

### Invitation to an Open Forum: **Psychosocial Response to Disasters with Focus on Children in Asia**

The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) with support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is hosting an **Open Forum on Psychosocial Response to Disasters with Focus on Children in Asia**. The Open Forum will be held at Imperial Queen's Park Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand on **26 January 2010** from **9:00 am-4:00 pm**.

The Open Forum will explore this vital issue through keynote presentations, case studies and debate. It will bring together representatives from Ministries of Health, Non-Governmental Agencies, National Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies from Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam, UN and donor agencies, academic institutions and media representatives.

Participants will have the opportunity to share and learn from experiences in the management of psychosocial responses to disasters and emergencies in children. The event will identify challenges and gaps in capacity to deal with child psychosocial issues, resulting from disasters and emergencies in Asia.

The Open Forum is part of ADPC's wider initiative on Psychosocial Response to Disasters, with funding support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The project will strengthen national capacity throughout Asia, to manage the psychosocial aspects of disasters and emergencies.

ADPC would be delighted if you are able to attend this event and to raise awareness of ways that Asia can become more 'disaster prepared'. Asia is world's most disaster-prone region. Now is the time to prepare to support Asia's children, for the future of the region.

If you are able to accept our invitation, please submit the attached Registration Form **by 11 January 2010** to **Esther Lake, Communications and Information Coordinator, ADPC:**

**e-mail: [esther@adpc.net](mailto:esther@adpc.net)**

**tel: +66 (0) 2298 0681 ext 407**

Media interviews available on request\*. If you require further information please contact Esther Lake, or go to the ADPC website **[www.adpc.net/phe](http://www.adpc.net/phe)**

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#### Notes to Editors

**\*Keynote speakers available for interview on request:**

**Dr. Benjaporn Panyayong**, Senior Psychiatrist, Dept. of Mental Health, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand

**Dr. Satyabrata Dash**, Head of Bangladesh Office, ActionAid Australia

**Dr. Atle Dyregrov**, Director, Center for Crisis Psychology, Bergen, Norway

**Prof. William Yule**, Professor Emeritus, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London, UK

**Dr. Bhichit Rattakul**, Executive Director ADPC

**ADPC:** Established in 1986 at the initiatives of three UN agencies – WMO, UNDP and UNOCHA, ADPC supports the advancement of safer communities and sustainable development, through implementing programs and projects that reduce the impact of disasters upon countries and communities in Asia and the Pacific. With more than 100 staffs from 20 different countries, ADPC's activities cover four thematic areas: Climate Risk Management (CRM), Disaster Management System (DMS), Public Health in Emergencies (PHE), and Urban Disaster Risk Management (UDRM). ADPC also provides 20 regional training courses.