



Ten Years On: The Indian Ocean Tsunami From Learning to Action

Khao Lak, Thailand, 26 December 2014

Message from Khao Lak to Sendai

On the occasion of the ten year anniversary of the Indian Ocean Tsunami on 26 December 2004, a panel discussion on “Ten Years On: The Indian Ocean Tsunami - From Learning to Action” was held in Khao Lak, Phang Nga, Thailand.

Organized by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, the event was moderated by Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, with welcoming remarks delivered by H.E. Mr. Sihasak Phuangketkeow, Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Thailand.

Discussions centred upon reviewing what has been learnt over the past decade, how this knowledge has been applied and what more needs to be done to make our societies more resilient to similar events in the future. As we move from the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-15 to the Post 2015 framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the importance of ‘bridging the gap’ between communities; private and public sector; and local and national level was also discussed.

In this regard, importance was given to the following action points for the consideration of the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held during 14-18 March 2015, in Sendai, Japan:

1. Enhance understanding of risk at all levels. In particular, individuals and communities should be aware of risks at the local level, while national governments should be to be aware of risks at the national level.
2. Improve access to risk information for all stakeholders, particularly at the local level.
3. Incorporate disaster risk and risk reduction measures and issues in education curricula at all levels.

4. Promote a culture of safety and prevention by both the public and private sectors at all levels, which should be viewed as a cost-effective investment, not an expense.
5. Work together using a multi-stakeholder approach in the spirit of 'shared responsibility' so that all actors join hands at the local, national, regional and global levels in an inclusive and meaningful manner.
6. Promote the full utilization of community-based knowledge in disaster risk management, together with the latest scientific and technical information.
7. Improve early warning systems and technologies, especially in ensuring that early warning messages reach the whole community and trigger action at the local level.
8. Enhance efforts by the national governments to strengthen community resilience, local capacity, institutional mechanisms, national policies and plans and response preparedness for catastrophic events.
9. Promote efforts by the private sector to make their businesses safe and resilient from disasters and move forward from corporate social responsibility and business continuity to holistic disaster risk management.
10. Promote development of standards to increase understanding of disaster risk and risk reduction issues.
11. Strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation for disaster risk reduction, particularly the implementation of the Post 2015 framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, with particular attention given to those countries in need and most vulnerable.
12. Promote efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals and climate change adaptation through the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction measures in development.
