



Message from
Mr. Boontham Lertsukekasem
Director-General of Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation
For International Day on Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) and
ASEAN Day on Disaster Management (ADDM) 2020
13 OCTOBER 2020

On the commemoration of International Day on Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) and ASEAN Day on Disaster Management (ADDM) 2020, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation under the Ministry of Interior, as the National Disaster Management Organization and Thailand Disaster Risk reduction Focal Point, would like to confirm our commitment in advancing toward safe, resilient, and sustain Thailand and global community amidst the current new challenges especially climate change.

This year, Thailand, along with the rest of the world, faced the unexpected challenge of COVID-19 situation. Thailand is one of the leading countries in effectively responding to the COVID-19 situation. We accomplished that with a very strong collaboration and cooperation from all sectors along with systematic emergency response plan as stated in our national disaster prevention and mitigation plan. This is an evidence that institutionalization of disaster risk reduction into national and local level plans will contribute to the success of the country in dealing with unexpected events and preventing losses.

COVID-19 is a vivid example of what is meant by systemic risk, and an illustration of the cascading impacts of both the disaster event and the responses adopted by the country. Disaster are now attacking us in more varied forms with alarmingly increase in intensity. Therefore; we need effective multi-stakeholder coordination, proper planning, oversight of implementation and strengthening institutions with responsibility for disaster risk reduction in order to prevent and reduce disaster risk.

The theme of IDDRR 2020 is focusing on Target E: “Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020” which lays the foundation for the implementation of the Sendai Framework and is closely linked with Priority for Action 2: “Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk.”

ASEAN this year is also in the process of developing a new work plan to implement ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) which incorporate the concept of disaster risk reduction from the Sendai Framework, sustainable development of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and climate change adaptation measures from the Paris Agreement. In bridging all framework in to one regional disaster risk reduction plan, we can effectively achieve our goal in making ASEAN safer and more resilient community.

Besides enhancing strategic partnership on disaster risk reduction at the global and regional level, DDPM have actively integrated the whole-of-society and citizen participatory approach into our national and local disaster prevention and mitigation planes. DDPM has been stressing on the implementation of national and local, especially provincial, disaster prevention and mitigation plan and have ordered all provinces to activate their provincial emergency action plan and operation centers as well as conduct the provincial emergency response drills and exercise at least once a year. In addition, early warning and crisis communication are listed among the priority agendas, we need to make sure that everyone can receive the early warning messages, especially the vulnerable groups. DDPM also plans to provide training to enhance capacity of local leader in disaster risk reduction and management as well as integrate disaster risk reduction into local community and provincial development plans.

In implementation of disaster risk reduction measure nowadays, we need to be prepared for the unexpected and unconventional threats. Every sector, especially the government, need to have a concrete plan which cover all dimensions, flexible, and focus on preventive and investment in disaster risk reduction measures. If disaster risk reduction is included explicitly in national development plans and climate adaptation plans and budgets, all parts of government within and across sectors are then able to programme risk reduction actions and investment. Then we can move steadily toward our goal of building a safe and resilient community.

We are all responsible for disaster risk reduction, and the success of the SDGs depends on it, as well as our safer future.

Mr. Boontham Lertsukekasem
Director-General
Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation
National DRR Focal Point

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