

Name of Side Event: Adaptation and mitigation in increasing disasters in the mountains

Name of affiliation organizers: Prakriti India and CEE India

Brief of Discussion:

The side event started with a presentation by Prakriti group's representative about the frequent disasters in the Himalayan region in recent years. The CEE representative explained briefly about Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-15) which is about building resilience of nations and communities to increasing disasters was also discussed that has five priorities of institutional setup, monitoring disasters, placing EWS in place, knowledge and innovation, reducing risks and strengthening disaster preparedness.

Based on the recommendations from the mountain communities in Indian Himalayan region following needs were shared with the participants:

- Detailed hazard zonation in Himalayan region
- Availability and accessibility of robust scientific data on various hazard related aspects
- An action oriented disaster network
- Strategic and well planned capacity building efforts
- Long term monitoring and early warning systems in place
- Regional preparedness and mitigation plans
- Using information communication tools to ensuring last mile connectivity

The floor was then opened for the views from the participants like ; experiences, learning, technologies, early warning systems in place and way forward. The participants shared following experiences:

Practical action, Nepal is working in 5 river basins in Nepal and uses ICT with through community centric actions like mapping in the valley. In this way it takes 15 minutes to reach the warning up to the community in the region.

On Uttarakhand, India, disaster ICIMOD member informed about the release of a paper. It was mentioned that the problem is not with the technology but the system of information sharing that Governments now have in the region. It was said that early warning could be good in GLOF related cases but in case of cloud burst and flash flood it's tough to give early warning to the community. In North Eastern part of India it works with 8 communities in managing EWS. It was suggested that government system needs to be strengthened in the region to communicate disaster related warning systems, as they use a certain format to float the information.

In Uganda the civil society groups are using community monitoring system for early disaster warnings for disasters . In countries like India, the National Disaster Management Act 2005 exists but the communities in mountain regions here are really not prepared. In case of Pakistan flood in 2010, even the meteorological department informed the authorities about the occurrence flood but the message was floated almost after 24 hours, so there was problem at government's network.

There are examples in Bhutan and Nepal about early warning systems and monitoring of glacial lakes and also technologies to maintain the water level in glacial lakes.

In India, there are cases in the mountains where the Geological Survey of India a government body suggests to relocate the people from disaster prone areas in the mountains as well.

The training of NGO, civil society groups, government functionaries and youths on various disaster linked issues to be given time to time to reduce disaster risks. It is also important that adequate advocacy and capacity building efforts should be put a government level so that the disasters in the region become priority for the governments in Himalayan mountain region.

Members attended:

1. Achyut Luitel: Practical Action, Nepal
2. Dharmalingam Venugopal, Nilgiri Documentation Centre, India
3. Simon Charre, CARE
4. Nermin Kayad, OSI Coeral Mud
5. Seetha Venugopal, NDC, India
6. Purushottam Ghimire, NPC, Nepal
7. Bermet Tursolieva, Federation of organic Development Kyrgyzstan
8. Gulvazp Sitpean, Aigine CRC, Kirgystan
9. Anita Paul, Grass Roots, India
10. Eaklabya Sharma, ICIMOD
11. Ruth Leyuga, Titamongu, Foundation for Environment and Development Camaroon
12. Harun Gok, Ministry of Agriculture, Turkey
13. Ovot Agio Gabriel, Sorane, Uganda
14. M H Duku, Ghana, CSIR
15. Said Dages, GDF, Turkey
16. Dr. Bashir Ahmed Wani, MACDS Pavistau
17. Mabari Lebamana, Ministry of Environment Lesothe,
18. Kalyan Paul, Grassroots, Ranikhet, India
19. Abadhesh Gangwar, CEE, India
20. Kashinath Vajpai, Prakriti, India

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