

## ASSESSMENT OF ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE DECADE

### Information on Provider

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### Experience and Recent Disasters (Part 1)

1.1 . **Please provide a list of major disasters your country has experienced during the past five (5) years.**

- 1) The collapse of Highlands Towers Condominium - December 11, 1993.
- 2) Landslide in Genting Highlands - June 30, 1995.
- 3) Mudslide in Post Dipang aborigines Settlements - August 29, 1996.
- 4) Tropical storm "Greg" in Sabah - December 26, 1996.
- 5) Widespread peat/forest fires January - May 1998.

**1.2 What were the impacts of the above listed disasters? (i.e. direct damage to assets vs. long-term damage to the local economy, health, etc).**

361 lives were lost more than RM200 millions worth of properties and infrastructure were damaged. More that 2000 hectares of land were burnt. Haze effect on health is still studied.

**1.3 Which measures were taken to reduce the impact of the disaster? What measures will be taken to avoid impacts of future disasters?**

- 1) Resettlements of people living along the river banks and landslides prone areas.
- 2) Constructing of retention walls in landslides prone areas.
- 3) Improving early warning systems.
- 4) Formulation and enforcement of laws and regulations with regard to hilly areas development.
- 5) Proactive approach to tackle forest fires as well as the enhancement of enforcement, awareness/education and the beefing up Helicopter fire-fighting units.

**1.4 Do you believe there can be improvements in preparing for natural hazards in your country and in preventing negative impacts of such hazards? What sort of improvements?**

Yes, there should be improvement in early warning systems, constructing of structural facilities to prevent and reduce the impact. Improving the educational and disaster awareness among communities in disaster prone areas and conducting disaster exercise and drills among the communities.

**1.5 Do you believe the IDNDR helped your country to give greater attention to disaster reduction?**

IDNDR has in fact helped our government in taking into consideration the criteria of sustainable development through effective disaster reduction in the planning and implementation of development projects with regard to infrastructure development.

**1.6 Please provide an example(s) an achievement(s) incorporating successful preventive approaches which you consider a "success story".**

- 1) The construction of Kenyir Dam in Terengganu.
- 2) The construction of Pergau Dam in Kelantan.
- 3) The widening and deepening of Kelang River.

**Progress made, since the inception of IDNDR, in the field of disaster reduction as a component of development planning and risk management (Part 2)**

**2.1 Please provide a brief statement of national accomplishment and/or describe current activities related to the achievement of the IDNDR Programme Targets:**

- a) **Comprehensive national assessment of risks. If an assessment exists, is it published codified?**
  - i) The formulation of National Haze Action Plan.
  - ii) The formulation of Special Malaysia Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team (SMART).
  - iii) The formulation of Policy and Mechanism of National Disaster Management and Relief. (National Security Council Directive Np. 20).
- b) **Structured mitigation plans. Do documented comprehensive national disaster management plans exist? Plans at national, provincial and local levels, if available, will be useful to describe the progress.**
  - i) The issuance of NSC Directive No. 20 (Policy and Mechanism of National Disaster Management and Relief - issued on May 11, 1997).
- c) **Ready access to global, regional, national and local early warning systems. Can you provide examples of early warning practices and demonstrated successes?**

Please refer to comments by Malaysian Meteorological Services.

**2.2 What obstacles do you face which prevent the accomplishment of the Decade targets? What are your recommendations to best overcome these obstacles?**

One of the obstacles may be insufficient budget for mitigation projects.

This however could be solved by having cooperation among regional member countries such as through ASEAN Experts Group On Disaster Management. This way, member countries could take collaborative efforts in disaster mitigation and prevention.

- 2.3 **To what extent have you established and implemented educational and information programmes aimed at generating public awareness? What methods of information dissemination have been utilized?**

The Department of Information at various levels of administration has played its role in enlightening the public on disaster awareness and prevention. TV and Radio channels have been utilised for the purpose.

- 2.4 **Have you liaised with policy makers and major groups, such as local authorities, NGOs, and the media, in order to ensure support for and effectiveness of disaster reduction programmes? Please describe your activities.**

NSC as the National Coordinating Body in disaster management is responsible for formulating policies and coordinating the activities of relevant agencies in implementing disaster reduction and prevention in the country. Thus, those agencies concerned have played their roles and carried out responsibilities in line with the National Policy of Disaster Management.

- 2.5 **To what extent have you worked with other sectors in incorporating disaster reduction activities in their planning (i.e. insurance, banking, private sector and development agencies)?**

In line with the NSC Directive No. 20, all sectors in the country should play their role in disaster reduction either directly or indirectly. However, the banking and the insurance sectors did not involve directly at the moment.

- 2.6 **The Decade provides in international arena for information exchange as well as an extensive international network of partners, how have these inputs contributed to achieving the goals of the Decade?**

As far as Malaysia is concerned, we have a good networking of relationship with other countries in exchanging information, training and exercises. This networking has enhanced our capability and readiness in pursuing disaster prevention in the development of our country.

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### **Regional/Subregional Achievements based on national perspectives (Part 3)**

- 3.1 **Please describe important achievements in your region/subregion on disaster preparedness and reduction since the inception of the IDNDR.**

1) The holding of the ASEAN Experts Group on Disaster Management meeting. The

- last meeting was held in Singapore (28 - 30 April 1998).
- 2) The signing of MoU between Malaysia and Indonesia on Disaster Cooperation and Assistance on 11 December 1997.
  - 3) The holding of Joint Exercises on Search and Rescue between Special Malaysia Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team (SMART) of Malaysia and Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team (DART) of Singapore.

**3.2 Do you take part in any regional Subregional mechanism on disaster reduction? If yes, what type of mechanism is it and is there any linkage to IDNDR? Please describe.**

Yes, during the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Haze, there was a proposal to set up the Subregional Fire Fighting Arrangement (SFFA) to prevent forest fire in Indonesia. This has of course contributed to IDNDR in that it will lead to haze free environment in the region.

**3.3 Have you participated in any Regional/Subregional events related to IDNDR? If yes, what are the benefits obtained from these events?**

- 1) World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction - Yokohama, Japan, 23 - 27 May, 1994.
- 2) Natural Disaster Reduction Conference, Gold Coast, Australia, 29 September - 2 October 1996.
- 3) High Level Seminar for Asia and the Pacific Region on the International and Regional use of Military and Civil Defence Assets (MCDA), Yogyakarta, 28 - 31 July 1997.
- 4) ASEAN Experts Group Meeting On Disaster Management, Singapore, 28 - 30 April 1998. These events have enhanced our national capability in preparing for disaster.

**3.4 Is there any need to further strengthen Regional/Subregional cooperation in disaster preparedness and reduction? If yes, please explain.**

Regional/Subregional cooperation in disaster preparedness should be strengthened. This is because it would ensure that progress in disaster reduction generated within the decade will set the stage for the international community to effectively ensure a safer world for the 21st century.

## Structures in Place (Part 4)

- 4.1 **Is there a designated government authority for disaster reduction activities? If yes, is this authority's commitment to prevention embodied in the government structure, priorities, budget and legislation?**

There is no specific government authority for disaster reduction activities. Each agency has its own laws and regulation in exercising disaster prevention. For instance, the local authorities and municipal Councils have to ensure that development projects undertaken should comply with various regulations in regard to disaster prevention before they are approved.

- 4.2 **Have budget lines for disaster reduction and preventive activities been made available in your government's budget?**

The Government has allocated certain amount of money for disaster reduction projects carried out by the Department of Drainage and Irrigation (DID), Malaysian Meteorological Service, Department of Public Works and etc. For instance, the Government has allocated RM800 million for DID for the 7th Malaysia Plan (1996 - 2000) to carry out flood mitigation projects.

- 4.3 **Have legislative authorities (national, state or local level) established legal frameworks for the implementation of disaster mitigation measures (i.e. land-use planning, water and forest management, building codes)?**

- 1) Environmental Quality Act 1974.
- 2) Local Government Act 1976.
- 3) Uniform Building By Laws 1984.

- 4.4 **Have academic institutions and professional schools in disciplines such as engineering, geology, agriculture, architecture, urban planning, business or public administration incorporated in their curricula applicable disaster-reduction concepts and measures? Please provide examples.**

These professional Associations have played their roles in contributing towards disaster reduction:

- 1) Malaysian Institute of Public Works.
- 2) Malaysian Architects Associations.

- 3) Petroleum National Berhad (Petronas).
- 4) University Putra Malaysia.
- 5) National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN).

**4.5 Have networks been build in order to aid in the transfer and application of existing knowledge and technology, information dissemination and international collaboration? Please briefly describe.**

Malaysia has established MoU with the French Government on the Cooperation in Disaster Management on May 25, 1998. Through this MoU France will assist Malaysia in terms of training of personnels involved in disaster handling especially in regard to forest fire and search and rescue.

**4.6 Who are your principal working partners? Do they represent an interdisciplinary approach to disaster reduction?**

NSC is the National Coordinating Body which monitors and oversees disaster reduction efforts and measures taken by various relevant agencies in the country. With the issuance of NSC Directive No. 20, disaster management in the country is carried out through multisectoral approach among various agencies at appropriate level an in a coordinated manner.

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### **Future Requirements (Part 5)**

**5. Given your experience since the inception on the Decade and the new challenges of disasters in the 21st century, please provide comments as to what you believe are the necessary future requirements needed to successfully carry disaster reduction activities into the 21st century. Listed below are some criteria for your consideration:**

- **international mechanism for coordination.**
- **budgetary commitments.**
- **policy commitment.**
- **network building.**
- **information dissemination.**

- **communication tools.**
- **local authorities.**
- **links to economic and social development programmes, environmental protection and sustainable development.**

In promoting disaster reduction activities into the 21st century, there should be programmes to promote sufficient knowledge and technology to lessen the impact of disasters on people and property. The challenge now is to enhance awareness and adoption of appropriate measures to prevent, mitigate and prepare for natural disasters. In addition, various measures could be taken in terms of disaster cooperation. Some of them are:

- a) Cooperation and assisting each other in specific tasks (e.g. providing training in risk assessment techniques).
- b) Cooperation in mitigation measures/projects benefiting the countries concerned.
- c) Cooperation in alerting and advising each other information dissemination and warning system.
- d) Cooperation in rendering/accepting assistance from foreign experts participating in post disaster management assessment.

2. **Please identify priorities in international cooperation, such as the establishment of regional/subregional warning systems, disaster preparedness, technology transfer, financial resources, technical assistance, etc. which you deem pertinent in order to sustain disaster reduction activities in the future.**

- a) No-structural mitigation measures:
  - i) To strengthen Disaster Management System.
  - ii) To increase training activities.
  - iii) To promote public awareness on disaster prevention.
  - iv) To improve forecasting and warning system.
  - v) To improve hazard mapping.



- b) Structural measures:
    - i) To implement structural mitigation measures such as landslide control measures and river embankment.
3. **What sort of national or international measures would you like to be put in place in the 21st century?**
- a) International cooperation in transferring expert knowledge and technology and providing training in disaster reduction.
  - b) International cooperation to increase awareness of disaster reduction.
  - c) International cooperation on devising systems for providing and accepting disaster relief.

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Experience and Recent Disasters (Part 1)

1.1. Please provide a list of major disasters your country has experienced during the past five (5) years.

- a) Highland Towers tragedy - a block of condominium collapsed - 11 Dec. 1993
- b) Debris flow on the sliproad to Genting Highlands - 30 June 1995
- c) Debris flow at Pas Dipang, Perak - 29 August 1996

1.2. What were the impacts of the above listed disasters?(i.e direct damage to assets vs. long-term damage to the local economy, health, etc).

Direct damage to assets and several people perished and injured

1.3. Which measures were taken to reduce the impact of the disaster? What measures will be taken to avoid impacts of future disasters? All of the disasters occurred due to heavy rainfall which triggered the landslides/debris flows. To avoid impact of future disaster, several regulation related to the maintenance of slope and drainage system were reviewed and strengthened. Several studies have been carried out such as terrain mapping to identify the landslide potential and prone areas.

1. Do you believe there can be improvements in preparing for natural hazards in your country and in preventing negative impacts of such hazards? What sort of improvements?

Yes, by improving the public awareness on such hazards and proper action taken by the relevant authorities

1.5. Do you believe the IDNDR helped your country to give greater attention to disaster reduction?

Yes  No  Explain: Not enough help in terms of financial and technical supports

1.6. Please provide an example(s) an achievement (s) incorporating successful preventive approaches which you consider a "success story"

None

Progress made, since the inception of IDNDR, in the field of disaster reduction as a component of development planning and risk management (Part 2)

2.1. Please provide a brief statement of national accomplishment and/or describe current activities related to the achievement of the IDNDR Programme Targets:

(a) Comprehensive national assessment of risks. If an assessment exists, is it published or codified?.....

No.

(b) Structured mitigation plans. Do documented comprehensive national disaster management plans exist? Plans at national, provincial and local levels, if available, will be useful to describe the progress.....

The government has set up the National Disaster Management and Relief Committee chaired by a Cabinet Minister at federal level. Committees at states and districts levels have also been set up.

(c) Ready access to global, regional, national and local early warning systems. Can you provide examples of early warning practices and demonstrated successes?.....

Information on rainfall provided by the Department of Meteorological Services can be considered as an early warning system which warn the public on the risk of the occurrence of landslides and floods.

2.2. What obstacles do you face which prevent the accomplishment of the Decade targets? What are your recommendations to best overcome these obstacles?.....

Lack of information, technical know-how and financial. International bodies such as ESCAP can help by providing financial and technical assistances. Close cooperation among the various agencies involved in disaster prevention is required.

2.3. To what extent have you established and implemented educational and information programmes aimed at generating public awareness? What methods of information dissemination have been utilized?.....

Not much; however the Geological Survey Department had disseminate information on earthquake which include list of action that need to be taken by people in the affected area during and after the earthquake. This had been done in a form of pamphlet.

2.4. Have you liaised with policy makers and major groups, such as local authorities, NGOs, and the media, in order to ensure support for and effectiveness of disaster reduction programmes? Please describe your activities.....

The National Disaster Management and Relief Committee acts as a coordinator and its members comprises of relevant government agencies.

2.5. To what extent have you worked with other sectors in incorporating disaster reduction activities into their planning (i.e. insurance, banking, private sector and development agencies)?.....

Provide geological inputs such as information on geohazards to the Department of Town and Country Planning and also helping the Dept. of Environment by reviewing the EIA reports. Geological Survey Department is also a member of the National Disaster and Relief Committee.

2.6. The Decade provides an international arena for information exchange as well as an extensive international network of partners, how have these inputs contributed to achieving the goals of the Decade? .....  
*The impacts have not been clearly seen yet.*

Regional/Subregional Achievements based on national perspectives (Part 3)

3.1. Please describe important achievements in your region/subregion on disaster preparedness and reduction since the inception of the IDNDR. ....  
*Not much improvement*

3.2. Do you take part in any regional/subregional mechanism on disaster reduction? If yes, what type of mechanism is it and is there any linkage to IDNDR? Please describe. ....  
*No*

3.3. Have you participated in any regional/subregional events related to IDNDR? If yes, what are the benefits obtained from these events? .....  
*No*

3.4. Is there any need to further strengthen regional/subregional cooperation in disaster preparedness and reduction? If yes, please explain. ....  
*Yes. Information on the climate particularly on rainfalls.*

Structures in Place (Part 4)

4.1. Is there a designated government authority for disaster reduction activities? If yes, is this authority's commitment to prevention embodied in the government structure, priorities, budget and legislation? .....

The National Disaster Management and Relief Committee chaired by a Cabinet Minister.

4.2. Have budget lines for disaster reduction and preventive activities been made available in your government's budget? .....

Yes

4.3. Have legislative authorities (national, state or local level) established legal frameworks for the implementation of disaster mitigation measures (ie. land-use planning, water and forest management, building codes)? .....

Yes

4.4. Have academic institutions and professional schools in disciplines such as engineering, geology, agriculture, architecture, urban planning, business or public administration incorporated in their curricula applicable disaster-reduction concepts and measures? Please provide examples. ....

Not enough information. However, we understand that some of the institutions do incorporate in their curricula such concepts and measures. For example study on the geological hazards is being offered by the Department of Geology at the local universities.

4.5. Have networks been build in order to aid in the transfer and application of existing knowledge and technology, information dissemination and international collaboration? Please briefly describe. ....

Yes and coordinated by the National Disaster and Relief Committee

4.6. Who are your principal working partners? Do they represent an interdisciplinary approach to disaster reduction? .....

The National Disaster and Relief Committee

## Future Requirements (Part 5)

5.1. Given your experience since the inception of the Decade and the new challenges of disasters in the 21st century, please provide comments as to what you believe are the necessary future requirements needed to successfully carry disaster reduction activities into the 21st century. Listed below are some criteria for your consideration:

- international mechanism for coordination
- budgetary commitments
- policy commitment
- network building
- information dissemination
- communication tools
- local authorities
- links to economic and social development programmes, environmental protection and sustainable development

Proper land-use planning and to apply integrated approach as opposed to a sectoral approach in the management of land, forest and natural resources.

5.2. Please identify priorities in international cooperation, such as the establishment of regional/subregional warning systems, disaster preparedness, technology transfer, financial resources, technical assistance, etc. which you deem pertinent in order to sustain disaster reduction activities in the future.

- ① Technical assistance
- ② Financial resources
- ③ Technology transfer

5.3. What sort of national or international measures would you like to be put in place in the 21st century?

A mechanism and strategy on disaster management should be in place.