

Key messages from Asian FBO round table discussion

Background:

The Asian Round Table Dialogue for Faith Based Organizations and Religious Leaders in Humanitarian Action is aimed at having a platform for dialogue to integrate the activities of FBOs in the larger humanitarian architecture for better understanding and agreement in effective humanitarian response.

Main objectives of the discussions were;

- To discuss the role of faith based response with particular attention to the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.
- To discuss issues surrounding a community based approach to humanitarian response
- To create a platform for Asian Faith Based Organizations and Religious Leaders to co-ordinate and collaborate their work

The discussion was very fruitful and following organisations participated in round table discussions:

Soga Gakkai International, ICRC, Muhammadiyah Disaster Management Center, Yakkum Emergency Unit, Parmarth Niketan, ACT alliance, Saravodaya Sri Lanka, World Vision International, Chabad Japan, Ramakrishna Mission, Humanitarian Forum Indonesia, Baha’I International Community – Thailand, Tzu Chi Buddhist Compassion Relief Foundation and Charity Oriented Myanmar.

Key messages for WHS:

- *Asserts* that faith based organizations are key actors in humanitarian response based on various examples from emergencies from Asian region
- *Establishes* that faith based organizations act in keeping with humanitarian principles of humanitarianism with special attention to humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence
- *Recommends* that humanitarianism needs to be guided by faith based principles such as love, spirituality, morality and culture
- *Recognizes* that local and political dynamics are different in different context and a nuanced approach can improve regional co-operation in humanitarian response
- *Observes* that there is a distinction between faith actors and faith leaders in mobilizing support and political action during emergencies
- *Improves* accountability and evidence for action that is based on humanitarian standards.
- *Calls upon* the international community to help establish an interfaith network that is accountable, neutral and effective in the Asian region which can be anchored by regional networks like ADRRN

- *FBOs* are critical for localizing response which is one of the key recommendation from the region and strong partnership is needed between *FBOs* and humanitarian organizations for effective response