



14-18 March 2015
Sendai, Japan

REPORT ON
THE 3RD UNITED NATIONS
WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
CHILDREN AND YOUTH FORUM



PREPARED BY:
DIWAS CHAULAGAIN

PRESENTED AT:
6TH YOUTH LOOKING BEYOND DISASTER (LBD6) TRAINING
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Diwas Chaulagain

Acknowledgements

We are grateful for the attendance of the third UN World Conference on disaster Risk Reduction (UNWCDRR) Its very honor to be invited by Major Group Children & Youth (MCGY) in this great event and make this conference possible.

The Children & Youth Forum at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (3WCDRR) and Pre-WCDRR Workshops represents all activities related to children and youth engagement in the lead-up to the conference in Sendai, Japan held during March 2015. It was intended that the Children & Youth Forum would be led by children and youth and be developed for children and youth to mobilize and showcase their strengths, skills, and abilities to lead change in reducing risk and building resilience to disasters.

I would like to thank all the world leading facilitator who was equipping participants with the tools to become the next global and local resilience leaders, making meaningful participation in the negotiations and consultations of the WCDRR. We were delighted additionally by welcoming all stakeholders to take part in the Forum March 14-18th, and invited to contribute our meaningful opinions and knowledge.

Our great regards is toward Mrs. Claire, Programme Head, for helping on documentation regarding visa application process and logistic arrangement for us.

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CHILDREN AND YOUTH FORUM

Introduction

The Children and Youth Forum was held during the third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction between 14th and 18th March 2015. It was run alongside the WDDR public event. Prior to the forum, a three days series of Pre-WCDDR workshops was held from 11-13th March 2015. WCDDR was held on International Conference Hall in Tohoku region, Sendai, Japan. Tohoku region is the region highly affect by Tsunami 2011. Youth attending conference had opportunity to learn and visit 2011 disaster affected area of Tohoku region.

Expected Outcomes of the Children and Youth Forum

- **Shared knowledge:** Collection of views, ideas and experiences, especially best practices that can reduce disaster risk and create a network of young motivated and enthusiastic people dedicated to building community resilience. Shared aspirations, expectations and needs, as well as the contribution and added value they bring to disaster risk reduction decision-making.
- **Toolbox for Resilience:** Bursting with innovative ideas, experiences and recommendations from youth and experts creating a youth led knowledge hub to build strong, risk informed action plans.
- **Youth Taking Actions on Disasters:** Capture innovative ideas and recommendations for disaster resilience and opportunities to pitch to the leaders of today and corporate partners for support and partnership-building.
- **Advocacy of Youth Voices:** Ensuring the voice of youth is heard by collaborating on the development of the Post 2015 Framework on DRR by participating in the multi-stakeholder sessions and the public forum at WCDDR and formulating the Youths Commitments for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- **Staying Connected:** Participants will continue their journey being connected to a global network where communication and support can continue for the implementation and further shaping of action plans and commitments.



On **Wednesday, March 11th**, Youth arriving from all over the world were transported to accommodation. Conference committee took responsibility for transportation to Tohoku Local Governmental Training Centre. Everybody was welcome and given instruction about the program in more detail regarding Introduction to Disaster Risk Reduction and post 2015 framework for DRR by Mrs. Clarie; responsible person for handling youth and children forum. We were asked to give our background information and talk to each other and know better. After the introduction we were delighted by



Figure 1: Arrival to Sendai on Bullet Train

Japanese food and dance. We had memorial event, where their Sendai Actor presented their act based on 3.11 disaster. The play was based on human story behind the disaster and supported by as explanatory video. After the memorial event we went to hang around accommodation to chill out.

On **Thursday, March 12th**, Participation visited Minamisanriku disaster affect area. We took bus from accommodation to visit damaged area and listen to local stories from the people of Minamisanriku and heard their experience of the Tohoku Earthquake. Minamisanriku is a coastal area which is located south of Miyagi Prefecture. Before the earthquake, this region was famous for fishery and marine product processing industry. March 11, 2011 14:16, Tohoku Region Pacific Ocean Earth quake of magnitude 9.0 occurred. Minamisanriku town recorded seismic intensity 6 lower. They started the recovery from the temporary water flow of some district, almost the entire in August 2011; almost all area was restored as drinkable.

This trip to Minamisanriku provided me with a valuable chance to experience and understand the risk of the disaster especially the Tsunami and earthquake in 2011. Now I believe that visiting disaster affected area is the best way to understand disaster risk reduction (DRR). These areas were heavily affected by the earthquake and tsunami and saw local people struggling to revive their hometown. This gave me first tip to be a change maker.



Figure 2: Official opening Ceremony of Children & Youth Forum

On **Friday, March 13th**, Participants from all over world had presentation about their disaster story. During the Paacha Kucha session, participants had 3 min 20 secs presentation. We heard many youth ideas and DRR work they were involved in local, regional and international communities. We heard presentation from countries like Indonesia, Australia, Japan, Malaysia and Philippine. It was really sad story but was with real strong meaning and importance to understand risk reduction. After the

presentation we went to Tohoku University for Reception. There was experience sharing of Japanese and other disaster affected cities. We had Princess of Netherland as our Chief Guest. He officially opened the ceremony. There was cultural performance and celebration. This all took place in Sakura hall in Tohoku University.

WCDDR Children and youth forum March 14-17th

The program for the children and youth forum was centered on the toolbox for resilience that aligns to the global and national indicators of the Post 2015 Framework for disaster Risk Reduction.

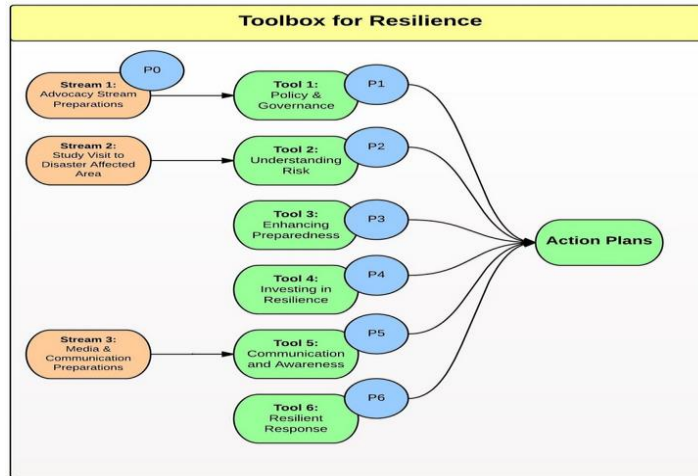


Figure 3: Toolbox for resilience

Saturday March 14th



Figure 4: Addressing the Global leaders on Youth on Disaster Issue.

There was also an opening ceremony and social project for children and youth forum participants to share with the wider WCDDR audience why youth involvement is important to the future of DRR. This event was held in conjunction with the WCDDR opening ceremony.

After the opening there was breakout session, participants were supposed to choose one out of four different breakout sessions. I selected benefits of Bridging International Frameworks. During this

session we learnt importance of new agreement that can offer an opportunity for our leader to deliver bold agreements that tackle the big issue – poverty, climate change, disaster. Xiomy Acevedo was facilitating this breakout.

After this session we had lesson with Mr. Willian Veerbek (UNESCO-IHE) about understanding Past trends and Future Risks. This session provided us with some understanding of risk quantification as well as we discussed the possible ways to cope with future uncertainties with developing DRR related strategies.

Action plan Workshop was one of important part of the conference. Only certain participations were allowed to take part. I was one who was part of it. Action plan workshop were interactive



Figure 5: Meeting with Government representative of Nepal.



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sessions where we had opportunity to work with our DDR youth experts to create and further develop post – Sendai action plans that target their communications at a local, regional and international level over three days, Aim of this workshops was to make a meaningful difference, putting words into actions. After the action plan I went to Main event WDDR and meet representative from Nepal. They were happy to have me there. I asked them what are issues the government of Nepal focusing on this Conference. Since we other youth from Nepal were focusing on Plantation. Nepalese representative were not open to us so we didn't asked them more about their plan and topic. I meet many people at main event and was also representing youth seminar. The feeling was good and exciting.



Figure 6: Cultural Exchange with Japanese.

I went to attend seminar about interconnectivity between conflict, natural and biological disaster. During this we discussed about the possible ways in which conflicts and biological disaster can be address in the Hoyo Framework 2005 in Chubu, Japan and the benefits thereof. We had platform for experts and stakeholders and youth to share their knowledge and story as well as experience and during this seminar youth were provide the opportunity to showcase initiatives to address conflict and enhance preparedness to biological disaster. We were asked innovative ideas to think so we could communicate and present our idea in negotiation in main DDR event.

Children and youth were part of event till 7 pm and they were departed to city center for dinner and after dinner they were guided to Tohoku Governmental Training Center. We were shown video about the disaster and provided trading about the disaster safety. There was meditation and mindfulness workshop evening workshop for us.

Sunday March 15th

We took breakfast at 7 30 and left the accommodation at 8 am in every morning. We were provided introduction and overview about the day's events from the volunteer facilitators.

I attended the Main event and interested to global assessment report in main hall. This was presented by represented from representative UNISDR. Topic discussed during this session was

- Reducing disaster losses: A partial Success
- The global risks cape
- Resilience Challenged
- Disaster Risk Governance
- A culture of Prevention and resilience
- Managing Disaster
- The increasing hazard exposure of economic assets
- Segregated urban disaster risk

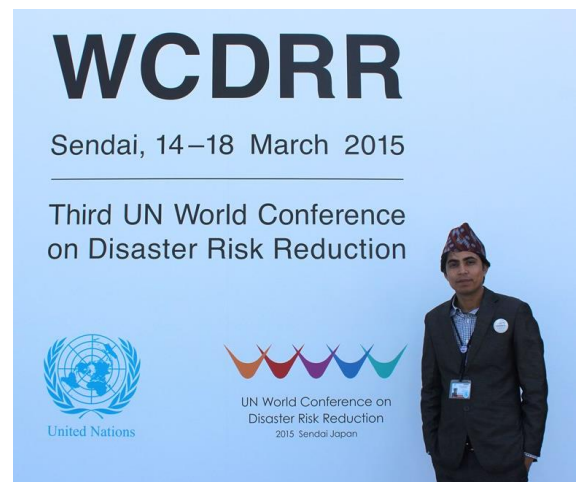


Figure 7: Official representing Nepal on WCDRR.

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Presentation through this topic was related to poverty, climate change and disaster. Attending these sessions help me to understand more about the disaster and poverty relation. Environmental preparedness and climate change adaptation measures plays a significant role in the reduction of risk and disaster. We understood future policy and planning process for DRR and climate change adaptation.

During the break I met representative from Nepal from different INGOs and NGO. They were positive towards



Figure 8: Working on C&Y Desk conference and I and Nepalese youth had launch with them. Since I was part of Action plan workshop. I went to Tohoku University. I with Nepalese representative start planning a proposal about afforestation in Kathmandu city. We were supported by Mrs. Xiomy Acevedo and Esther Muiruri during our action plan. After the action plan we gathered with Japanese youth university student. We were asked to help to develop action plan with Japanese youth and youth taking action. We had professor for Tohoku University with lecture about financing, governance and accountability for resilience.



Figure 9: With Global Leaders at Sendai International Center.

Monday March 16th

After the breakfast we went to conference. We had communicating risk session. We learnt empowering communities to be better equipped for crises is critical to disaster preparedness, response and recovery effort. We discussed how to access communication, the dissemination of information and use of new technologies contribute to resilient building at the international, national and regional level. We were focused to communicate within our communities as well as raise awareness about local DRR projects.

Community driven response and recovery (living with earthquakes) session was presented by Umut Dincsaahin, Irem Yuzec and Eda Karakas. We got presentation about safety methods that one should have during earthquake. We understood the reflex behaviors and understand physiology of debris to ensure society is ready for disaster physically and mentally, which will allow the society to recover faster.



Figure 10: Living with Earthquakes with GEA Turkey.



Figure 11: Wan Ki Moon with youth representative from Children and Youth Forum.

Conference main session was of MR. Wan KI Moon, General Secretary of United Nation, when he visited C&Y forum. It was really good pleasure having him on our conference.



Figure 12: Wan Ki Moon addressing Global Leaders.

Mr. Moon gave speech about the importance of youth and children in negotiation. He added role of youth during disaster. He encourages youth to be active during disaster and help each other and help to form sustainable society for good human kind. I was really delighted and thankful to Mrs. Claire for organizing and inviting me to attend this conference. It was really nice meeting Mr. Moon. I took some picture with him and shake hands with him here were youth representative from all around the world representing disaster area. They gave their idea and why youth should be involved in negotiation.

After meeting with Mr. moon I attend action workshop and went to visit city with friends to Sendai City. Sendai is beautiful city. After visiting city and launch we went to accommodation. After we reached accommodation we started working on our presentation for representative of UNSIDR.



Figure 13: Me with Mr. MOON



Tuesday 17th March

We were at venue at 9 o'clock. We had more 30 minutes to work on our presentation. We had presentation ready by 9 :30. There were 200 youths and children and representative from UNSIDR.

The presentation was about the plantation in Kathmandu to reduce health, landslide and soil erosion disaster. We presented our proposal to representative and it really went well.

There were around 9 presentations from all over the world.



Figure 14: Project proposal to ADB

There was closing ceremony for children and youth forum on 17th March. After presentation we went to main event for meeting representative of our nation and listen to negotiation and visit WCDDR formal sessions.

Closing ceremony was held on Miyagi Educational University. Chief guest for closing ceremony was First Lady of Japan Mrs. Akie Abe. We took group picture with her. We had preformation from student of Ishinomaki North High School. Mrs. Abe gave the speech about the importance about youth involvement in making decision. Moa Herrgard , DRR focal Point, UN major group for children and youth closed the ceremony and we had reception provided by city of Sendai.



Figure 15: At VIP Desk at Miyagi Center .

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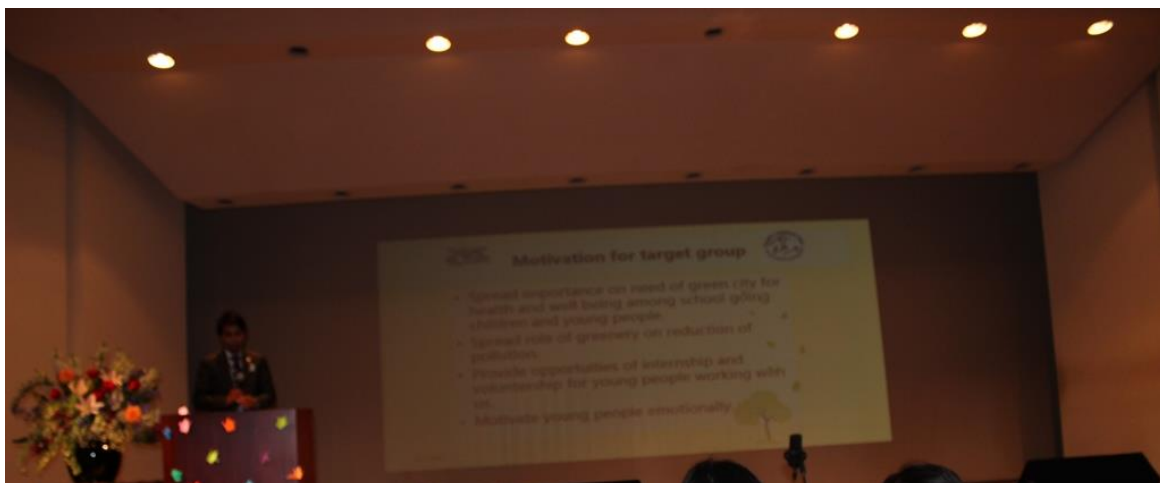


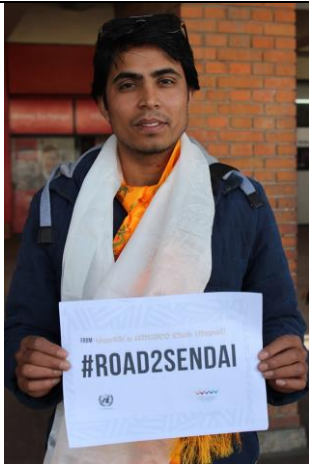
Figure 16: Me Addressing to Global Leaders and Special Guest First Lady of Japan Mrs. Akie Abe.

Wednesday, March 18th

We left the accommodation with our baggage. We went to main event for taking part in final negotiation and closing ceremony. Negotiation was continuous from 17th March. It was already over 24 hour's negotiation going on. We were supposed to have closing ceremony at 1:30 pm but because of negotiation it took place at 11 pm on 18th March. Since I had flight at 9 pm I left the closing ceremony and went to catch the flight.



ANNEX





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