

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION 2017

HOME SAFE HOME



MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY NANGSI LYONPO DAWA GYALTSHEN



Nangsi Lyonpo Dawa Gyaltsen

“Home Safe Home: Reducing Exposure, Reducing Displacement”

As disasters are associated with human life and properties, it requires no explanation on how safe a home needs to be for the safety of lives and security of livelihoods. It is in this context that development of Dzongkhag Disaster Management and Contingency Plan based on Community Based Disaster Risk Management approach plays a vital role as the communities themselves play active roles in identification of Hazard, Vulnerability and Capacity within their own communities and dzongkhags. The efforts of the local governments and communities need to be supplemented by the relevant agencies with technical support such as Early Warning System and weather forecasting.

To substantially reduce the number of people affected by disaster by 2030 as envisaged in the Sendai Framework would be a daunting task. The Department of Disaster Management under the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs cannot singly achieve the desired result of reducing disaster risks. On the contrary, a joint effort by various relevant government agencies, development

partners and stakeholders, including private individuals could generate a synergy effect in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

So on this special day “IDDR 2017”, let us acknowledge that it is our moral duty and responsibility as an agency or as individuals to identify and assess the risks and vulnerabilities that we are exposed to and commit to take necessary counter measures in order to converge towards achieving this target.

Today, as we observe the IDDR, I would like to remind everyone that the question of disaster now-a-days is no more “If a disaster would happen” but “When would it happen”. Therefore, it is an opportune time that we put our collective efforts to strive towards continuous improvement in DRR and preparedness through raising awareness on the importance of structural and non-structural mitigation and mainstreaming risks to face any kind of disasters in future.

I would also like to take this opportunity to convey that “Reducing disaster risk is everybody’s business and requires everyone’s participation and investment”. Everyone in Bhutan can play a huge role in making Bhutan a safe and happy place to live in.

Tashi Delek

The International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) is observed every year on 13th October globally. It started in 1989 with the approval of the United Nations General Assembly to promote a global culture of raising awareness on Disaster Risk Management and creating a social responsibility in taking forth DRM initiatives.

In Bhutan, the day was first observed in 2008 and has become an annual event since then. This year, the Day will focus on the theme “Home Safe Home: Reducing Exposure, Reducing Displacement” under Target B of the Sendai Framework.

The theme is very timely and relevant when the world is being plagued with increasing number of disasters taking a great toll on human lives and properties. This is no exception for Bhutan as our vulnerability to disaster is also growing faster than resilience.



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