

Special Event (SE 21)

Indigenous Knowledge for Disaster Risk Reduction

(13:30 – 15:00 Wednesday 17th June 2009, Room 16, CICG)

Session Organizers

SDMC, Kyoto University, ICIMOD, UNISDR, ADPC

Session Agenda

Welcome and Introduction: Mr. P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti, Director SDMC (5 minutes)

Release of Publications: (5 minutes)

- a) Indigenous Knowledge for Disaster Risk Reduction in South Asia
- b) Policy Note on Indigenous Knowledge and Disaster Risk Reduction

Viewpoints: (60 minutes)

- a) Role and Importance of Indigenous Knowledge in Disaster Risk Reduction in the Changing Contexts: Salvano Briceno, UN ISDR (10 Minutes)
- b) IK and DRR: Potentials and challenges: Margaret Arnold, Provention Consortium (10 minutes)
- c) *Indigenous Knowledge and DRR: Ben Wisner* (10 Minutes)
- d) IK, DRR and Scientific knowledge: Jessica Mercer, UK (10 minutes)
- e) IK, DRR and implications to water management: Weihua Fang, China (10 minutes)
- f) Indigenous Knowledge and CBDRM: Rajib Shaw, Kyoto University (10 minutes)

Discussion and Comments: (20 minutes)

Background

Diverse communities in hazard prone areas around the world have traditionally learnt to cope with and reduce the risks of natural disasters through the indigenous knowledge they have inherited from the time tested experiences of generations. Contextualized within the local geo-climatic conditions, natural resources and social and cultural practices, indigenous knowledge has been an integral component of human and social capital of the communities, which is often not recognized. On the contrary, it is under continuous threats of becoming extinct by the onslaught of the so-called modern and quick fix solutions. It is therefore important to document, learn, revive and replicate wherever possible such knowledge and practices and further synergize this with modern scientific knowledge, especially in the context of promoting community based disaster risk management (CBDRM) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) strategies.

Based on the case studies drawn from South Asia and other regions, the side-event, besides building awareness and sharing the experiences, aims at highlighting the potential of indigenous knowledge for disaster risk reduction and intends to discuss how the community driven practices on indigenous knowledge could be integrated in the governmental policies and receive priority for the stakeholders at different levels.

Objectives of the Side-event

- Discuss the various aspects of indigenous knowledge in relation to disaster risk reduction at community level;
 - Examine the methodology, tools and techniques to document indigenous knowledge in multi-hazard scenarios;
 - Identify the suitable strategies and practices promoting indigenous knowledge for community based disaster risk reduction;
 - Develop insights on linking the indigenous knowledge practices to the disaster risk reduction policies, programmes and priorities by the stakeholders;
 - Promote regional cooperation to facilitate indigenous knowledge as a means for disaster risk reduction.
-