



Media Statement on Disaster Risk Reduction at the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Yogyakarta, Republic of Indonesia, 25 October 2012

National and local media play an important and fundamental role in promoting disaster risk reduction policies, holding governments and local councils accountable and in advancing the disaster risk reduction agendas at national and local level. The media have an active role to play in the early warning chain and are essential partners to help educate communities, highlight the particular needs of vulnerable groups and to channel disaster risk reduction messages to different audiences.

The media recognize the increasing importance of disaster risk reduction issues in current affairs and the power of communications in building the resilience of people.

The media recognize the role they can play in informing and educating people including the most vulnerable groups of society about the disaster risks they are facing and are willing to work closer with national and local disaster risk reduction partners to keep their audiences informed and save more lives and protect more assets against disasters.

Regional media organizations present at the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Yogyakarta in October 2012 declare that media should take disaster risk reduction as a serious threat to development and as such commit to:

- Provide balanced, accurate, timely coverage of disaster risks before, during and after disasters
- Prioritize the dissemination of accurate information on natural hazards and disaster risk reduction and dedicate more time and space to report on the causes of disasters and what can be done to prevent disasters
- Network with media peers and journalist associations to convey the message of the Declaration in order to strengthen the resilience of communities

In conclusion:

We, reporters present at the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference, and representing the following media organizations are endorsing the final declaration and will help to actively promote implementation of the priority areas for action in the Hyogo Framework for Action.

Names of signatories

Myanmar Times - Myanmar
The Global Times - China
The Phnom Penh Post - Cambodia
The Daily Ittefaq - Bangladesh
The Sunday Nation - Sri Lanka
Waqt TV News - Pakistan
The Inquirer - the Philippines
NHK - Japan
Bhutan Broadcasting Service
The National News Agency - Nepal
Tempo Magazine - Indonesia
Vientiane Times - Lao PDR
Vientiane Mai - Lao PDR
Vietnam Television (VTV) - Vietnam
The Hindu - India