ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment Side-Event

***The role of partnerships in humanitarian response:***

***lessons learned from Typhoon Haiyan***

***Conference Room 7 NLB***

**Date: Tuesday, 24 June 2014 08:15 – 09:30 am**

The Government of the Philippines, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), ActionAid, CAFOD, Christian Aid, Oxfam, and Tearfund will co-sponsor a side-event exploring the potential for more effective partnerships between **national and local actors, the private sector**, and **international humanitarian actors** in emergency preparedness, response and recovery.

The discussion will draw lessons from recent experiences in responding to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, and will contribute to consultations leading up to the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit on developing innovative and effective ways of preparing for and responding to humanitarian needs.

**Background and key questions**

It has been ten years since the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami and the call by the Tsunami Evaluation Coalition Report for “*a fundamental reorientation in practice... a change in the organisational culture of humanitarian providers.... and that agencies meet this problem by promoting distributed ownership with the community and different levels of national government owning different levels of the response*”.[[1]](#footnote-1) Subsequent evaluations have also identified the need to invest more in partnerships models as a means of more effectively delivering humanitarian aid. At the same time, the role of businesses in emergency preparedness and response has been evolving from traditional philanthropy-focused support to more innovative partnerships centred on shared benefit.

How have these trends translated into improved partnership practice?

Reflecting upon the recent Typhoon Haiyan response (which included significant involvement of the private sector and national and local actors - many of whom were first responders), the panel will examine the following questions:

* *How well have international agencies heeded the call to “reorient practice” and to what extent is there increased national and local ownership of humanitarian responses?*
* *What is the added value of private sector involvement in preparedness and response?*
* *What are some of the key lessons learned from the response to Typhoon Haiyan?*
* *How applicable are these lessons to other humanitarian crises?*
* *How can the UN, international humanitarian agencies, national and local actors, and the private sector work together more effectively in preparing for and responding to humanitarian crises?*

**Programme**

1. *Chair:* H.E. Mr. Libran N. Cabactulan, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations (Brief Introduction and Welcome Remarks (3 minutes)
2. *Moderator:* Kyung-wha Kang , Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator in the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (Brief remarks to introduce context (3-5 minutes)
3. Speaker Remarks (3-5 minutes each) :

**Nanette Salvador**-Antequisa, Executive Director, Ecosystems Work For Essential Benefits (EcoWeb). EcoWeb is an NGO based in Mindanao, Philippines working to address four inter-linking challenges resulting to poverty such as lack of access and control of resources, strained social relations, degraded environment and climate change and poor governance. For more info visit www.ecoweb.ph; www.facebook.com/ECOWEB.

**Butch Meily,** President, Philippine Disaster Recovery Foundation (PDRF). PDRF is a coordinating mechanism for the private sector in disaster response and preparedness. PDRF’s immediate focus is on the rehabilitation of damaged communities and the participation of the private sector in long-term recovery. PDRF also launched a worldwide mobile fundraising drive, help.Ph, for the victims of the devastating typhoon.

**Andy Featherstone**, Co-author of new research documenting the application of partnership approaches with national and local actors during the response to Typhoon Haiyan. This research - commissioned by ActionAid, CAFOD, Christian Aid, Oxfam, and Tearfund - builds upon the findings of their previous joint report “Missed Opportunities: The Case for Strengthening National and Local Partnership-based Humanitarian Responses”

**Randolph Kent**, Co-author of a recent series of studies commissioned by UN OCHA, ODI, HPG, and Vantage Partners, and supported by DFID, on how the business community and public-sector have worked together to prepare for and respond to disasters. )

1. Q and A (Approx 35 - 40 minutes pending above.)
2. Final Remarks from Moderator (2 -3 minutes)
3. Closing Remarks – Chair (2 to 3 minutes

1. Available here: http://www.alnap.org/ourwork/tec [↑](#footnote-ref-1)