

**WDC13: Thailand's Future Water-Related Disaster Management: Learning from the
experience of recent Mega Flood 2011 in Thailand and disaster events in
Asia-Pacific Region**

Organized by Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM)

Meeting room # D6 Thantawan, 16 May 2013 at 13:30-16:30 hrs

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Water-related disasters such as flood, drought and landslide are the most common disasters in Thailand. More than 80 percents of the country's Emergency Relief Fund was spent on response and relief activities for flood and drought. The strategy being used to cope with water-related disaster in Thailand is called "2P2R", which stands for "Prevention and Mitigation", "Preparedness", "Response and Relief" and Rehabilitation and Reconstruction and Recovery". Thailand has a strong legal framework on disaster management including the 2010 Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Act, the Master Plan on Disaster Prevention and Mitigation and many master plans on each type of disaster. Having learned from the Mega Flood in 2011, the country has revised the management, and command-and-control structure of flood disaster management system.

In terms of the understanding of disaster risk, it is widely known that disaster situation in Asia-Pacific is on the rise and getting more severe. There are intensive disaster risk hotspots especially in less developed regions, countries and localities.

- It is therefore reasonable to say that human development is at risk.
- UNDP has its own approach in Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development.
- Humanitarian actions alone do not address the root causes of vulnerability.
- Disaster impacts depend on the development choices that individuals, communities and nations make.
- Disaster risk can be managed and reduced through appropriate development actions.
- To achieve sustainable human development, disaster risk reduction needs to be incorporated into development policies, planning and implementation.

Summary from discussion

- It is crucial that urban and city planning has a proper design and take into account water management with water sensitive design and green space.
- More and more cities in the world have adopted the Growing Green Environmental Sustainability Plan.
- Parties concerned should take a proactive approach rather than inactive one.
- By using community-based approach together with engineering knowledge and local knowledge, communities located in flood prone areas can be better prepared for the disasters.

- The flood in 2011 in Thailand and the drought situation brought about a negative impact to industries not only in central part of the country but also in the northern zone. Investors are always worried about flood and drought situation. So they call for the government and all parties concerned to prevent it from happening and to have a good response plan when it does happen.
- Thailand is now becoming a middle-income country and the economic prosperity is much different from what it used to be several decades ago. The challenge to Thailand is not the investment capacity to make the country safe from disaster but more on how to have good disaster risk governance.
- It will be best that any solutions to deal with water-related disaster risk should be strategic and involve all the stakeholders to the process.
- Technology such as early warning system is supportive to Thailand to boost confidence of the people as well as the investors.
- The efforts to prevent and mitigate water-related disasters should not emphasize too much on the tools but more on training and education.