IDRC
Workshop on National Platforms

23 – 29 August 2008
Hotel Schatzalp
Davos, Switzerland
17.15h, 30'

Co-hosted by
German Committee for Disaster Reduction DKKV
Association Française pour la Prévention des Catastrophes Naturelles AFPCN
National Platform for Natural Hazards PLANAT
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

Welcome note and Introduction

Barbara Dätwyler Scheuer, SDC

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Participants and Colleagues

It is an honour for me to welcome you here on behalf of the Swiss government. The World Economic Forum WEF has made Davos to become a famous locality worldwide to discuss global issues. The Schatzalp is famous due to its beautiful botanical garden with 3'500 different species of alpine plants. And our Hotel is designated as the Historic Hotel of the year 2008.
It is a pleasure to meet you all here today: You as disaster risk reduction professionals are gathered to share your experiences on how to best enable societies to benefit from change while minimising the negative consequences of the associated risks.

Risk governance is, indeed, a very dynamic issue in the ever changing world around us. Due to the harm disasters cause to societies, economies and infrastructure, the issue profiles higher and higher on the political agendas. In Switzerland we want to reach a paradigm change from pure protection against hazards to the management of risks. A risk culture is required, a risk culture which enables us to assess and show the prevailing risks and their changes as well as the necessary protection measures.

On the international level, the Hyogo Framework for Action provides detailed implementation plans for governments with regard to disaster risk reduction and gives, by doing so, the primary responsibility to the states. SDC is committed to

support its partner countries in their efforts to integrate disaster risk reduction into their national development plans. When doing so one has to analyse carefully who are the stakeholders and how they interact. The Swiss experience shows that a dedicated team effort and the interaction of key players from line ministries, disaster management authorities, academia, civil society and the private sector is crucial when developing risk reduction plans.

During this week, under the umbrella of national coordination mechanisms, we have the chance to discuss these issues more detailed. But we should not be satisfied with talks and discussions only. Our findings and visions must lead us to action and help us to build the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters.

Workshop co-organised by the

- German Committee for Disaster Reduction **DKKV**
- Swiss National Platform for Natural Disaster Reduction **PLANAT**
- Association Française pour la Prévention des Catastrophes Naturelles **AFPCN**

Under the umbrella of the **Network of the European Platforms**. The agreement for the set-up of this cooperation network facilitating the cooperation and exchange was signed in April 2007.

- **Germany** invited **Mocambique** and takes a special responsibility for bilateral cooperation during this workshop
- **France** invited **Senegal** and takes a special responsibility for bilateral cooperation with this two countries during this workshop
- **ISDR** takes the responsibility for **Bahrain** and **Bosnia**
- **Switzerland** invited via SDC COOFs **all the other countries** and takes a special responsibility for bilateral cooperation with them during this workshop

Short presentation of Participants

- no special round due to time constraints

  see separate list, please give for each participant country, name, function and organisation

  1. Organizers (DKKV, AFPCN, PLANAT)
  2. ISDR and UNDP
  3. Country Delegations
  4. SDC staff

Why this workshop?

- The increasing number and intensity of disasters caused by the impact of natural hazards and climate change calls for efficient structures and instruments for disaster risk reduction.
- Regional networks and national platforms have been considered of critical importance by the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) to ensure regional coordination, exchange and measures to cope with hazards faced by our societies**.**

Workshop objectives

- The workshop aims at strengthening national coordinating mechanisms for disaster risk reduction.
- A contribution to the implementation of the HFA
  SDC with Marco Ferrari as Chair of the drafting committee very committed
- To addresses key issues on how to establish, develop and run a national platform
- Contribution to national policy dialogues on DRR in all invited countries
- Learning from each other, exchange of experience by all of us, northern and southern countries
- Offers a networking opportunity in a working environment, but also bilateral in a multilateral environment
- Main output/product of the workshop is a country specific action plan indicating next clear, concrete steps what to do.
- An operational contribution to the IDRC

Overview Workshop Agenda

- **Day 1**, today **"tune in"** - breaking the ice
  - welcome apero , introduction, presentation of northern platforms (D, F, CH), PLANAT experiences, lunch
- **Day 2,** Sunday**, "Gathering information"**
  - Enjeu multilateral: ISDR + UNDP/BCPR
  - Country presentation with discussion
- **Day 3,** Tuesday**, "Excursion to Klosters"**
  - Riskplan tool

- **Day 4,** Wednesday, **“Group Working”**
  - Elaboration of an action plan/road map for each country
  - Discussion and Exchange with partners and IDRC participants
- **Day 5**, Friday, **“Closing”**
  - Presentation of results
  - next steps
  - Farewell Apero

--> Otherwise participation at the main IDRC Conference

There is one last point I would like to raise. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCCC Climate Change will severely impact on systems, sectors and regions and further challenge human safety. On the other hand, disasters are on the increase! Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction have therefore to be closely interlinked. Climate change adaptation is a key preparedness strategy. SDC’s goal is to reduce losses in lives and livelihoods caused by natural hazards and consequences of climate change. By bringing the two topics together we are confident to succeed in making full use of synergies and hence to contribute to a less risk-prone environment.

I come to the end by taking the opportunity to thank IDRC, especially Dr. Walter Ammann for hosting this workshop, and I would like to thank all my colleagues for organising it. The initiative emanated from some visionary people and started small. As you can see our group has become an impressive and powerful community today.

Thank you for your attention!