ALL4DR ASIAN LOCAL LEADERS FORUM FOR DISASTER RESILIENCE

Recognising, linking and enhancing the power of local leadership

Launch event | November 2nd 2016

www.all4dr.net
The Asian Local Leaders Forum for Disaster Resilience (ALL4DR) launch was a pre-conference event of the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR), 2016 held in New Delhi, India.

Thank you to ALL4DR supporters: Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, National Disaster Management Authority, Caritas India, Christian Aid and Unnati

Session moderated by: Ms. Gayathri Sreedharan

Research and Communications Hub: Saferworld Communications
The journey to ALL4DR

In 2011, GNDR conducted a ‘view from frontline’ global survey. People said “they see clouds but little rain” meaning there is much talk at the national level, but very little of that gets translated into action. ADRRN’s Road to Sendai and Sendai Spring campaigns have re-emphasised the importance of local and local leadership. When we fast forward to 2015 and 2016, this tone has been inculcated in the all the new global frameworks and has an aggressive push in the grand bargain agreement of the world humanitarian summit. Bringing about this dramatic change will come down to a few passionate individuals. The idea of a local leaders forum has been taking shape over the last year. In the coming years, the hope is to maintain 100 top performing local leaders from all walks of life - government, academia, SMEs, NGOs, media and civil society. Leaders will be nominated by their communities & shortlisted by an independent jury. This forum recognises and nurtures these local leaders, serving as a harbour of hope in achieving our 2030 sustainable agenda.

“Local leaders are the biggest reasons behind disasters that didn’t happen. Taking on responsibility on their own calling, they seldom make it to the mainstream media. Often there is a sense of sacrifice for a bigger cause and the strength to bring people together. Most importantly they’re people of extraordinary courage. The journey that begins today is a core part of ADRRN’s strategic plan. It seeks to recognise and celebrate leaders working on disaster resilience in their communities.”

– Manu Gupta, Chairperson, ADRRN
on the ROAD TO SENDAI
Visions and voices for a new global disaster framework

Reached 7 million people in 55 countries

Collective Voice On 8 Main Issues
- Environmental conservation in DRR
- Children and youth as leaders
- Micro-level early warning
- Good governance is imperative
- Local communities and civil society are key drivers
- Actionsable disaster education
- Developmental risk reduction
- Daily stresses and health

Over 300 varied organisations reached though national consultations in 9 Asian countries

Agreement on need for greater inter-linkages
Lack of resources to study and implement aspects of different frameworks

SENDAI SPRING
turning risk to resilience

Local Leaders’ Resilience Guide

ALL4DR
ASIAN LOCAL LEADERS FORUM FOR DISASTER RESILIENCE

Resilience Lens
- Environmental
- Physical Infrastructure
- Basic Needs
- Governance
- Economics and Livelihoods
- Social

5 parallel frameworks for 2030 development agenda are an opportunity to shift to a BROADER RESILIENCE-BASED PERSPECTIVE
Surprises and inspiring moments

GENEROUS SUPPORT
The grand new idea saw generous support. Over 150 people from across Asia attended the event, including government officials, civil society organisations, UN agencies and private sector representatives.

POLITICAL BUY-IN
A quiet word being exchanged between H.E. Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State for Home, Govt. Of India, and H.E. Willem Rampanglei, Head of National Disaster Management Authority, Republic of Indonesia

SURPRISE AWARD FOR SEEDS
In a surprise twist to the evening, SEEDS was felicitated by UNISDR as a Sendai Target Champion for reducing disaster mortality. The award recognised SEEDS’ work over 20 years on affordable and safe housing that protects people against natural hazards.
A short presentation featured the stories of four diverse local leaders. Naeem Salimee, a non-profit founder from Afghanistan works with the local councils (shoras) on resilience building measures. Namita Thapa Magar volunteered to become a trainer for housing reconstruction after the devastating Nepal earthquake. Ken’Ichi Kurosawa found innovative ways to revive hope in his community after the 2011 tsunami in Japan. Finally, it showcased Kadija Begum who has taken the lead in helping her village in Bangladesh to adapt to climate change impacts.

“They’re the champions leading local responses. They’re national responders who continue spreading hope. They’re the locals who are truly building resilience. Innovating ways for their communities to cope.”

- Vijayalakshmi Viswanathan, Saferworld Communications
In a moderated discussion, three local champions shared their inspiring stories of leadership. This included Madelaine Alfelor-Gazmen, a mayor from the Philippines; Kabita Balami, a youth nurse from Nepal; and Alam Gir, a small-scale businessman from India.

Henry EE, Managing Director at Business Continuity Planning Asia, offered the panel insights on the critical role that private sector can play in building community resilience. For when enterprises are prepared and risk resilient, it's both good business sense and has ripple impacts on the whole community.
Iriga City faces massive environmental challenges. Hit by 8-10 typhoons a year, the area is also vulnerable to perennial flooding along the central business district. Unsustainable land use practices and illegal tree cutting by upland farmers mean increased landslide risk along Mount Iriga. These vulnerabilities have a severe impact on the lives of local citizens.

Mayor Madeline has made disaster risk reduction a cornerstone of her leadership, using a variety of techniques. She’s involved youth volunteer, faith based organisations, schools and local entities in massive environmental awareness programmes to reforestation along Mount Iriga. She’s passed a variety of related ordinances (including prohibiting use of plastics and Styrofoam); and issued executive orders to strengthen environmental laws such as the creation of a task force on river protection. The unique rock formation and waterfalls of Mt. Iriga are a source of class ‘AA’ water for the whole area. This has been granted a protected landscape status.

Mayor Madeline’s work continues to be grounded in the in the power of the people. “When we called for help (after typhoon Yolanda), our people responded with whatever they could offer, it was a magical sight.”

“There needs to be a paradigm shift in the way we approach DRR. Mainstreaming it in the policy framing process is the need of the hour. For we are the front line workers and with our experiences we are in a continuous learning process.”

- Madelaine Alfelor-Gazmen, Mayor of Iriga City, Camarines Sur province, the Philippines
Kabita Balami’s journey to provide outreach health services after the Nepal earthquake was long and arduous. They would often walk 7-8 hours to reach a particular village. The lack of transportation, manpower, coordination and delays in supplies made it even more challenging. Despite being scared sometimes, she stayed determined and preserved; touched by the warm reception they always received and the criticality of the work. Her efforts helped many to survive and she continues to play an active role in enhancing preparedness. She also sent out a message: “Youth and young people of our country should embrace the power of giving for others and doing good for our nation.”

“After the earthquake, I became a peer educator on adolescent health issues. We travelled to very remote areas with community hospital staff. I came across so many cases where women and young girls would have lost their lives or the lives of their newborns if we had not reached out in time.”

- 24-year-old Kabita Balami, Peer Educator, Nepal
Alam Gir grew up in Rani Garden, a slum area of East Delhi district in India. His family survived on daily earnings of bakeries and he saw how a single illness would wipe out their savings. When a fire broke out in his neighbourhood and the family was unable to avail aid, it spurred him to action. He began collecting and spreading information on government schemes and tried to fix small problems, like broken roads, through the Resident Welfare Associations. Today, he’s a leading member of the Purvi Dilli Aapda Prehari – a citizen’s platform. Enhancing linkages with the local line departments, they are working to make their community safer. This extends to his own profession, where he

“We are now making serious efforts on the safety measures of our small-scale bakeries so they can get licenses and recognition. For if we have a positive vision, we can convert challenges to opportunities and no one can stop us from being successful.”

– Alam Gir, small business owner, East Delhi, India
Mr. Kiren Rijiju highlighted that we must completely forget political boundaries when looking at disasters, coming together instead as communities. He spoke about the government efforts to build capacity sub-nationally, encouraging states to put together State Disaster Response Forces, strengthening civil defense and volunteer systems. He emphasised that real action centre is the district and that these are the bodies we need to empower.

Mr. Rijiju also spoke about the high level of participation from various stakeholders in the AMCDRR process and the important role civil society will play in taking government policies to the grassroots.
Mr. Willem Rampanglei shared experiences on how the national government has helped enable local action in Indonesia. As an archipelagic country with thousands of islands and diverse groups, ensuring an inclusive DRR policy-making process is huge challenge. However, a decentralised system has been established with local DM agencies in all provinces and more than 90% of cities and towns. Using evidence and science-based community action, the government is also helping enhance technical capacities.

He ended with a call for continued support for the Asian Local Leaders Forum for Disaster Resilience to achieve resilience at the local level.

“Local leaders can play a crucial role in building resilience. They serve as agents of change, able to operate across organizational hierarchies, connect with groups and build consensus. These actions influence initiatives to make sustainable development goals achievable. As such, the role of local leaders to ‘Bring Resiliencies Home’ is vital.”

– H.E Willem Rampanglei, Head of the National Disaster Management Agency, Republic of Indonesia
Target E of the Sendai Framework states, ‘Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020’ This is a crucial step towards being able to achieve the other six targets. These deal with substantially reducing disaster mortality, the number of affected people, direct economic loss and damage to critical infrastructure; and increasing access to disaster information and international cooperation.

“The Local Leaders forum celebrates those on the frontlines. It will play an important role in implementing the Sendai framework in the years to come.”

– Ms. Kirsi Madi, Director of UNISDR

“In the run-up to the World Conference on DRR last year, the Road to Sendai campaign managed to reach 7 million people in 55 countries. This shows the power of what we can do together. I hope all of you will join us in this journey of building resilience at the local level.”

– Ms. Fen Min Kan, Head of UNISDR Regional Office, Bangkok
THE WAY FORWARD

This local leader’s forum will play a vital part in taking the Sendai Framework forward. It has been incorporated as an official measure in the Asian Regional Action Plan, part of the outcome documents of the 7th Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR in 2016. It is a local activity under Priority 2-H: Foster local leadership and forums such as the ‘Asian Local Disaster Risk and Resilience Forum’.

With the strong support shown for the concept, a variety steps are envisioned in the months ahead. These will be undertaken to create a strong foundation and formalise the process to take the Asian Local Leaders Forum for Disaster Resilience forward.

Selection criteria for local leaders will be finalised followed by nominations from local communities across Asia and a vetting process by an empowered jury.

A mentoring programme for skill building of these leaders will be developed and put in place. The leaders will also attend annual events; ensuring cross-linkages are strengthened.

The forum will also look at strategic partnerships, strengthening its position as a driver to implement and substantively review local implementation of the resilience agenda. Innovations and social enterprises will be encouraged finding new ways of working that have an impact on policy.

In early 2017, a local leaders guide to resilience, currently being developed under the programme will be launched.
This report has been compiled by SEEDS/Saferworld Communications
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