



TRIPARTITE CORE GROUP

(ASEAN, Government of the Union of Myanmar, United Nations)

21st Press Release of the Tripartite Core Group The Tripartite Core Group strengthens cooperation to implement the PONREPP Yangon, Myanmar, 22 May 2009

The Tripartite Core Group (TCG) held a workshop "Cooperation and Way Forward for PONREPP Implementation" in Yangon today, aiming at improving the recovery efforts in the cyclone affected areas in Myanmar. At the workshop, 130 participants, including Myanmar Government officials, representatives from ASEAN Member States, national organizations and the international humanitarian and diplomatic community, discussed cooperation in the implementation of the joint three-year Post-Nargis Recovery and Preparedness Plan, 'PONREPP'. The plan, launched in February, provides a thorough overview of the recovery efforts required in various sectors such as health, agriculture, water and sanitation.

In his remarks, Chairman of the TCG and Chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board in Myanmar, U Kyaw Thu said, "Today, we are gathered to work together to ensure that this plan will be implemented in the most efficient and effective way. We aim at developing a common understanding of its implementation arrangement and it relates to the Government's reconstruction plan that currently is being implemented by a range of sectoral ministries. We also aim at identifying new ways for promoting cooperation and synergy between Government and the international community's recovery efforts and at building greater transparency and accountability in the implementation."

"Experiences in many post-disaster recovery processes, such as in Aceh and Nias after the Indian Ocean Tsunami in 2004, indicate that there is a strong correlation between the magnitude of the international community support and the level of trust and governance of the coordination and implementation structure that will manage such an international community support. It is, therefore, very important for us to set up an implementation arrangement for the PONREPP that ensures accountability and transparency in the planning and execution of the international donor program," said Special Envoy of the ASEAN Secretary-General for Post-Nargis Recovery in Myanmar, Dr William Sabandar.

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Bishow Parajuli, said; "It is important to have a mutual understanding of needs and efficient coordination between the actors on the ground, in order to ensure that all the 2.4 million people of whom many lost their homes and livelihoods get the support they need. As of today, there are around 10 UN agencies, 60 international humanitarian organizations and 40 national humanitarian organizations in the delta, working in agreement with the Government and following international standards."

In his comment, the British Ambassador, Mark Canning, said; "Myanmar receives very little humanitarian support per capita. The UK has contributed substantially to the Nargis response and in other areas, like health, education and livelihoods, and would like to see more donors working in this country. We have witnessed no evidence of misuse of funding from the international community to the Nargis response". He underlined, that as a major donor the UK was committed to keeping its humanitarian activity and political views separate but added that, like it or not, political developments in-country inevitably affected donor perceptions.

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Note:

The Tripartite Core Group (TCG) was officially established on 31 May 2008. It comprises high-level representatives from the United Nations, Government of the Union of Myanmar and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.