

**Statement of Mr. Anucha Mokkhavesa  
Director-General of Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation  
On The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction Second Session  
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**H.E. Mr. Hans-Rudolf Merz, President of the Swiss Confederation,**

**Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations,**

**Mr. John Holmes, Under Secretary of the United Nations for  
Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordination,**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentleman,**

Good Morning. I am Anucha Mokkhavesa, Director-General of Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation or DDPM under the Ministry of Interior. It is my great pleasure to be a part of this remarkable platform and please allow me to thank UNISDR for this excellent meeting arrangement.

I would like to take the behalf of the Royal Thai Government in regard of disaster risk reduction scheme to brief Thailand's accomplishments and challenges in the past several years of disaster risk management.

As the principle government agency to develop and enhance disaster management system in Thailand, DDPM in partnership with concerned agencies and organizations of all levels have been implementing numerous initiatives and measures to ensure nation's disaster preparedness and ultimately safety of the nation.

At the national level, since the strike of tsunami in 2004 which is regarded as the waking call to Thai society, we realized that disaster preparedness and mitigation should be more highlighted. To address this, Thailand recently launched the new national legal framework; “Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Act 2007” to better systematize the national disaster management and to better respond to the current disaster situation. According to the Act, the three-year-Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Plan is going to be developed to give all sectors and stakeholders guideline to develop their own plans of action and exercises. Furthermore, in the hope to reinforce the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction approach, Thailand has embraced the Hyogo Framework for Action and successfully had the Strategic National Action Plan (SNAP) adopted by the Cabinet in March 24, 2009. The national plan together with this strategic plan of action will be used as a tool to ensure the betterment of the country.

Besides the two major plans, based on the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Act 2007, Thailand by DDPM has developed a lot of master plans for each type of disaster including; Master Plan for Flood; Master Plan for Windstorm and Mudslide Hazards Prevention; Mitigation and Recovery Services in Emergency Period (5-Year Master Plan); Master Plan for Tsunami Evacuation Drill; National Fire Safety Plan; and Master Plans for emerging disasters such as earthquake and collapsed building, tourism related disaster, global warming, and so on.

It is very obvious to me that though we have many legal frameworks, we cannot reach the set goal unless local authorities involve in the efforts. As a result, Thailand initiates various mechanisms at the local level to underpin the commitment of the local authorities and above all the establishment of Thailand’s disaster safety culture. Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Approach is then implemented throughout the country. Under this approach, individual, local authorities,

schools and community as a whole are educated and trained in basic disaster risk reduction and response.

We begin with the three projects which are the very first steps to attract local people and local authorities. Firstly, engage more people with civic mind to join the Civil Defence Volunteer Group. These groups of people have strong will to support the works of all public affairs including disaster management. Secondly, One Tambon One Search and Rescue or OTOS Project was launched to persuade local authorities to set up their own SAR Team with necessary tools and equipment to protect their people and their community from small disaster. Thirdly, Mr. Disaster Warning Project was born to give more specific knowledge and skill to community member to learn how to monitor potential flashflood and landslide and warn their friends and relatives by using simple rain gauge and manual siren.

Afterwards, we have been thinking hard on how to upgrade and improve our communities' capability in disaster preparedness. We then develop another stepping step to reach our ultimate goal. Those supplementing initiatives include 1) the establishment of Emergency Response Team or ERT to serve as the national special strike team during a large-scale disaster; 2) the Healthy Community Project in which all training efforts and component of the above-mentioned projects are conducted in the selected areas; and 3) Safety School Project in which teachers and students of the primary school are trained in basic emergency management and response.

I am pleased to inform you that such investment now has yielded a promising result. We now have almost two millions civil defence volunteers to supplement and support the works of government agencies. We also have developed a cadre of OTOS and Mr. Disaster Warning throughout the

country. A great number of school teachers and students also received a series of disaster risk management and response training. And finally, over 3,000 communities are trained in disaster risk reduction and to some extent can better respond and cope with their local hazards.

To give you the more concrete picture of the success of our efforts, one of Mr. Disaster Warning in Fang District, Chiang Mai Province can save over 300 lives of their friends and family from flash flood in 2005. He also got an award of the best Civil Defence Volunteer for his on-going dedication to the safety of the local community.

**Ladies and Gentleman,**

I should say that at present Thailand has many handy tools to direct disaster risk reduction efforts and effective mechanisms to achieve the safety Thailand in the future. However, it would be unwise to be satisfied with what we have achieved so far. Disaster is getting intensified and globalized; therefore, a periodical intensive and comprehensive disaster education together with promotion of better understanding and awareness amongst key players at policy making level are required. More importantly, cooperation at regional and global level in disaster risk reduction is also a supporting mechanism for Thailand to better cope with disaster and all kinds of emergencies.

Thank you.