



Minutes of REACT Meeting 8 May 2012

Crisis Management Center of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense

Chair: Col -General Khairiddin Abdurahimov, Chairman of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense (CoES)

Participants: REACT partners (Annex V - attached)

1. Introduction:

The Chairman welcomed the participants introducing the agenda of the meeting. He noted that recently he is observing weak participation of the meetings by REACT meetings and he would like to discuss this issue at the end of the session.

2. Weather overview for April 2012 and forecast for May 2012;

Ms Parvina Saidjamolova, representative of Tajik Hydromet Center provided a detailed overview of the weather conditions for the month of April and forecast for May. The temperature according to Parvina was higher than normal and unstable weather conditions were observed from 22 till 25th and from 28th till 29th of April. The definition of unstable is used when the rains are below or higher of the usual trend and in case of April more rains were falling which served as a ground for emergency situation throughout the country affecting more heavily some specific regions.

Hydromet was very cautious in terms of prediction of weather for May referring to the fact that although monthly rains are expected as normal, however it's not easy to predict stability as this norm might fall in a matter of hours in which case disaster is inevitable in many areas. At the end of her presentation Ms Parvina also provided some analysis of the weather in the past, indicating the exact years which there was a drought in the country and also years when precipitation was higher than the average norm. For more information, please see **Annex I**.

3. Tajikistan National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

Mr. Jamshed Kamolov, Head of CoES Department for Protection of Population and Territory presented to the participants the National Platform of Tajikistan for DRR. He pointed out that significant step in implementation of Hyogo Framework of Action was the formation of National Platform of the Republic of Tajikistan on DRR, approved by the government through resolution # 98 dated 1 March 2012. Mr. Kamolov also explained the main objectives of the Platform, its structure, people who are in charge of managing it, organizations and bodies which constitute the platform and tasks which should fulfill this platform. For more information on the presentation, please see **Annex II**.

4. Baypazin landslides; History and problems



The presentation was delivered by Nikolay Rastislavich Ishuk, a consultant hired by OSHC Barqi Tojik. He started with brief history of the landslide, which was first recorded in 1969 which caused blockage of Vaksh River and this was a period when Baipaza Hydro Power Station (HPS) did not exist yet. The specialist then listed the years when the landslide was causing disturbance and indicating the area and volume it can cover. In case of large scale landslide according to Mr Ishuk the following outcomes might be expected: loss of 90% of electricity production for uncertain period; USD 20 mln. will be needed for reconstruction of Baipaza HPS; Termination of an aluminum plant with an annual capacity of 390 thousand tons of aluminum production; Loss of 66% of cotton land and damage to more than 2 mln. people. According to the consultant in 2002 ADB attracted a French company to assess the area and the only possible solutions was proposed construction of tunnel to divert the river in case of landslide to win time for cleaning the river. From financial perspective this will cost around 32 000 000 USD and the work might be completed in one year. The case according to the specialist was brought to the attention of the President of the country as well, however no source of funding has been allocated to eliminate the risk, although some minor actions were done to prevent the landslide. For more information on the presentation, please see **Annex III**.

- The presenter was addressed by the Chairman who was inquiring that since the landslide has such a devastating impact on power stations, why the HPS's were not obliged to invest in construction of the tunnel.
- Mr Ishuk replied that he does not have information about the income generated by the Energy system (HPS's) currently although during the Soviet time the profit generated by the HPS's was reaching 90 million USD annually and he is not in a position to explain why HPS's are not asked to finance the project.
- Addressing a question raised by Head of FOCUS, Nashir Karmali, the presenter stated that ADB was the only international organization investing in hiring a French company to assess the potential threat caused by the landslide.

5. Integration of DRR into development initiatives

The next presentation was combination of introduction delivered by Anvar Sabzaliev from UNDP DRMP followed by a video presentation prepared by Charles Kelly, an International consultant hired by DRMP. Referring to the previous presentation Mr Sabzaliev stated that DRR and development should be closely interconnected; an approach which is followed by UNDP through its various projects and which hopefully will be replicated by others. Anvar announced that from next Thursday DRMP will call for proposals for projects which combine both DRR and development and he invited all interested REACT partners to take part. The video presentation was also emphasizing the importance of integration of risk reduction into development projects proposing introduction of DRR certification as one of the possible solutions. For more information on the presentation, please see **Annex IV**.

At the end of the presentations the Chairman referring to the list of participants noted that from more than 60 member organizations there only few which are regular at attendance whereas the majority do not attend at all or are sending their incompetent representatives just for the sake of attendance who have neither interest nor the authority to take any decisions in connection to issues brought by REACT.



He also noted that REACT is turning to a ground for sharing information only, which are not followed by any actions. One of the main problems according to the Chairman is lack of coordination between CoES, Local Hukumat and NGO's. He proposed that all REACT members should take the responsibility of informing CoES about their plans and trips to regions so they can be accompanied by CoES on the ground.

Anvar Sabzaliev, UNDP DRMP: Coordination of sharing information is seriously lacking and at this point we do not have clear picture that who is doing what among REACT partners. Every agency has AWP's which can be shared among partners. In terms of donors, they all agreed to coordinate their actions with CoES by signing an agreement and coordination is obligatory. Also recalling his previous experience Anvar mentioned that in the past agencies providing grants were demanding from eligible candidates to provide a letter confirming that projects promoted by the organization are approved by CoES.

Nashir Karmali, FOCUS Tajikistan: We must consider the fact that REACT is attended by various organizations with different missions and mandates and not all presentations are relevant to every organization. Every presenter should propose his recommendations and we can see what actions we capable to take. Mr Karmali also addressed the Chairman saying that most of our projects are at regional level and obviously we communicate at regional level.

Regina Gujani, SDC: REACT meetings are very important ground for sharing information for us. Following the meeting on 30th April and the report provided by the Secretariat we already looking into the case but of course things will take time.

Jose Eused, UNHCR: Following the Emergency REACT meeting we received the Overview of disasters for Khatlon region and I brought the UNERT inventory list with me. My expectation was that Khatlon case will be the first thing on the agenda today. The other thing I would like to point out that even UN has bureaucracy and we can't release funds or assistance in the matter of days. Besides we have broader responsibilities in relation to Tajikistan and we are not focused only on ES's but other issues as well.

Chairman: I am taking your comments regarding Khatlon on board and we should have provided briefing on Khatlon.

Abdurahim Muhidov, UNISDR: Provision of immediate response to an emergency is not possible without available warehouses and funding for supplying these warehouses. Therefore in case of Tajikistan we should think of having reserves in advance to respond to ES. This practice is already successful in Kyrgyzstan and we should also replicate it. As for REACT meetings, they are important in a sense that agencies get updated information and situation analyses based on which they can draft their action plans and financial proposals.

Craig Hampton, WHO: Speaking on behalf of Health cluster Craig informed the participants that after several meetings with the Ministry of Health (MH) it has been decided that at this stage no major health issues caused by the disasters and no humanitarian assistance is required. In collaboration with the MH a reserve funds of medications do exist, however to replenish of the reserves remains an issue. Additionally immunization complains for prophylaxis of diphtheria is under way which will be implemented in two stages.

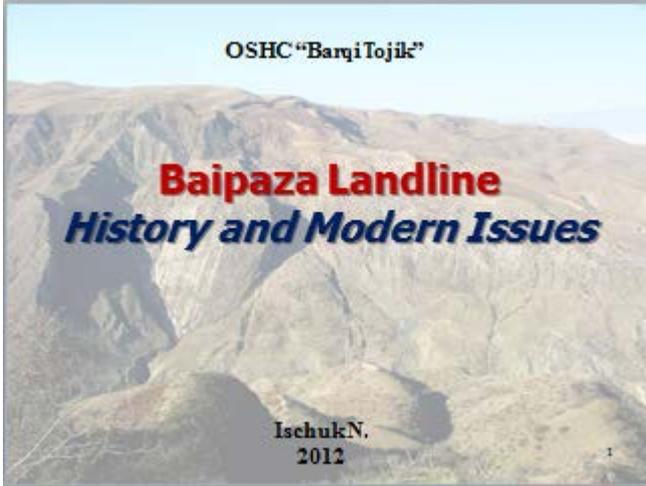
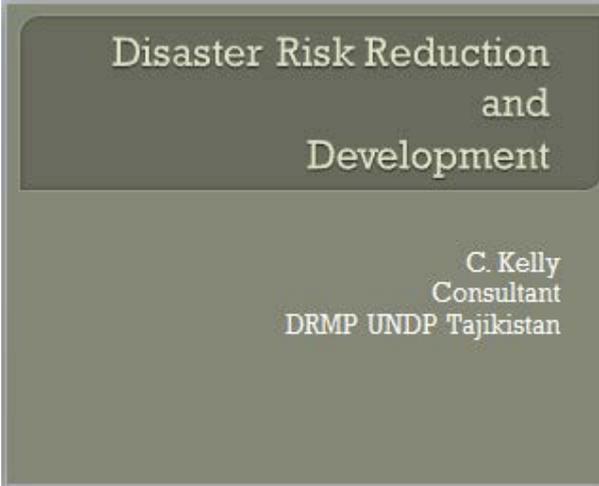


Amri Sherzamonov, IOM: Representing REACT Kulyab Mr Sherzamonov pointed out that due to the current weather conditions in Khatlon REACT Kulyab is on alert all the time throughout the week whereas in terms of REACT Dushanbe he is observing some lack of coordination and ease, and he also came to the meeting as he expected the case of Khatlon to be on the agenda.

Shahlo Rahimova, UNDP DRMP: Referring to the statement of Mr Sherzamonov Shahlo stressed that a clear distinction should be made between REACT Kulyab and REACT Dushanbe as the area of coverage of this two REACT's and their mandates are totally different. At this stage analyzing the situation the participants should understand that due to the volume of disasters in the regions and the damage received so far, there is no room for any major interventions. Otherwise, as during Kulyab floods, REACT Dushanbe is always ready to mobilize its team and resources to support the regions. The second point raised by Ms Rahimova was that the Agenda of REACT meeting is sent to all members at least a day in advance, yet nobody suggested that the case of Khatlon or any other issues should be included. Very often REACT, to the majority of participants means DRMP or UNDP which is not a case. Agenda and topics for discussions should be proposed by all members of REACT.

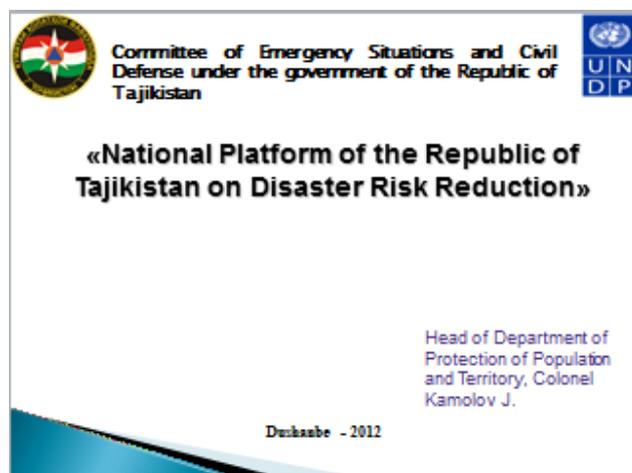
At this point the meeting ended with closing remarks by the Chairman reminding the participants that although he might have sounded harsh however all participants need to understand that the work of REACT should be improved and this can be done by active participation and serious attitude to the work.

Annexes:

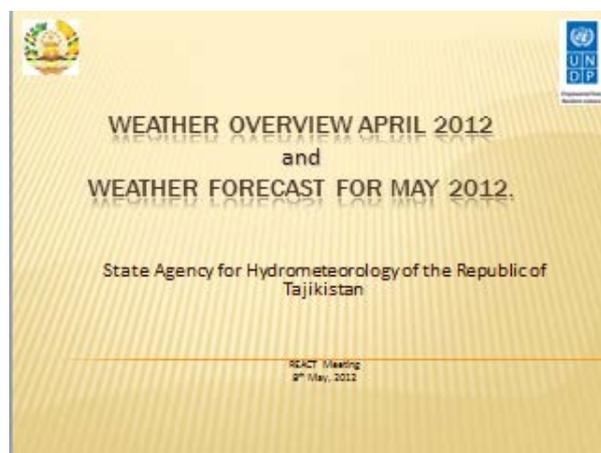
<p>I - Baipaza Landline</p> 	<p>II - Disaster Risk Reduction and Development by C. Kelly</p> 
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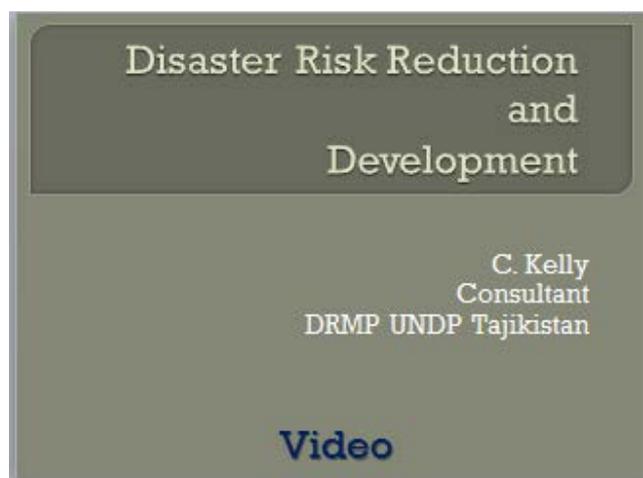
III – National Platform of the Republic of Tajikistan



IV - Weather Overview for April and forecast for May 2012



V - Video of Disaster Risk Reduction and Development





Annex II – List of Participants:

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32.			
33.			
34.			