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**Title of the Session:** Community ownership and inclusion in DRR planning and implementation.

**Date:** 27/03/2017 to 02/04/2017

## **Summary**

The DRR strategy of the nation is potentially encouraging community participation. However, it seems that on a the grand scale, the attitude of the people has not changed significantly yet. Without promoting and ensuring community ownership, DRR activities will not succeed as needed. An excessive focus on values such as individualism and capital gains ('money') do not favor that community as a whole feels compelled to participate in a more balanced DRR strategy with the involvement of key sectors. It is important that we adapt information, education and communication strategies to the realities and needs of a rapidly changing life style in many places of this world. The Panchayati Raj Institution (a decentralized form of government system in India) contributions are very appreciable, but do have limited coverage. We need to help communities get informed and with capacities to participate effectively in DRR.

## **Context**

The new world order seems above all to favor individualism, and in the case of DRR in India, it is a huge challenge to promote the movement of a community based disaster risk management, making progress towards a more comprehensive DRR approach rather slow.

Nevertheless, in much of the rural sector there is a positive attitude of community-based DRR activities. The concept of inclusion is also something that many communities wish to understand better and integrate into their local policies, but often communities do not know how to promote inclusion in practical terms.

In addition, the pace of development has changed the priorities and mechanisms that are needed to ensure feasible environmental protection strategies in accordance with local conditions. In general, communities need to learn more on how to manage renewable and non-renewable resources.

While information technology has made remote operations and communication much easier than before, there seems to be less interest to be involved in truly participatory activities at community level. People do not seem interested like before in coming together at village level and discuss –and together resolve- common issues.

In short, there appear to be many contradictory effects of new technological developments and other advances as social values and participation have received much less emphasis in current work in DRR and other sectors.