 

**OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY**

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**BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**



THIRD SESSION OF THE GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION,

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND,

8 – 13 MAY 2011

Madam Chair,

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentleman,

Good morning.

1. First and foremost, sincere congratulations and appreciation to UN ISDR for organizing this very important event and towards warm hospitality accorded to us.

The theme of this Session is very relevant to Brunei Darussalam as we need to enhance our effort to reduce the impact of disasters, namely; floods, landslides, strong winds, wild fires and haze, with special attention of the communities and other stakeholders at the local level.

1. Under the mandate of Disaster Management Order 2006, the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) is preparing a Strategic National Action Plan (SNAP) for Disaster Risk Reduction, in realising our commitment to the Hyogo Framework for Action and also the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response. The main thrust of our investment will be on the community preparedness, disaster response mechanism and disaster risk mitigation projects.

1. On community preparedness,we has embarked Community Based Disaster Risk Management program (CBDRM). The program is introduced in 2010 with the support of Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC), with the objective of developing community awareness in disaster risks and building up their capacity in managing emergencies and disaster situations. It had been carried out in most disaster prone areas, comprising of three modules: Town Watching and Hazard Mapping, First Aid and Fire Safety. The CBDRM programs will be followed up in 2011 with a module on contingency planning and a disaster exercise with the participation of the communities working alongside government emergency responders.
2. On the other hand, a multi-sector approach has been our most effective means in managing disasters and we recognised that the disaster response mechanism could be strengthened through the adoption of Incident Command System (ICS). Under the ASEAN-US Programme on Disaster Management, the ICS has been introduced in 2010 and has proven its effectiveness in disaster operations, enabling eficient and timely response whilst minimizing the impact of disasters.
3. In terms of infrastructure and development, we have carried out a number of flood mitigation projects in the most frequently flooded areas. In the last 8th National Development Plan, a total of approx USD 236 million worth of projects were implemented, resulting in notable reduction in flood prone areas from 918 square kilometers in 1998 to 315 square kilometers in 2008. Another USD 136 million will be spent in the current National Development Plan for more upgrades to help manage the flood situation and hopefully reduced the flood prone areas further to 70 square kilometers.
4. These mitigation projects have factored in changes in climate pattern so that they can reduce flood risk impact during extreme rainfall. Structural and Non-Structural measures adopted in flood risk reduction which includes channelization, levees and pumping, retention ponds, earth control measures, relocation, development control and proper land use planning.
5. All of these activities and many more in the pipeline signify our commitment in putting high investment in managing disasters risk by placing equal priority between disaster risk-reduction preparedness and disaster response.

1. Finally, let me once again express our congratulations to our host for this important event. Brunei Darussalam is delighted to be part of this international community with a common vision and goal, which will prevail as an important investment for safer tommorrow.

Thank you.