

Opening Speech by the Deputy Director General, RRD

Workshop on Project for Strengthening Institutional and Policy Framework on DRR and CCA Integration (CN 20), co-organized by RRD and JICA Project Team

May 31, 2017

Horizon Lake View Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw

Provisional translation

Good Morning to the delegates from the Government Agencies, JICA Project Team and all distinguished guests. I would like to wish everybody good health and happiness.

This is the workshop on Project for Strengthening Institutional and Policy Framework on DRR and CCA Integration (CN 20) co-organized by our Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD) and JICA Project Team. This project is one of the Priority Projects under the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme (2016-2020). Also, we have learnt that JICA is collaborating with each ASEAN Member States in DRR and CCA based on the current implementing situations.

The main objectives of today's workshop are to discuss the current conditions including constraints and barriers for implementing DRR and CCA integration in Myanmar; to discuss directions and the most possible approaches for improving DRR and CCA integration and to discuss possible common approaches and appropriate approaches for facilitating DRR and CCA integration in ASEAN. Today's results will be fed into the discussion of the upcoming Regional Forum and Senior Official-Level Forum, aiming at adopting necessary action plans for DRR and CCA Integration.

Regarding with DRR and CCA, our RRD held a High Officer-Level workshop on the integration of CCA into DRR in Dec 14, 2016. The experts and the delegates from the relevant agencies discussed and identified the approaches for CCA. Also, we discussed Myanmar Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (MCCSAP) and the important role and current status of implementation of awareness program in MCCSAP.

As all of you know, our RRD is not only providing emergency relief services (supporting relief materials) for disaster affected people for their immediate relief in collaboration with various organizations, but also working together with relevant agencies for rehabilitation and reconstruction of affected areas after disasters.

We, RRD, is the focal department of disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management, while Environmental Conservation Department, ECD, is the focal for Climate Change Adaptation works. Therefore, in order to strengthening the DRR and CCA integration, it is necessary to strengthen the coordination mechanism between focal departments and also to strengthen the links with other relevant institutions. Accordingly, concrete standard guidelines for DRR and CCA integration are required. Moreover, we need to open DRR-

CCA awareness raising program and capacity building of people in collaboration with the stakeholders in National and State & Regional levels.

In the new Myanmar Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (MAPDRR) being drafted by RRD, UNDP and relevant departments, more than 30 action plans emerged; which include plans for strengthening DRR-CCA integration and Climate Change Related Risk. In MAPDRR 2012 also, a road map on DRR-CCA implementation plan was set.

I would like to say here that new action plans need to be linked with the old plans and thereby we learn strong & weak points and the gaps of the old plans. Then we can formulate better plans. Actually, just having plans is not enough and the action plans should be really implemented.

As all of you know, Myanmar is one of the most disaster-prone areas in Asia as well as in the world. Nowadays, climate is changing with global warming. Climate change is linked with natural disasters and is also linked with the country's agriculture, politics, social and economic aspects. Therefore, preparedness on disaster risk reduction needs to be proper and strong. By making plans, the disaster preparedness can be strengthened. It is also very important that our action plans to be practicable. I would like to repeat you that it is necessary to integrate DRR and CCA into development plans. The concepts of DRR and CCA was mainly described in Nation Development Plan (2011-2030).

We have National Disaster Management Committee to conduct Disaster preparedness works and to provide emergency relief service timely and quickly during disaster. It is chaired by the Vice President (II) and co-chaired by the minister of the Ministry of Home Affairs and our Union Minister (Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement). The union ministers of other Ministries also are the members of this committee which conducts the works on disaster risk management effectively. Under this National Committee, we have 12 working committees, including National Disaster Risk Management Working Committee and Environmental Conservation Committee. Duties and Responsibilities of the working committees have been designated. So, I would like to inform you that we have established the institutional and policy framework and we are conducting the works on disaster risk management and disaster risk reduction.

Regarding with Funding, it is not adequate only with RRD's funding to work on disaster risk reduction effectively and efficiently. A lot of funding support from relevant partner agencies/organization is required. Therefore, the stronger collaboration among the agencies is necessary for the integration of DRR and CCA.

From today's workshop, I hope you all can discuss your lessons learnt, collaboration, challenges for the responses on the disasters. I would like to urge the delegates to actively contribute to the discussion based on your experiences.

Thank you very much.