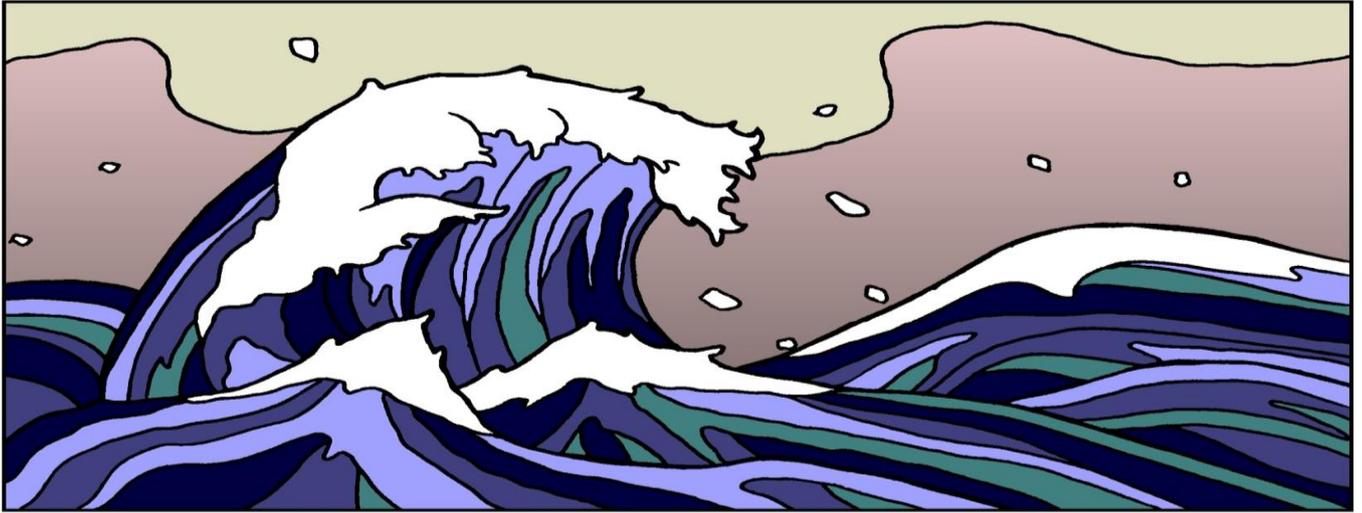


HUMAN RIGHTS IN 31.05.2012 ASIA CONFERENCE 01.06.2012



NATURAL DISASTERS AND THEIR IMPACT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN ASIA



University of Essex



HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE

大和日英基金

DAIWA
ANGLO-JAPANESE
FOUNDATION



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4th Human Rights in Asia Conference 31 May – 1 June 2012 CONFERENCE REPORT

SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS

Day 1: Daiwa Foundation



The first day of the Human Rights in Asia Conference focused on Natural Disasters. The speakers included academics and practitioners with considerable experience in human rights and working in areas affected by natural disaster. The conference started with an Opening Keynote Speech by Professor Rainer Schulze, Director of the Essex Human Rights Centre.

After brief opening remarks from Human Rights Centre Director Professor Rainer Schulze the conference began with session 1:

***Panel 1: "Natural Disasters and their Impact on
Economic, Social and Cultural Rights"***

10:00-10:30

Moderator: Rob Donnellan
Note Taker: Risa Tokunaga,
Nicole J Richard

The panel was moderated by Robert Donnellan (University of Essex student) and the speakers were Teresa Birks (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, Department of Southeast Asia), Kyoko Ito-Morales (PhD candidate at the University of Granada, Spain) and Emika Tokunaga (Osaka School of International Public Policy).



Speaker: Teresa Birks

Teresa gave a very interesting talk based on her experience in Aceh during the Tsunami disaster of 2004. She largely focused on the impact of humanitarian intervention on human rights in Aceh, and in particular, on the role of international actors.

Teresa began with a brief introduction to the history of the conflict in Aceh from the independence movement of 1967 to the present day and the 2000 peace process that was still trying to make progress in 2004 when the Tsunami hit.

Following the tsunami, Aceh was put under civil emergency and resulted in many lives lost or put at risk. However, the humanitarian disaster also had the effect of triggering the peace agreement. In August 2005, the Crisis Management Initiative facilitated the signing of a peace agreement between the government of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM).

Teresa acknowledged certain successes of the international community, including their response to the humanitarian disaster and subsequent engagement in the peace process and the monitoring of its implementation.

However, Teresa also highlighted what was criticized as an inadequate response by the international community in addressing critical issues, such as the necessity of gender or conflict-sensitive approaches and the integration of poverty, marginalization, and transparency concerns. She believed that international organizations missed golden opportunities to address the critical human rights issues that underlined the humanitarian disaster as well as the opportunity to make full use of the political space.

In addition, international aid agencies were also criticized for their inappropriate and unsustainable approach, such as in resorting to the use of international staff almost exclusively, which effectively neglected local capacity and long-term rehabilitation and raised concerns of legitimacy.



- Negative: different actors reacted in different ways

- Community preparedness of disaster management

- New political space, education policy, de-politicised

The key lesson that can be learned from the tsunami in

Aceh and the subsequent peace process is that humanitarian intervention and peacebuilding are artificially segregated. Peacebuilding research and recommendations should have been used for the humanitarian assistance.

Speaker: Emika Tokunaga

Emika discussed the international human rights and humanitarian law surrounding international disaster response and the impact of IHRL and IHL at the domestic level.

The rights of disaster victims

- What are the law and legal issues?
- What are the human rights issues?
- What steps and measures should the Japanese government take administratively and legislatively?

Emika discussed the relevant international law, which included:

- Disaster and IHRL - Hyogo Framework for Action 2005
- Disaster and ICESCR - Rights to health, water, food, housing, sanitation, education, etc.
- Labour rights - Minimum core obligations: CESCR General Comment No.3 (article 2.1)

Japan's triple disasters (11 March 2011)

1. Earthquake
2. Tsunami
3. Fukushima Nuclear Catastrophe

Death toll: 15,858

Missing: 3,021

Injured: 6,080

Displaced: more than 40,000, now still more than 34 thousand

The government's response to the catastrophe was to make a declaration of the nuclear emergency situation; create an evacuation area; provide compensation as a result of the nuclear damage; and create a nuclear damage liability facilitation fund.

Legal issues

- Dissemination of misleading information and safety propaganda
- Lack of basic goods (water, food, medicine, clothes, etc.)
- Gender bias and sexual assault in evacuation centre
- Discrimination based on their residence (discrimination against Fukushima people): people were refused to live outside Fukushima

What should the government do?

- Conduct a detailed study, provide damage compensation, and ensure social security
- Reconsider the narrow evacuation area
- Act in Special Management

Speaker: Kyoko Ito-Morales (via Video)

Kyoko spoke on the issues of communitarian survival during natural disasters, the limitations of ESCR and the balance between rights and responsibilities (collective interests).

Communitarianism

- Contemporary political philosophy
- Retrogressive theory for the promotion of human rights

ESCR

- Progressive realisation and no retrogressive action

Rights and State of Emergency

- ESCR should be still improved

Great East Japan Earthquake 11 March 2011

Case 1: Community-based survival and recovery

- Community based evacuation (lessons learned by Kobe earthquake)
- Relocation of community
- Rights deprivation: freedom of movement, rights to housing, right to education, right to health (mental + physical)

Case 2: Jishuku movement

- Self-restrain = voluntary refusal of rights exercise
- Japan as extended community
- Value of equality

Rights deprivation: cultural rights

Case 3: Setsuden campaign

- To stop nuclear power plant
- Individual level + industrial level
- Rights deprivation: cultural rights, right to work, family protection rights

Finally, Kyoko discussed the following issues:

- What are the limits of rights under a state of emergency?
- Voluntarily giving up human rights
- How long does "setsuden" last? Is it still an emergency?
- Consciousness of rights was lost under the aim of common good
- Where is the adequate balance between rights and common interest? - rights can be violated
- Who decides the state of emergency and how long does it last?

Conclusion

In conclusion, Kyoko argued that Japanese people should always be aware of their human rights and this might help them to access justice during times of natural disaster and limit the gap between theory and reality.

Question and Answer Session

Q. Developing and developed countries' response. Do you think that external NGOs could have helped the situation in Japan?

Emika The Japanese government tends to exclude external organisations. Japanese NGOs require external assistance but the government does not.

Birks Indonesian case: How can we narrow the theory and practice? Looking at local capacity is required. It is a question of accountability.

Q. Japanese case: Declaration of state emergency, is there domestic law?

Q. Emergency always gives responsibility and opportunity to the government. What kind of international mechanism do we need? Would any international mechanisms help give a framework to check/suspend the situation?

Panel 2: "Natural disaster and its impact on vulnerable groups such as women and children."

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Moderator: Asada M Raz Mohammad

Note Takers: Tiffany N Tyon, Ricky Gunawan

The panel was moderated by Mariam Raz Mohammad (University of Essex) and the speakers were Dr Supriya Akerkar (Oxford Brookes University), Unni Krishnan (Plan International), Fumie Saito (Women's Network for East Japan Disaster) and Katherine Baldwin (Thomson Reuters Foundation).

Speaker: Dr. Supriya Akerkar

Dr Supriya began by explaining the notion of vulnerable groups. What makes a vulnerable group? Systematic inequalities? Systemic discrimination? Denial of human rights?

Vulnerable groups are disenfranchised groups, but society puts them all together as one. It is important to recognise the needs of each of these groups.



For example, women who have been widowed and need access to certain necessities were ostracised due to being widowed which leaves them without access to what they need most. Incapacity to anticipate, to face, to withstand and to recover from the impact of a calamitous event, vulnerable people are those unable to avoid or unable to absorb potential harm.

It is impossible and not useful to look at natural disasters by themselves as vulnerable groups may become increasingly vulnerable during any disaster, irrelevant of the cause. There are two approaches to deal with these groups:

1. Situational approach: responding to livelihood security issues of these groups
2. Contextual approach: understanding histories of people/locations

Capability theory and disasters

(General functions in relation to disasters)

- reduce disaster risks
- ability to recover after disasters: safety net
- anticipate risks and disaster preparedness

(Core functioning in disasters in relation to disenfranchised groups)

- gender functioning
- self respect
- dignity, respect
- empowerment in public and private domain

Assessing the impact of disasters on vulnerable groups

- What is the impact of disasters on the core functioning of vulnerable groups?

- How can the core functioning of vulnerable groups be strengthened while strategizing for general functions in any community?

Speaker: Unni Krishnan

Krishnan gave a good introduction to the issues of vulnerable groups and natural disasters. Focusing on children, women and the elderly, Krishnan argued that addressing the vulnerability of these groups requires a multidimensional approach.

Krishnan gave many examples from his/her own work of the vulnerability of these groups and how increased poverty results in increased vulnerability for certain people, which is further heightened during natural disasters.

Krishnan argued that ultimately it is up to the people to take the lead and make the government act by organizing people's tribunals, public hearings, and post disaster needs assessments.

Speaker: Fumie Saito

Fumie Saito talked about the situation of women after the East Japan Disaster. After the earthquake/tsunami, women faced many problems including privacy, safety, breast feeding, doing laundry, etc.

Ms Saito explained that it is important to make special arrangements based on women's needs. There should be provisions for women including spaces for women only where they can feel safe.

On the positive side, this is the first time that women were recognized as survivors and not victims.

But the troubles that women face from natural disasters do not stop when the disaster is over. It is difficult for women to find work in post-disaster situations, and their economic status therefore drops. Much of the compensation money given to families is given to the head of the household, which is generally a man.

Many of these problems have been documented from previous disasters and yet they continue to pose a problem. Ms Saito concluded by mentioning some good organizations that are working on these issues.

Speaker: Katherine Baldwin

As a journalist that has worked in many places affected by natural disaster, Ms Baldwin talked about some of the vulnerable groups that are

most affected by natural disasters, including the elderly, women, and children.

As these groups often experience abuses of their rights anyway, this is simply amplified when a natural disaster occurs. For example, women who are often prone to rape become more vulnerable after a natural disaster as the lack of electricity leaves everywhere dark. Also, in Sri Lanka, some women lose their right to own property if they are not married, so when they lose their husband in a natural disaster, they lose everything. Ms Baldwin gave plenty of examples from her work, with pictures from Haiti and Sri Lanka.

Panel 3: "The duty to provide and accept international assistance and cooperation in the aftermath of natural disaster"

3:30 - 5:00 pm

Moderator: Ricky Gunawan

Note Taker: Tiarnach Collins, Asada M Raz Mohammad

This session was moderated by Ricky Gunawan (University of Essex), and the speakers were Professor Surya Subedi (University of Leeds and Special Rapporteur for human rights in Cambodia), and Kimiakin Jin (Japan International Coordination Agency, UK Office). Isabelle Aradon (Amnesty International UK) was also scheduled to speak but was unable to attend due to family matters.

Speaker: Surya P Subedi

Mr Subedi gave a very informative and comprehensive analysis of the international law surrounding the duty to intervene.

There are no treaties to put direct obligation on states to assist the natural disaster affected areas, but the recent disasters in the region have introduced this idea. Also, there is no soft law in international law to impose an obligation on the international community to assist. There are however regional treaties and soft law which provide a duty to cooperate.

Considering that natural disasters almost invariably violate people's human rights, Mr Subedi offered a very compelling argument for the duty

of states to offer assistance to states to protect these rights through the duty to cooperate.

Speaker: Kimiaki Jin, Japan International Cooperation Agency, JICA disaster management, UK Office

Mr Jin discussed many interesting issues relating to human rights and natural disasters in Asia relating to his experience in Thailand, Bangladesh and Kenya.

Whilst Mr Jin is experienced in disaster response, his talk focused mainly on the idea of prevention. Through the development of disaster resilient communities and societies, we can save many people's rights from being violated in the first place. For example, in Thailand, JICA has been working on awareness workshops, evacuation drills and early warning systems to minimize catastrophe in the event of further natural disasters.

Mr Jin explained 3 types of gaps that are emerging:

1. Real risk and anticipated risk (planned capacity different to reality).
2. Real disaster and anticipated disaster.
3. Measures do not function appropriately.

Mr Jin ended with the idea that despite the challenges, through Kaizen (continuous improvement), we can adopt management tactics to minimise the gaps between theory and reality.

Day 1: Concluding Remarks

John Packer

Before the conclusion of the first of day of the conference, long term supporter of the Essex Human Rights in Asia Conference John Packer made a few words via Skype. After thanking the organising committee and Essex Human Rights Centre Director Professor Rainer Schulze for his hard work, Mr Packer went on to explain the importance of Asia in today's developing world.

Despite Asia being home to some of the worlds most troublesome dictatorships, there are also many positive taking place in Asia in support of human rights. Mr Packer finished with a brief summary of the issues regarding the western concept of human rights and cultural relativism.

Rainer Schulze

The 1st day of the conference closed with concluding remarks by Professor Rainer Schulze, Director of the Essex Human Rights Centre.

According to Professor Schulze, the quality of the topics and organization of the conference were strong and carried out well. He summarized the main outcome of the conference as:

- emphasis on the rethinking of the impact of conditions on the people affected
- do not treat those affected as objects but respect their human rights
- do not import one's own/external agenda to assist those affected

The focus is to make the vulnerable groups an effective part of the society by providing assistance. To enable the larger part of society to practice their human rights by way of the government. The example of Myanmar shows, that now governments realise that respect for human rights can develop their international recognition and standing. Governments with bigger militaries and economies are often violating human rights, but civil societies acting as watchdogs are very essential. Still, countries that do not have an active civil society involvement remain an issue of concern.

Natural disasters exacerbate issues of human rights, therefore intervention should address these long term issues. Governments may view this as external intervention and therefore intervention becomes a problem rather than a solution.

International law is available to be used if there is a political will to implement and apply it consistently. Also, intervention and international aid may have strings attached, such as in Africa, with the UK and USA intervening to influence LGBT rights.

Overall two issues stand out: the respect for the local community and respect for their needs. This raises the obvious problem that the local community may not comply with our understandings of human rights and the question regarding the source of human rights as a western concept. Is this a truly universal conception and due to the declining influence of the west in a changing world structure, how does human rights conception change as a result? How far is our framework set as an unchangeable standard? Viewing society as communal rather than individual challenges western ideals.

Day 2: University of Essex

The second day was mainly for the students and staff of the University of Essex and was designed to bring a practical element to the theoretical knowledge shared and gained on the first day by exploring real life case studies with experienced practitioners.

The second day started with a presentation by a guest speaker from Restless Beings. After the morning break, participants split into three groups to discuss case studies which were presented to the group by an experienced practitioner who was present during the event.

Session 1: Restless Beings

Restless Beings is a grassroots, volunteer based development organisation which has projects mainly in Asia. Restless beings is a flat-structure organisation, where everyone is equal and mostly unpaid.

Restless Beings believe that in order to effectively contribute to a community's well-being you need to first understand the community entirely. They do this by living within the community, getting to know them, and then starting any assistance with what the community already has. They believe that the community is already extremely strong and resilient (they may have all been working since childhood, for example) so they do not need "empowerment" but they need people who are going to work with them.

Restless Beings currently has two main ongoing projects: The Ala Kachuu project and The Dhaka Street Children project. More projects are currently being planned.

Ala Kachuu

Ala Kachuu is a common practice in central Asia whereby a man kidnaps a woman with the intention of taking her as his wife. Aside from the obvious implications of forced marriage and rape in such an event, the practice can also devastate women's lives when the man then decides that he actually doesn't want that person to be his wife. Once a woman has been taken like this even for one night, and even if no sex has actually occurred, her honour has already been disgraced and she can no longer reintegrate into her community.

Ala Kachuu is illegal in most places but the penalty is usually far less than for stealing, for example, and in practice, very few men ever get prosecuted for Ala Kachuu as it is so commonplace.

SCREENED VIDEO: Restless Beings Kyrgyzstan Ala Kachuu
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tzAjkf6eG3s>

Group work

After the video, the participants split into groups and were tasked with devising a plan for raising awareness in Kyrgyzstan about Ala Kachuu. Everyone expressed their ideas and the representative from Restless Beings was impressed with the participants' ideas.



Dhaka Street Children Project

SCREENED VIDEO: Restless Beings Dhaka Street Children
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TJ7Pnib0u0>

Restless Beings works with street children living in public areas around Bangladesh and works towards bringing them a better life. One of the key lessons that Restless Beings has learned is not to assume what the street children want and what is good for them but to learn from them how Restless Beings can help them.

Session 2: Case studies

After the break, participants split into three groups to discuss three case studies related to natural disasters and human rights. Each group began with a presentation from their expert practitioner who had first hand experience of the case, which was then followed by a discussion. Once the groups were prepared, they returned to the main meeting room to share their findings and ideas with the other groups.



Rebecca C. Fan - Typhoon in Taiwan

Moderator: Tiarnach Collins

Notetaker: Pia Ucar

Typhoon Marakot hit the coast of Taiwan on 7 August 2009, bringing mass devastation to the island. It hit only one day after father's day where people were still in the midst of celebrating, and it struck mostly the poorer, mountainous indigenous areas.

Some of the human rights issues caused by the typhoon included:

1. Women were particularly affected because many of them are not entitled to land, and so if they lost their husbands in the Typhoon, they lost also their land.
2. Indigenous people were greatly affected due to their existing lack of development in comparison with their inner-city counterparts. They

were particularly affected due to their close affiliation to their land for fishing, farming, etc.

3. Another problem faced by the indigenous people was due to language. The communities were given 30 days to claim any land that was theirs, but some communities did not know about this due to their inability to access mainstream media.

4. Humanitarian action often lacks an understanding of human rights and the impact on access to help by indigenous communities.

5. Long term effects of the disaster and how this impacts the lives of those affected.

Rebecca had conducted case studies on the short and long-term effects of the typhoon and how to address the issue, how to bring change, what can people demand, where are human rights for the victims and how can they invoke them. Here are some of the issues that she found:

- language barriers, rural areas are harder to reach
- bring the human rights approach in here (identify relevant needs and interests of affected persons, identify rights holders and duty bearers, identify the limitations of what people can demand, ensure that humanitarian action meets human rights standards)
- safety aspects, government defines the unsafe areas/demarcates → power on government which makes their motivation questionable
- responsibilities of charities, other non-state actors, how to hold third parties responsible
- government covers acts of land grabbing under humanitarian aid
- often free housing based on condition of no return → problems in the indigenous case as they are heavily dependent on land, if you make them move they will remain depended forever (do not necessarily speak the language, are not qualified for a 9-5 jobs)
- problem of the position/status of Taiwan
- helping out of goodwill, no awareness of rights → might lead to further violations of rights



Ai Kihara-Hunt - Flood in Nepal

Moderator: Bimal Poudel

Nepal has been hit by severe flooding many times in recent years. With much experience working in these areas, Ai asked the team's to pretend that they were part of a new fictitious NGO working in Nepal, and lead the team in a discussion about how to deal with the issue of severe flooding in the country.

Initially the team discussed the best way to operate, including:

- How to make the check-list? What to include?
- Identify the vulnerable groups (geographically and culturally)
- Inclusion of different interest groups
- Cultural sensitivity
- Neutrality

Then the team discussed how to tackle the following issues:

- Distribution of food
- Disaggregation of data, areas
- Health issues
- Evaluation
- Prevention
- Legislation (for the future natural disaster)
- Accountability of leaders

Emika Tokunaga –Japan earthquake and tsunami

Moderator: Risa Tokunaga
Notetaker: Nicole J Richard

On 11 March 2011, the devastating earthquake and tsunami caused by the great east Japanese earthquake struck the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power station. Due to this accident, a huge amount of radioactive material was released, especially within the Fukushima prefecture, which was estimated to be of the same scale as the Chernobyl disaster.

In the aftermath of this disaster, the Japanese government announced the declaration of a nuclear emergency situation. One month after the disaster, the government designated very narrow evacuation zones, based on a 20mSv per year exposure standard, which is 20 times greater than the previous regulation based on international standards.

Furthermore, the Japanese government did not disclose the data on how the radiation spread, which direction, and how much. Instead, strong campaigning surrounding Fukushima indicated that the current situation seemed to be safe and that there was no immediate risk.

Many citizens in Fukushima still live in highly contaminated area without sufficient financial support for evacuation. On the other hand, a number of displaced persons who decided to move out from Fukushima suffer from unreasonable prejudice and discrimination, such as bullying in school and refusal of housing. They were also not provided with financial assistance for their relocation.

What is the viewpoint under international human rights law?

- What are the main legal issues?
- What are the human rights issues?
- What steps and measures should Japanese government take administratively and legislatively?

Main legal issues

- Government was inactive for one month, can they be held accountable?
- Narrow areas of evacuation zones – there may be reasons for not making them wider but these must be justified.
- Non-disclosure of information.
- Misleading information by saying there is no harm.
- Sufficient financial support for evacuation – this very much depends on the government`s justification.

Human rights issues

- Right to health
- Right to food
- Right to housing
- Non-discrimination
- Right to family life
- Non-retrogression
- Access to information (truth)
- Etc

Steps to be taken by the Japanese government

- Provide correct information
- Try to make the zones wider, and if not, give proper justification
- Provide financial support if they deem evacuation and relocation necessary
- Raise awareness and education to reduce discrimination and bullying



Concluding ceremony

The conference closed with concluding remarks from the Director of Human Rights Centre, Professor Rainer Schulze.

APPENDIX I - PROGRAM OF THE CONFERENCE

DAY 1 CONFERENCE: THURSDAY, 31 MAY 2012 – DAIWA ANGLO-JAPANESE FOUNDATION, LONDON	
09:00 09:30	- Registration
09:30 10:00	- Opening Remarks , Rainer Schulze, Director, Human Rights Centre, University of Essex
10:00 11:30	- Natural disasters and their impact on economic, social and cultural rights Teresa Birks (SOAS, University of London), Kyoko Ito-Morales (via video), Emika Tokunaga (Osaka)
11:30 13:00	- Lunch Break
13:00 15:00	- Natural disasters and their impact on vulnerable groups Supriya Akerkar (Oxford Brookes University), Unni Krishnan (Plan International), Fumie Saito (Interpraxis), Katherine Baldwin (Thomson Reuters Foundation)
15:00 15:30	- Tea Break
15:30 17:00	- Obligation to provide international cooperation and assistance following natural disasters Isabelle Arradon (Amnesty International), Surya P Subedi (University of Leeds), Kimiaki Jin (JICA)
17:00 17:30	- Closing Remarks
17:30 18:30	- Drinks Reception
DAY 2 CONFERENCE: FRIDAY, 1 JUNE 2012 – UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX, COLCHESTER, ROOM 6.300	
08:30 09:00	- Registration
09:00 09:30	- Opening Remarks
09:30 10:30	- Case Studies, Facilitators: British Red Cross, Restless Beings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants are provided with case studies, based on experiences of aid organizations • Participants will analyse the cases under the facilitation of the humanitarian aid officers
10:30 11:00	- Student Presentations of Case Studies
11:00 11:30	- Tea Break
11:30 13:00	- Humanitarian Aid NGO Presentations
13:00 13:30	- Closing Remarks, Alumni Awards Presentation

APPENDIX II - PROFILES OF THE SPEAKERS

Speakers:

Teresa Birks (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London)

Teresa is a director of Resilient Communities, a not-for-profit organisation providing support to people who are working locally to build resilience in their communities. Teresa has over 20 years experience working as a researcher and practitioner in community driven development and critical learning with specific expertise in human rights, political participation and democracy, democratic-participant media and critical media literacy. An Indonesia specialist, Teresa has lived and worked with local communities, mass-based organisations and local, national and international NGOs in Indonesia, Malaysia and East Timor including the International Centre for Transitional Justice, Search for Common Ground, Oxfam GB, the North Sumatra Peasants Union and the Jatiwangi Art Factory. A founder member, she has been on the advisory board of the Centre for History and Political Ethics at Sanata Dharma University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia for the past 8 years.

Teresa also has an interest in the promotion and support of multilingualism and the valorisation of heritage languages. Her work in this area has included research in the provision of community languages in Higher Education, resource and curriculum development and as a member of the (then) Department for Innovation Universities and Skills Higher Education Implementation Group for National Languages Strategy. Now based in London, Teresa has the post of Teaching Fellow in Indonesian at the School of Oriental and African Studies and is currently writing a book on the political activism of ethnic Chinese Indonesians in North Sumatra.

Kyoko Ito-Morales (an independent researcher on natural disaster and human rights)

Kyoko Ito-Morales is currently working towards a PhD at the University of Granada in Spain in the Department of Political Science and Administration and Sociology. She is also a lecturer at the Sophia Nursing College in Gamagori, Japan on disaster nursing and social action, as well as an administrator at the Ito Clinic. Kyoko completed an MA in Human Rights from the University of Essex and is currently also interning with International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR) as well as Caring for Young Refugees (CYR). Kyoko's PhD paper title is 'On the Natural Disaster: Communitarian Survival and the Limit of Economic and Social Rights'. The article will describe the series of behaviors and the phenomenon observed after the Japanese earthquake such as "Jishuku" (voluntary restraint) and "Setsuden Campaign" (saving electricity campaign) to show how much

Communitarian the Japanese society is. Human rights violations, especially the economic and social violations behind these behaviours are introduced, and how such violation of rights can be justified when a society is facing the difficulties caused by a natural disaster.

Emika Tokunaga (Osaka School of International Public Policy)

Emika Tokunaga is currently studying as a visiting researcher in the Modern East Asia Research Centre (MEARC) at the Institute for Area Studies, Leiden University, the Netherlands, with focus on the consideration of the concept of International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) and its domestic implementation in East Asia, including Japan, South Korea, China, and Taiwan, from the point of view of international human rights and humanitarian law and with an international comparative perspective. She has been conducting this research by means of the analysis of both the projects of the United Nations International Law Commission and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which have been addressing the legal aspects of international disaster response. This research is designed for the constitution of a part of the joint research project between the MEARC and the Osaka School of International Public Policy (OSIPP), Osaka University, Japan, as well as the contribution to her dissertation for a Ph.D. degree at the OSIPP, expected March 2014.

She is also engaging in the project of the Japanese NGO, Human rights Now, which aims to support affected people suffering from the 3.11 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, by providing legal aid services with the afflicted people and announcing policy proposals to the government, in the light of international human rights law.

Supriya Akerkar (Oxford Brookes University)

Dr Supriya Akerkar is the senior lecturer in Disaster Risk Reduction at Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, UK. She has earlier worked in several countries in Asia and Africa on issues related to disaster and development with a focus on rights based approaches. These countries include India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Ethiopia, Somalia amongst others. She has led the disaster related policy work of Action Aid International after the Asian tsunami in 2004 and the Earthquake in Gujarat, India in 2001. More recently she has worked on a research funded by EU studying the social impacts of disasters in UK and India. She has a particular interest in the way in which social differentiation affects vulnerability and resilience of the persons affected by disasters with gender as a cross-cutting category. Supriya has a undergraduate degree in law from Mumbai University; MA in development studies from Institute of Social Studies, Hague; and a PhD, Northumbria University, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK. Her PhD thesis is titled 'The production of rights in disasters in Uttar Pradesh, India: Implications for theory and practice'.

Unni Krishnan (Plan International)

Dr. Unni Krishnan is Head of Disaster Preparedness and Response at Plan International. He is a medical doctor with a degree from Madras University and studied Humanitarian Action at the Central Medical University, Geneva. Plan is an international child rights organisation, which works with more than 56 million children in 50 developing countries. Dr. Krishnan has over 20 years of experience in humanitarian and health action, having worked in disaster and conflict situations such as the Indian Ocean tsunami, Afghanistan, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Democratic Republic of Congo, India, China, Haiti, Iran, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Turkey, Japan, Horn of Africa and Sahel. He has worked with some of the leading humanitarian agencies, such as Oxfam and ActionAid and served on governmental, inter-agency, academic and UN panels and as a guest faculty in several universities.

Currently he serves as the Vice-Chair on the board of the Sphere project. He writes regularly on health and humanitarian issues. The global organisation, which works with more than 56 million children in 50 developing countries, has been promoting child rights and lifting millions of children out of poverty since it was founded in 1937.

Fumie Saito (Women's Network for East Japan Disaster)

Fumie Saito is a former coordinator for Women's Network for East Japan Disaster, where she directed policy advocacy for women affected by the disaster. She also worked as a senior policy advisor senior to the Minister of State on Social Affairs and Gender Equality, and to parliamentarians as well in Japan. Her article, 'Women and the 2011 East Japan Disaster' will be published in the journal "Gender and Development" this summer.

Katherine Baldwin (Thomson Reuters Foundation)

Katherine is a humanitarian news journalist for Thomson Reuters Foundation. Her work has included coverage of global natural disasters, the Asian tsunami anniversary, the NGO sector and climate change. She helped set up and run the Thomson Reuters Foundation's Emergency Information Service (EIS) for earthquake survivors in Haiti as well as has trained journalists in Brazil, Mozambique, Miami and London on covering natural disasters and financial, political and international news reporting.

Isabel Arrandon (Amnesty International)

Isabelle Arradon has been a Senior Research Policy Adviser at the International Secretariat of Amnesty International since 2010. As part of her role, she provides research, policy and security advice to AI's research teams globally. Isabelle has conducted numerous research and advocacy missions on behalf of Amnesty International, and visited most recently Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Egypt. Previously she was the organization's sole researcher on Indonesia and Timor-Leste for six years. During that time she was responsible for leading the

organization's human rights strategy on Indonesia and Timor-Leste. Before that she worked as a campaigner on Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines for a year. Over the years, Isabelle has worked on a wide range of issues, including security sector reform, freedom of expression and religion, gender based discrimination, domestic workers, the rule of law, and impunity. She is the author of numerous AI publications, including "Malaysia - Human Rights at risk in Mass Deportation of Undocumented Migrants" (2004), "Indonesia - Exploitation and Abuse: the Plight of Women and Girl Domestic Workers" (2007), "Timor-Leste - We Cry for Justice - Impunity Persists Ten years on" (2009), "Unfinished Business - Police Accountability in Indonesia" (2009), and "Indonesia - Left Without A Choice - Barriers to Reproductive Health" (2010).

Prior to joining Amnesty International, Isabelle worked in Indonesia for Peace Brigades International providing protective accompaniment to human rights activists at risk and conflict resolution workshops. In 2001-2002, she was a lecturer at the Faculty of Letters of Sanata Dharma University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. A French national, Isabelle holds an MA in International Law and Politics from the University of Hull, United Kingdom. She speaks fluent English, French and Indonesian.

Surya Subedi (UN Special Rapporteur for human rights in Cambodia/University of Leeds)

Dr Surya P. Subedi is Professor of International Law at the University of Leeds and Barrister at Tanfield Chambers in London. He has been the UN Special Rapporteur for human rights in Cambodia since 2009 and currently also serves as a member of the Advisory Group on Human Rights to the British Foreign Secretary. He was appointed by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as a Crown representative on the Governing Body of SOAS, University of London, in 2007.

He has published widely in international law with six books and more than 60 scholarly articles in most major international law journals and chapters in edited collections. He was chief editor of the *Asian Yearbook of International Law* (published by Martinus Nijhoff in The Hague) between 1999 and 2006 and is a founding editor of the *Asian Journal of International Law* (published by Cambridge University Press). He is a Vice-President of the Asian Society of International Law and was elected to the *Institut de Droit International* in 2011. He has taught at universities in The Hague, Hull, London, New York, and Washington DC and advised a number of countries on international legal matters. He has been invited to give lectures at a good number of universities around the globe, including Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, Yale, Georgetown, George Washington, Wuhan, and Jawaharlal Nehru. He has served as an Under-Secretary in the International Law Division of the Ministry of Law and Justice and a legal advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nepal. He has been designated to serve on the Panels of Arbitrators and of

Conciliators of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and on the Panels of the Dispute Settlement Body of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

He holds a DPhil in Law from the University of Oxford, an LLM with Distinction from the University of Hull, and an LLB from Tribhuvan University, Nepal. He was awarded the Dasturzada Pavry Memorial Prize for an outstanding thesis by the University of Oxford for his doctoral thesis, a prize for one of his books for Outstanding Legal Scholarship by the British Society of Legal Scholars, and the Josephine Onoh Memorial Prize for best LLM student of the year by the University of Hull. He also has won a British Council Scholarship to Hull for LLM studies and a Foreign and Commonwealth Office Scholarship to Oxford for his doctoral studies. Professor Subedi was made in 2004 an Honorary Officer of the Order of the British Empire by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for his services to international law and to Britain-Nepal relations and was decorated in 1998 by His late Majesty King Birendra of Nepal with the Order of Suprabal Gorkhadaxinbahu for his services to international law and to the nation. He is a frequent contributor to various media corporations such as BBC TV and Radio and CNN on international legal issues.

Kimiaki Jin (Japan International Coordination Agency - UK Office)

Kimiaki Jin is the Chief Representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in the UK. Mr Jin was previously director, from 2006 to 2009, of the East Africa Division in JICA's Africa Department, covering East Africa and Sudan. He has served for two periods with JICA in Ethiopia, from 1990 to 1993 as Assistant Resident Representative and from 2003 to 2006, initially as Project Formulation Advisor and then as Deputy Resident Representative.

He was Deputy Director of the Forestry and Fisheries Development Study Division in JICA's Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Development Study Department from 2000 to 2003. He was seconded, from 1998 to 2000, to the Planning Division in the Department of global Environment at the Environment Agency of Japan, where he served as Deputy Director. He has also served in the Energy and Mining Development Study Division in JICA (1993 to 1996).

Kimiaki Jin is a graduate of Hokkaido University where he studied biology in the science faculty.

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