue and not monologue** between developed and developing countries as in developing countries as regard as the best practice in civil defense and emergency management.
  - C. Climate change can become an important issue in understanding disasters in our present world.
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### A. Importance of **HISTORICAL INQUIRY**

→ **HISTORICAL QUESTION** to consider: To understand why people are vulnerable in the present we need to understand how they got that vulnerability.

On the things to consider is **APPLIED HISTORY** to look into that (question) perspective.

Example: Baguio situation

Baguio is a city of vulnerability. It's a city on the edge. It's a city of 300,000 people, living in less than 49 sq. km. with only 30 sq. km. where people can live in because of its topography. There is a very little land to expand in the city. It has a population density that is comparable to Manila. It has a very finite area and the population is increasing phenomenally and annually due to in-migration (emigration) and tourism.

There are several major seismic fault lines that run through the urban center. It is also very unstable - structures are built on unstable slopes. I hope it won't become a nostalgic name in the end.

It's not called Baguio for nothing because it is hit by typhoon systems very often. It suffers from severe subsidence from eroded limestone aquifers. There are lots of hazards in this city.

This is the physical side. But we need very much to consider the **social history**, as JC have discussed. The Social Historical framework in understanding the vulnerability in the city is very important to understand. To

do that, we want to know **why the population is expanding so rapidly and why is the city so vulnerable?** To answer those questions, I want to take the **Pressure and Release Model (PRM)** as expanded by Ben Wisler and his co-authors in the "At Risk" and actually applied it. The PRM and the **PAR** are inherently historical conceptualization of vulnerability. Not many people actually try to apply it and how it actually works in a particular case.

In the case of Baguio (using this model) we have to look at **why Baguio is there?** Why is it a city of over 300,000 people that is a question rooted in colonialism and the search by both Spanish and the Americans for a summer capital away from the low-land heat. It has that dimension. That is why the city is there. We need to consider its location in the Cordilleras, That it should be the place where the Japanese had their last stand here during their occupation.

What is the process that led to the old cottages replaced by the ones adopted concrete structures? When I asked people around there how the cottages survived in the 1990 earthquake, the people said, "They actually survived than the modern buildings". In a street with the wooden building, they said that they were the only people that could go back. Because that building was not damaged and was able to stand the earthquake.

What are the processes that make us abandon that kind of building technique to adopt something else that is very much less adopted to the kind of hazards that are there?

We have to understand Baguio's popular tourism. What is it that attracts people to go there? Where did it start? How is it going on? We need to understand that process. When did it have social education? Student population is a very big part of its prosperity.

With all the economic activities that have led to pull factors that attract large scale in-migration to the city. Once we start looking in those questions, once we understand the reasons behind. Maybe we begin to understand by Baguio is so vulnerable to hazard.

I want to reiterate: The vulnerabilities of cities is not just a static condition. It's not something that we talk about that a city or barrio is vulnerable. It is one that is historically conditioned and it is historically dynamic in a sense that the past continuous to condition the present and the future.

Experts involved in planning need to understand that historical dimension and that it is historically dynamic.

Importance of disaster seeing disasters, especially a question to vulnerability and resilience in a larger timeframe. Then not just events. Disasters are not only events they are processes. If we understand disasters as events and processes in a larger timeframe then we also have to be aware that while disaster in the short term are very destructive, there's no denying that, if we look that in a wider temporal dimension we are actually changing our views on that. Because a lot of what happened or provoked by disasters maybe have beneficial effects. Most disaster our disaster risk management policies come out of people's [perception], "look at what happened, we've got to make it less vulnerable the next time". So it access a catalyst of change in the society.

I'm just looking at the interplay of the dimension of disaster as an event to people who were affected but also as the need to be aware that actually they are important catalyst of change.

Quoting JC, "Disasters are important to be viewed in a larger socio-cultural context".

Disaster may trigger the need of adoption in human behavior and the built environment. Maybe we should recognize them as opportunities to change.

## B. The need for Dialogue and not Monologue.

Let's take the example of hurricane Katrina in the United States. It's a typhoon or hurricane that devastated a quarter of a million in August 2005. It is a timely reminder that it is not just the poor who are vulnerable in the world. It is not just the rich who are immune in vulnerabilities. The rich are also becoming increasingly vulnerable to the hazard even the exposure to different group.

The extent of media coverage which Katrina received also demonstrated to the world that no single country has a monopoly of opportunistic looters or ineffectual officials. These are common worldwide phenomena wherever we're looking at hazards and disasters.

These ideas like: rich are vulnerable too → are voiced out.

The idea that something may have been wrong in the kind of approach to protecting New Orleans are much less voiced and much less viewed and much more mute. The storm search that was associated with the hurricane that

breaks these artificial embankment and caused New Orleans to flood was seen in the media as a failure of the application of inappropriate technology. When technology failed, we ignore the technology to counter it. Rather than the what is not being seen as the application of inappropriate technology. That's the difference I want to make clear is that not more of criticizing but perhaps of looking at it differently.

The 350 miles of levees that were built to withstand a category 3 storm however couldn't withstand the one of intensities 4 and 5. And so the answer of the American Government and other organizations - media mainly, is raise the embankments higher. The problem was the embankment was too low, the water came over, therefore the answer should be is to raise the embankment higher to withstand a similar storm surge.

Anytime you raise the levees, you raise the potential of the vulnerability when they fail. High levees means when they do fail, that means that the consequent flood tend to be larger. That seems to escape people. I don't want to deny the importance of the technology in disaster preparedness and management and recovery. But I do want to stress that an over dependence on technological responses in physically and conceptually is also a form of vulnerability. It is a form of vulnerability is just as potentially devastating as any developing country that are usually the ones branded as disaster prone.

If hurricane Katrina could send a lesson, it is to suggest that western developed countries such as the United States, European Union, Japan, may have as much to learn on disaster preparedness management and recovery from non-western developing countries in terms of community-based assistance and self-reliance and integrated and flexible uses of technology as the latitude of the former technocratic know-how and scientific expertise.

There are two kinds of ways of dealing with hazards:

1. Community-Based Approach that both equal technologies have advantages and disadvantages and what we should be doing is working with these ideas not as the...
2. technological approach being a monologue - this is inappropriate.

And what's more that I'm beginning to see in the so-called western development countries are the kinds of hazards and they are now facing that they are rich enough to go down that avenue completely. They need to rethink again on how they deal with those hazards. The models in doing that is in places like the Philippines which has such a very sophisticated and advanced form of CB-disaster management.

### C. How will Climate Change affect present and future forms of vulnerability

Quite clearly we can say that Climate Change (CC) will aggravate vulnerabilities and will create new ones. But as we understand what's involved in the process of climate change, nobody can actually work out exactly what's gonna happen then it's impossible to gauge what kinds of effects are in detail are likely to have.

Some effects of CC to other countries (United Kingdom): increased summer rainfall, more erratic volumes of rainfall/precipitation leading to severe flooding. The big difference is that this society [Philippines] is used to it from typhoons/rainfalls down to floodings. This is a normal appearance here, it isn't there (UK).

They're unprepared for these kinds of changes (UK). They were flooded 3 weeks before my arrival, the former flooding was fluvial. It was rain-fed flood. The city is low-lying, half under the water, protected by dikes, so they were prepared for river flooding, and for tidal flooding, but nobody has given a thought about rain flooding. Talking to the planners and civil defense, they don't even recognize fluvial flooding as a hazard. It was completely new to them so they had no contingency plans, no planning available to do.

In the last year, CC problems have reached the global forum and has taken seriously. Western countries throwing research in the hope of finding solutions to CC. But the solutions are still technocratic. Although some of them are now starting to question the efficacy of this approach and now thinking of the alternative approaches like the community-based disaster management.

The winning big question is not what the developed countries could do but what the developing countries could do about CC. And this is a matter of utmost urgency yet I don't see a lot of research being undertaken about CC in the developing countries. What you see is research on the effects of CC in the developed countries. Why is that? I don't know. Is it a lack of money, too large baskets with too many problems that beset societies that CC can be put off until tomorrow.

**Finally, what is all these mean in the Philippines, in research and teaching disaster in the Philippines?**

Vulnerability here has very long historical roots and can't be changed overnight. But perhaps they can be ameliorated by better appreciating them and incorporating them in the Civil Defense Disaster Management Plan. That is the need of historical roots of vulnerability not just being a topic that academics are interested in but in one that is of relevance to understanding of the practitioners in the field - to understand the historical dimension of it and to incorporate what they are doing.

We need to appreciate and incorporate them to CBDM.

We need to capitalize the centuries of traditions of *bayanihan*, *pakikipagkapwa*, these ideas of cycle and mutual benefit - that is very prevalent to all Filipino cultures and society. A lot of these courses are underpinning CBDRM but I think there are more interesting - for the research.

**Sikolohiyang Pilipino** - a research that is oftentimes underrated. Why is it that so many Filipinos volunteer. If we can understand those ideas, perhaps we can be able to mobilize communities and better to channel the communities and mutual benefits association on the desire to capitalize on *bayanihan*.

In my research, I talked about the hazard as a frequent life experience in the Philippines. We need more of these researches.

**Recognizing the inherent limitations of the democratic process.** How do we govern in uncertain times? What is the best form of governance for climate change and increased forms of hazards. On the contrary, it is best to consider of working with what we've got than seeking of what we want with regards to the form of governance. It doesn't mean that we want to negate from wanting of a better system but as a practical response we need to see how we can work best with the forms of governance that we have to push it into the right directions of our mutual concerns and benefits.

To finally conclude:

**Fostering studies and practices is what we need so that we can learn more of one another and learn from the past. Thank you.**

## **8. REACTION from Dr. Emmanuel Luna**

"If no \_\_\_ disasters have been incurring lately, we have our scientists to blame-their inertia and indifference to disaster-causing phenomena" - Dr.

Raymundo Punong Bayan of PHILVOCS (1<sup>st</sup> sentence of the FOREWORD of the book in the *Shadow of the Lingerin Mt. Pinatubo Disasters*, one of the UP Awardee in terms of outstanding publication in the university)

When I read that, it jives with what JC said that there seems to be a big gap between the people and the scientists. When scientists speak up from a very ivory tower thing people could not understand - that could be a disastrous event.

That is why we have this kind of forum, *talakayan, usapan* - so that people in the academe colleges can give a chance to DRR as an agenda in the research and training. Because it is only very recent that disasters are becoming an agenda in the Philippines.

In the 1990s - the International Decade of Disaster Risk Reduction, the time when the Philippines had so many disasters - earthquake in 1990, 1991 Pinatubo eruption and 1995 Mayon eruption. In UP Diliman established a Disaster Studies - a program at the Center for Philippine *Development* Studies but then it is gone. There were some convocations before to discuss these things, as a whole the focus on disaster risk reduction stopped (in the university) but some of the faculty member continued their pursue for DRR.

I believe that DRR should be a concern of research in colleges as based on what JC said about the perspectives in DRR are changing from the dominant to the more recent. This jives also on how me, in the community development field, look at development from the dominant approach of modernization to the more liberating thinking of empowerment and the people from these disasters.

The challenge of climate change is one are that is really a focus of not only social scientist but also agriculturist and physical scientist. We've seen the challenge of CC because we're an agricultural country and we're located in a very vulnerable to typhoons.

Developed countries can easily adjust or increase their capabilities to adjust with the resources they have. Among developing countries, CC consequences can reduce our capabilities. These are very crucial considering what JC said that we might not be able to change a lot of our vulnerabilities, like until now *ang agrikultura sa Pilipinas tatlong dekada na nandiyan pa rin, hindi pa tapos*. But Filipinos can be an instrument of developing capabilities. Some of the roots of vulnerability in the Philippines are still there.

I was a student in the UP in the 1970s and we're talking about the root causes of vulnerability - *imperyalismo, capitalismo, feudalismo, at iba pang mga 'ismo'*. Until now, these roots of vulneribilities still exist. And I wonder when these roots will really come to an end.

I'd like to work also in the other end - that is the disaster risk equation.  $DR = H \times V / \text{capacity}$ . Volunteerism, we Filipinos have high capacity for learning. *Magaling ang Pinoy*. A lot of countries are learning from us - rice technology and DRR government structures. Like Thailand and others, they're following our organizational set-up.

If there's a great movement in Philippine CBDRM, the Filipinos have great contributions to that. Individual and NGOs have contributed a lot. Especially the academic people, having participated in the UN conventions and others. We have great potentials to influence the policies. This is an area of instituting the communities - increasing the capabilities of the people in responding and reducing risks.

Some of the developments:

- a. In CSWCD, we have seen the partnering with NGOs - As of now, the Christian Aid. NGO partners and the academe, like us, the academic providing training to their partner.
- b. Center of Disaster Risk Management - we send our students as well as the Buklod ng Tao - a partner of the college in San Mateo. We have also other partners with concerned CDRC.
- c. There are many opportunities at hand and we just only need to break out of our comfort zones and to go into DRR which is a little bit morbid, disgusting scenes, because of massive disasters we can see. But if we don't break our comfort zones, we'll not see the issues that we face today.

End of the reaction.

## 9. REACTION from Dr. Marqueza Reyes

I will be very sweet and brief so we can have time for the open forum.

I'd like to take off from what Greg and JC have said awhile ago. We're all familiar about the paradigm shifts from the past few decades such as disaster as a humanitarian issue which has become a development issue. NO longer a disaster response, relief that we should look at but also disaster mitigation, preparedness, prevention - which is what DRM is all about.

Based on this shift, study of disaster should also shift. The shift should also start in the academe. We should also start the conduct of DRM. When we say risk management, includes policies, organizational strategies. Academe should also spend time on this. The researchers should take a look into the policy

makers. We should engage into a conversation with policymakers with respect to DRM.

A disaster may happen, we should be ready to respond, there should be contingency planning, emergency management. There are many courses out there on emergency or disaster management.

Focusing on DRM, because we want to have a disaster study center-when we focus on DRM taking the various discipline into the multi-disciplinary agenda for research. We can focus on, cross-cutting studies on mitigation, preventions. Hazard studies - established field of study - climatologist, geologists. Like PHIVOLCS and PAGASA.

Aside from hazard studies, we may also have studies related to vulnerabilities. This includes human geography, political, social and economic studies. Vulnerabilities have many faces - social, environmental, economic vulnerabilities. Hazards - physical geographers there.

Risks is a cross-cutting issue. We need to have expert on this topic. Land-use planners, urban planners, this cut across many issues. For example earthquakes, there would the people should be in times of earthquakes? The vulnerable groups are taken into consideration of the planners.

Development studies - should consider disaster management aspects because disaster is a development issue. We should mainstream DRM in development studies. Development experts will be needed in DRM agenda.

We need public administration - governance particularly public governance.

This is just an idea on how we can crop multidisciplinary agendas into an approach to DRM.

Structural and non-structural studies should be integrated in DRM - engineers and architects play an important role to producing physical and non-physical vulnerabilities.

#### **RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES IN DRR:**

The world is becoming more urban. IN the international field, Urban DRR has become very palpable. There is a global platform for DRR and one of the issues is Urban DRR, especially in developing countries like us, that is becoming more urban.

**Climate change adaptation.** Multi-lateral organizations are trying to marry these activities - CC and DRR. Research agenda should include CC.

**Local induced disasters particularly terrorism.** There are also studies on these extreme events.

In the United Nations University, they are now looking at **disasters as an external shock but as part of development process** - this do include building a risk. Example, building a dam - which create risks, generate risk and accumulate risks. In this paradigm - **resilience** looks at disaster as part of the biophysical system (society which experiences shocks that are internal to it). Like the vision and mission of CDT - disaster resilient communities.

**Early warning system.** Local indigenous knowledge for early warning system (people centered) rather than technology-based warning systems.

**Rehabilitation or Reconstruction.** What to do during the **EARLY RECOVERY** - another part of the research.

**Risk transfers.** Risks: we can mitigate it, accept it. Idea of risk transfers is there. World Bank with the Ateneo (WB, under the Global Facility for Risk Reduction) - transfers mechanisms that can be applied to disaster prone communities in the Philippine context.

**Other modes of learning in the university:**

- a. **NDCC and World Bank Institute** - CB disaster risk management e-learning course. This is another opportunity which the university can take a loan into consideration.
- b. **Creation / Establishment of Disaster Studies Center, and the objectives on having one are as follows:**
  - i. bridge the gap between the researchers and practitioners. We should have multidisciplinary research rather than isolated ones.
  - ii. Develop cultural and cross-cutting sensitivity. Regarding the risks and vulnerabilities of the people and enhancing their capacities as well. The study center should also be a research on the capacity-building aspect.

**Disaster Risk Research Opportunities.** We have a multitude of university which consider disaster risk researches such as the UP, Ateneo, Bicol University, DLSU, Naga University, Xavier, - among others. But these institutions do not have a separate course on disaster studies. But they have integrated disaster studies into their curriculum. This is also one way of skinning the cat, as they say.

I would say that it is very difficult to invest in the long-term of DRR. If LGU is very hesitant, how can also the university be expected to invest in DRR, where the LGUs are the first respondents - forefront of DRM.

Coffey Annan's statement, rephrased by the reactor: "We need to invest in DRR not because of what tangible or outputs or outcomes we can see. But because investments in DRR would be the disasters that did not happen." That is why in politicians, it is very difficult.

In UP, we have no fire drills, unlike in other colleges and universities they do. Earthquake drills we don't have. That's why the university must take a bold step to remain in the run of DRM and sustainable development in general.

## 10. OPEN FORUM, Facilitated by: Mon Padilla

- a. from a representative of San Mateo group: "I think one of the areas for research is on how can to make the vulnerable communities not to wait and burnt out." But prior to this statement he mentioned about the various means of the people on volunteerism in times of disaster.

### RESPONSE from Greg:

"I admire the way development work in your community and the way you approach the different hazards in your locality." He suggested various research topics for the San Mateo community which are as follows: i. How to look at your community manage the hazards and live with the hazards on a daily basis?; and ii. How to take what you do and hype it on a larger scale?

"For me these are the fundamental questions [for you]. I don't know how it will be done and I'm not sure your aptitude about the community can translate it in a larger scale like regional or city-wide. But if we can apply it at a larger scale, that's the research should be going [guided by the pakikipagkapwa and bayanihan approaches]."

### MON PADILLA:

"Ang tanong ba ay kung paano hindi ma-burn out sa ginagawa ninyo? Kasi you've been doing that although your lives. So how can the academe and the researchers assist you para hindi kayo ma-burn out sa pagtulong, pagbabayanihan, at paggampan, malaking bagay iyan. We'll take note of that."

- b. **Lennie Santos from Laguna Lake Development Authority, student of CD235, 1<sup>st</sup> Sem and SY 2008-2009:**

“Among the scientist themselves, I have a first-hand experience that before the scientists learn how to connect themselves, they themselves have to connect them. The incident in Quezon and even the academic community, NGOs and the community said it’s because of illegal logging. Here comes Dr. Rey Punongbayan and he said, ‘it’s bound to happen’. Why? Because of continuous raining, the water caused the soil fell, parang nangyari sa Ugong. Maraming bumagsak na puno na hindi putol. But it raised the eye brows of the scientific community how could it be translated to the people if there’s no understanding?”

“Integrated lake basin management should also look into disaster risk management. I would like to pose this question: For example the College of Environmental Science and Meteorology and College of Social Work and Development. We from the Environmental Science did not know about this course. Maybe some marketing needs to be done. In Environmental Science, we have a course on geological hazards. I don’t know if CSWCD students know that there is such course.”

“I’m glad that Climate Change is in the agenda. Two years ago, I have attended a conference that is about the combination of adaptation and mitigation and these fall under the disaster risk and management. There is an opportunity that we can earn carbon credits from disaster risk management.”

- c. **Ms. Rosar [or Rosal] representing Mr. Larry Castañeda from the Commission on Higher Education.**

“Disaster Risk Reduction is somewhat equivalent to Environmental Planning and Management and we do have some researches addressing these. It is one of the topics being taken up in the National Services Training Program (NSTP).”

**Response from Dr. Marqueza Reyes:**

“Disaster Risk Management has overlapping with Environmental Management but it has other components that the Environmental Management doesn’t have. I’m familiar with Environmental Science because I took up some subjects there also like geological hazards. But in that course there are no engineering courses because we have to understand not only the hard sciences (chemistry, geology, meteorology) but we also have social sciences (sociology, history, economics). We don’t have that in environmental management.”

**Response from Dr. JC Gaillard:**

"The faculty now has a communication gap [lack of information flow]. At the student level, I'm sure that the students enrolled, I'm sure they know all of the disaster courses. Alam nila ang website ng CRS. My students, they know disaster-related courses. Ang problema talaga iyong level ng faculty."

"We have to be careful in connecting climate change issues to disasters, escape goat ang climate change. Madali ang climate change kasi walang hawak diyan ang gobyerno, walang kasalanan. It's easy to say that especially in the Philippine Government. There are much more important issues than climate change, it should be incorporate in disaster risk management. Because climate change is a radical thing. Kaya be careful."

**Response Dr. Gregg Bankoff:**

"I would like to share with you what we're doing in the University of Hull because we have the same situation there in trying to have an integrated approach especially we have climate change. We came up to what we call the **adaptive science** and these are all semantics. While we're doing to become multi-disciplinary, we're trying to be **trans-multidisciplinary**. The group we're talking about is composed of the people coming from engineering, law, health science, e-commerce, nuclear physics, geography, geology and history. We sit down and discuss in hours to give common language and the same meaning and words. To come up with the same words and to mean different things. It should delineate the change we want to have and the meaning that other people have. We're now integrating proposals that range from across that entire topic."

"We're talking about gearing for the **Center for Disaster Studies** is perhaps one of the areas where you can have focus of that kind of research and have those kind of mini trans-multidisciplinary about disaster risk and perhaps in order to have the center for adaptive science at heart in small or initials called cash."

**Response from Dr. Mel Luna:**

"Information within the university: JC and I have plans to come together. We'd like to happen here, people interested to DRR can come together in a regular forum and that can eventually become the center. We can't just establish the disaster center in the university without showing them first what we have achieved. We should be able to move

on establish regular activities together that will enable us mobilize resources and to publish - with that it will be easy to convince the chancellor to establish disaster center. Those who have papers can have real presentations and can be published later on. In CSWCD has a DRR center already. Like in Geodetic, they another study on landslide, as well as in the Manila Observatory. This is could be an addition activity. Maybe two months from now we'll call you again.

d. **Darlene Ceña Gutierrez of the Department of Geography**

"A lot of researches and studies have been done on disasters. I would like to know had there been studies done not on how much have been studied but on how much have been used and applied. Kasi karamihan sa researches natin, kapag natapos na naitago na. How much of the recommendations have been applied and how these have really been used by the community?"

**Response from Dr. Greg Bankoff:**

"My work in Baguio is about the lessons learned from the 1990 earthquake - reconstruction of Baguio to make it less vulnerable. I am always interested in the 1990s, for a year, the Pinatubo came along. With silence, when we tried to find out what happened, we found out that most government agencies chopped their records after 10 years because they don't find sense. I don't understand in this space of digitized gave us [this privilege] to \_\_\_\_\_. The answers are, I have a feeling that much of the kind of information that should put you through to the other planners, city engineers, all of the offices of government, people just don't translate the data into practice. I think that is also a subject to study. In the case of Baguio, the trouble is that we tend to forget it because everything is okay now. But also if we emphasize hazards..."

*"Let me give you a story:* My first presentation on hazards in the Philippines was in early 1990s in Australia, Philippine Ambassador to Australia got up and she said that, really angry, **"if you talk like that, none of the investors will invest in our country, to tourists will come to our country!"** There are also tendency to minimize the effects of hazards. If we say too many things and too recommendations people will be frightened to invest and we will lose out."

**Response from Dr. JC:**

"One more thing about CBDRM, in a wider sense in the Philippines, practitioners we are faster than the researchers. We took over the recommendations of the practitioners and incorporate it into further

research. The Philippine experience serves as basis for many more recommendations in this venture. This is the opposite cycle.”

“Sa komunidad, kung i-konsulta sa mga practitioners pagkatapos ng research. Mas madaling i-spread ang results and recommendations. Iyong positivist research ito iyong sinusubukan namin sa may NGO concern. Sinusubukan naming idevelop ang [positive authority mapping?]. Medyo nahihirapan kami sa istilo ng mga mapa. Gender relationship, medyo dahan-dahan lang. Mas madali i-spread ang recommendations kung kasama ang NGOs sa research. Kaya lang ngayon mahirap din lalo na ang komunidad kung hindi kasali.”

**Response from Dr. Marqueza Reyes:**

“Regarding the Disaster Study Center. One of the objectives forwarded earlier is bridging the gap between policy into practice or analysis into action. There are many initiatives in this regard which are available for example Oxfam. We are trying to engage the LGUs this evidence-based DRM. There are many recommendations out there also which are not evidence-based, and so we should be very careful about this.”

**Synthesis from Mon Padilla:**

“Sa madaling salita, walang pag-aaral kung alin na diyan ang napapatupad.”

**e. Mike, CD235 student, SY 2008-2009:**

“Paano tinitingnan ang urban poor sa DRM. Unang-una, hindi sila priority. Pangalawa, sila ang nasa peligrong tirahan. Tinitingnan ko, paano tinitingnan ng indibidwal kung paano tinitingnan ang usaping paninirahan.”

**Response from Dr. Mel Luna:**

“Ang risk na tintingnan, gaya ng sabi ni JC, hindi lang biglang bumagyo, biglang nagbah, but these are part of the daily lives. Part of everyday life of the people. We look at the vulnerability of the people in that modest way. We have to see and we have to look why the urban poor are there, when do they still stay and allowed to live. We should look at this holistically in terms of their vulnerability.”

**Response from Dr. JC:**

“May member ban g MMDA dito? Wala? So Pwedeng magsalita.

Let's talk about the policies of Bayani Fernando on rehabilitation, relocation and resettlement. Kung saan sila pupunta, karamihan gusting umuwi, iyong iba, babalik din sa dati nilang tiarahan, iyong mga taga-Payatas resettlement, maaring umuwi. In terms of construction vulnerability, to anticipate future disaster and future vulnerability, what is going right now in Manila is a good area of research study. But still, very political."

**Response from Dr. Marqueza Reyes:**

"Napaganda ng tanong tungkol sa Housing. We have everyday risks na tinatawag nating exceptional risks. Everyday, we confront risks, and the poor, the urban poor, they confront more vulnerabilities, everyday - day in, day out. Sa sanitation nila, water, livelihood, kung minsan kung saan sila nakatira, doon na sila nagtatrabaho. For example sa experience ko sa Catmandu (Nepal), iba ang poor nila doon. Ang poor nila doon, they live in high-rise housing because it's their culture. Kapag pinamanahan sila ng lupa ng kanilang parents, hindi uso sa kanila un pag-hahatian ng mga anak. When they build, they build vertically. And Nepal is highly earthquake prone - it's a seismic country. What they use there underenforced masonry ang bahay nila. So everyday, that's their practice, they build slender buildings which are very prone to earthquake, but iyon ang kinalakihan nila. Everyday, iyan ang kasama nila. Everyday, that's their risk, exacerbated pa sa kanilang construction. Mahirap pa ang tubig. Sa atin naman, mga Pilipino, gusto natin may sariling lupa, kaya may squatter colonies na palaki ng palaki. Nandoon ang everyday risks, and disasters are exacerbated by the everyday risks and when disaster happens it seeks out the poor and makes them poorer."

**Synthesis of Mon Padilla:**

"Calling the attention of CSWCD curriculum or course committee to look into the suggestion of that guy, to incorporate the tenural aspect of urban poor or course or a topic, tapos ano pang pwedeng pag-usapan doon."

**f. Flor Dalisay, Department of Anthropology:**

"Gusto ko ring ma-point out na un risks and hazards na na-encounter on daily basis, dahil nanormalize siya, sila mismo hindi nila na-realize na hazardous itong mga conditions na ito. Until they are made or these are pointed out to them and other people are made them to realize these also. So kailangan ding tingnan ito on how to make them see that these situations are hazardous conditions."

**Response from Dr. Marqueza Reyes:**

“Scientists are very fond of maps, GIS maps, very colorful. Pero sa CBDRM, they use other methods - 3D, pilot scale. In Catmandu, they made a shake table - seismic vulnerability to demonstrate their vulnerability. There are horizontal and vertical movements to simulate the effects of earthquakes to their houses with underreinforced masonry. It was very effective, namulat ang mata ng mga taga Nepal. **Simpleng teknolohiya.** Which we can do here in the Philippines. Hindi kailangang hi-tech. Ang PHIVOLCS has an earthquake simulator, pero parang hindi effective iyon, mabigat to carry it in a truck. Sa Tokyo, truck naman. They ram the truck in a structure. Iba’t ibang klaseng ways to communicate risks. That’s an important point on **how to communicate risks in everyday vulnerabilities lalo na sa vulnerable communities.**”

**Synthesis of Mon Padilla:**

“Keywords: effective, appropriate, accurate, time-easy in CBDRM.”

**11. SYNTHESIS of the Conversation by Ms. Jessica Dator-Bercilla from the Christian Aid:**

Ang nakita ko sa presentations ngayong hapon ay ang pagdiscuss sa disaster may dalawang tema:

- a. how do we approach disaster?
  - i. Modernist approach vs. post modernist approach
    - a. May bottom up na nag-evolve sa usaping disaster
  - ii. Disasters as an opportunity to development, lalo na sa mga lugar na nakalimutan n gating gobyerno.
  - iii. QUESTION: have the approaches to development and disaster, have they caught up with the changing patterns of natural hazards?
    - a. Kahit sa Manila Observatory, sabi nila blind-sighted daw ang mga scientists sa Typhoon Frank. Humabol ba ang mga development natin dun sa pag-aanalisa?
- b. Perspectives on disasters
  - i. Disaster is not only an event but more so, it is a dynamic social process. Participant na tayo sa isang hazard for a disaster to occur. Dapt lang ba nating tingnan ang sarili as biktima sa isang disaster or dapat din nating tingnan iyong role natin sa disaster?
  - ii. Change in focus on hazards from hazards to vulnerability reduction and capacity-building.

- iii. Mayaman man o mahirap, pantay-pantay na maapektuhan. Kailangan natin iyong mga sinasabi ni Ka Noli na *bayanihan*, *pakikipagkapwa*, *pagtutulungan*. May mga mahihirap pa rin na hindi pa nalilibing.

c. Challenges and prospects

- i. Raising Critical Questions for Further Inquiry. Huwag tumigil sa pagtatanong
  - a. Examine the complexity of vulnerabilities
  - b. Pwedeng tingnan kung paano nakakatulong an gating kalakasan bilang mga Pilipino, makakatulong, parang ang Buklod Tao.
  - c. Paano natin pinamamahalaan an gating sarili? Ito ba ay nagcontribute sa pag-address ng vulnerabilities?
  - d. Paano nagagamit ang mga kaalaman sa akademiya para impluwensiyahan ang mga polisiya.

d. Directions for Action

- i. Tingnan sa multi-dimensional na aspeto at gamitin ang multi-disciplinary at interdisciplinary ang approach. Dapat makipag-usap ang isang geographer, social scientist, historian, iyon po iyong sinasabi ditto
- ii. Kahalagahan ng **pagbuklod o pag-engage sa partnership** hindi lang across sectors, dapat within sectors, mag-usap-usap
- iii. baka ang isang state university, karapat-dapat may isang disaster studies center, sila ang state university, social responsibility nila na tumugon sa isang disaster

- e. The Challenge: Paano mapaglalapit ang research, theory building, training, sa mga tao na nangangailangan nito? Sino ba iyon? -gobyerno, tao sa komunidad, NGO, hindi ko masasagot iyon, tayo ang makakasagot iyon.

12. Emcee: Kung may effort tayo sa Disaster Management Studies, may effort din dapat sa Cluster approach. Ang gobyerno, institutionalize ang cluster approach. Sa cluster ng gobyerno, walang focal office na tumitingin sa response ng DepED, work in progress ang gawaing ito.

13. Closing Remarks: Ms. Lorna P. Victoria: "Ang ibang tanong na hindi pa naisulat, pwede pang isulat. Kami ang tagatulak sa academe natin. Doc. Mel, hindi pa ito huli. Matagal na naming pinag-uusapan itong disaster center. Nag-attend kami sa isang international conference sa Netherlands, nag-offer ang \_\_\_\_\_ University, kung ang University of

the PHlippines and CSWCD ay gusting magtayo ng Disasater Study Center, willing silang tumulong. Even in other universities din. Abangan ang susunod na kabanata sa risk reduction course. Hindi lang tayo widow, malapit na tayong maging tunay na disaster risk managers dahil nag-aral na tayo. Ang buhay ay isang paaralan na ang academe at tayo ay magkatuwang sa pagbuo ng teorya at praktika. Ito ang circle ng praxis.”

14. **Awarding of certificates to guest speakers and reactors**
15. **Other announcements:**
  - a. Strategic National Action Plan
  - b. Binubuong Disaster Risk Reduction Network Philippines, conducting the Disaster Risk Reduction Bill na mas community centered at development-oriented. Linking risk reduction sa development ng komunidad.
  - c. Public hearing in Senate (August 13, 2008, 9AM) - ang puso natin para sa komunidad. Iyon ang dadalhin natin ang boses ng komunidad.
16. **Closing Song: “Walang sinuman ang mabubuhay, para sa sarili lamang...”**  
by Dr. Mel Luna.