

**2nd Asian Ministerial Conference on
Disaster Risk Reduction –
7th and 8th of November 2007, New Delhi,**

Countries of South Asia are bound together by shared natural resources and common geological and climatic features. The roots of civilization and socio-economic relationships between South Asian people transcend the geopolitical boundaries between nations. The long established trend of natural hazards and their manifestation as disasters have demonstrated time and again that many natural hazards cross national boundaries affecting multiple countries in South Asia .

Asia is highly vulnerable to various hazards, which have the potential of turning into disasters like the few big disasters of the past, for example, the Tangshan Earthquake of China (1976), the Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004 and the Jammu and Kashmir earthquake of 2005. There is a growing realization that many of the disasters can be mitigated by adoption of a culture of disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation. In this background, a World Conference of Disaster Reduction was held in January 2005 in Kobe, Japan which adopted the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005 -2015; Building the resilience of Nations and Communities to disasters. The Hyogo Framework of Action lists 5 priority areas as under : -

- Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.
- Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.
- Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.
- Reduce the underlying risk factors
- Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

2. Following the adoption of HFA, hosted the First Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction, in September 2005, to enhance regional understanding and cooperation in the implementation of HFA. This Conference was attended by 42 Asian countries, of which 33 were represented at the ministerial level. This Conference adopted the *Beijing Action for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia* and resolved to meet again in 2007 to review the implementation of the HFA.

3. offered to host this 2nd Asian Conference in November in New Delhi . Theme / Objectives The underpinning theme of the conference is proposed to be 'development without disasters', while the goal would be to review the implementation of the Hyogo Priorities of Action in Asia in the context of various initiatives taken by the national, regional and international governments during the past two years. The objectives of the 2nd Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction would be :

- Review the action taken by the national governments and other stakeholders for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action;
- Take stock of initiatives taken in various sub-regions of Asia for promoting and enhancing cooperation among the nations within and outside the governments for disaster risk reduction;
- Share and exchange best practices and lessons learned from disaster risk reduction in various fields including application of science and technology, community based disaster preparedness, public-private partnership etc;
- Discuss the new international initiatives such as Global Platform and Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction;
- Develop a vision and roadmap for disaster risk reduction in Asia .