Name and Type of Event	Disability Network Consultation Meeting
Date	Sunday 19 May 2013
Reporters name	Dr Alex Robinson
Number of Participants	35

1) What were the key messages, outcomes and recommendations from your event?

Panelists and participants noted concern over the lack of reference to disability in the HFA. This was considered to have contributed to a lack of engagement with, and involvement of, people with disability themselves in disaster risk reduction practice and policy.

Article 11, on situations of risk (including natural disasters) of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was cited as a key point of policy reference.

Panelists provided practical examples of the contribution of people with disability at both the community and policy levels. One participant, a woman with disability, noted "you need us, we are the natural problem solvers and there are 1 billion of us in the world".

All agreed that disability should not be seen as a discrete or exclusive issue, rather that the cross-cutting nature of disability should be noted and responded to. The bi-directional link between disability and poverty was noted. As was the fact that disability amplifies risk across already at-risk groups e.g. a child with disability or a woman with disability.

The issue of a lack of general data on people with disability at both national and sub-national levels was noted. Better collection and sharing of data on disability across and within departments and agencies is required for more effective DRR planning.

The relationship between disasters and disability was noted to be not only one of participation pre-disaster, but also the concern that people acquire a disability during/after disasters. Disability, therefore, should be considered a central concern within disaster risk reduction.

Issues of access including equal access to information (made easier via information communication technologies) were raised. The increased risk placed on women with disability in inaccessible evacuation centres was also raised. The need for a 'universal access' approach was considered highly important.

The issue of cost of providing universal access was raised. Participants agreed that investments universal access reduce costs over the longer term in terms of economic and human losses and are of benefit to whole communities; not only to people with disability. However, it was stressed that disability should not be considered as a technical issue requiring technical solutions. Disability is a social issue requiring very human solutions.

2) Based on the Synthesis Report of the HFA2 consultation process up to the GP13, what are specific recommendations and concrete examples for the main topics, themes and issues to be addressed in the HFA2?

Participants agreed on the following recommendations:

- HFA2 should recognise the cross-cutting issue of disability-inclusion and all stakeholders should take appropriate action to respond to the disproportionate impact that disasters have on persons with disabilities.

- HFA2 should address the significance of investing in disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction to minimise human and economic loss, safeguard development gains and promote sustainable solutions benefiting all communities.

- HFA2 should ensure the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities, their families, representative organisations of persons with disabilities and all disaster risk reduction stakeholders at all levels within disaster risk reduction policy and practice. Such participation, and universal accessibility, is best ensured by mobilising the expertise and strengths of persons with disabilities themselves.