

**Official Statement**  
**by Mr.Pornpoth Penpas, Deputy Director-General of**  
**Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation**  
**at the Global Platform**  
**22 May 2013, 13.00 Hours**  
**Geneva, Switzerland**

-----

**Excellencies;**

**Distinguished delegates;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of Thailand's delegation to the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction 2013, I would like to convey my sincere thanks and appreciation to the organizer of this event for the invitation and for the hospitalities that have been given to all members of our delegation. To us, the Global Platform is an important and special venue for sharing and learning the disaster risk reduction experiences and best practices.

Let me begin by telling you a short story about Thailand and disaster risk reduction. Just a few months after the Global Platform 2011, in August 2011, our country faced the worst flood in more than 50 years, as a result from 4 tropical cyclones. The flood killed several hundreds of people and brought about huge losses in economic terms. The World Bank estimated the total cost of damage from this particular disaster is as high as 4 trillion US Dollars, making this disaster number four in the world in the aspect of economic loss.

I am now delighted to share with you what we have learned from the Mega Flood 2011. First, we have learned that there is a need to have a strong coordination with all stakeholders. Secondly, we have learned that public awareness is the utmost important issue that we need to make it happen. Thirdly, we should pay more attention to disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management. Last but not least, we should engage the private sectors to DRR programme.

Since the 2011 flood, we have introduced a number of countermeasures. The emphasis has been put on building back better for reconstruction. Many communities living in the flood prone areas were trained with the principle of Community-Based Disaster Risk Management. In this case, they also learned about the climate change adaptation. Some

cities in Thailand have joined local self assessment tool so as to prepare and make their cities resilient. Business sector and the government have undertaken a series of projects related to post-disaster reconstruction and national preparedness and response plans. Some of these projects have been supported by the government's Women Development Fund. More importantly, there has been a growing number of budget allocation for disaster risk reduction.

In terms of the next step, Thailand will strengthen disaster and climate risk resilience and seriously look at social development and social protection issues. And in this opportunity I would like to inform you once again that Thailand will host the 6th AMCDRR in June 2013. The 6th AMCDRR will then lead to the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. Therefore, as the chair of the regional platform, we will coordinate and call for all countries and all parties concerned in the region to develop and move forward to a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction or HFA2.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like to end my speech by thanking the organizer of this event for giving the opportunity to Thailand to express our thoughts in relation to disaster risk reduction. This is a truly excellent venue that encourage decision makers as well as players around the globe to continue to develop and make progress of their works. I am looking forward to seeing you in Thailand in the 6th AMCDRR.

Thank you