1. **Vulnerability**

Vulnerability is the characteristics and circumstances of a community, system or asset that make it susceptible to the damaging effects of a hazard. (UNISDR, 2009).

People with disability account for between 15% to 20% of the global community. This figure is higher in a developing country context. (World Report on Disability, 2011).

The circumstances that people with disability consistently face include lower educational enrolment and attainment; limited employment opportunities; limited access to information, services and resources and an increased likelihood of a life in poverty.

2. **Double and triple jeopardy**

Disability affects women, children and men alike and magnifies existing vulnerabilities among individuals, communities and nations.

Women and children living with disability are even more likely to experience exclusion than their non-disabled peers. Consequently, their opportunities and security are further limited. This is the double jeopardy.

The most vulnerable of groups consist of those individuals living in poverty. A poor woman or child living with disability may face further exclusion and highly limited opportunities and security. This is the triple jeopardy.

3. **Disability and risk**

People with disability may be placed at increased disaster risk due to cognitive, intellectual or physical impairments. These factors may limit the ability of a person with disability to access information and/or to act on that information.

A wheelchair user, for example, may have no difficulty relating to general disaster risk reduction (DRR) information. However, that same individual may face severe barriers in safely protecting themselves during, and evacuating after, an earthquake.

Conversely, a Deaf individual may require more imaginative approaches on the part of DRR trainers, but may face no more difficulty in protecting and evacuating themselves than non-Deaf peers.

To date, the DRR community has paid little attention to widening the participation of people with disability. Similarly, little attention has been paid to addressing the environmental barriers and constraints that people with disability face within a DRR context.

As such, the way in which DRR is most usually done continues to exclude and denies access to potentially life-saving information and procedures for the most at-risk within communities.

4. **Post-2015 recommendations**

Disability primarily concerns how we decide to shape and view our communities and societies.

The DRR community is inherently concerned with reducing risk and vulnerability, as such:

DiDRRN partners urge the DRR community to stay true to our collective vision and to ensure the inclusion of those at greatest risk within DRR post-2015.

This will, no doubt, be best achieved by recognising the contribution of people with disability within DRR and ensuring the full and active participation of people with disability themselves.

On behalf of Disability-inclusive DRR Network for Asia and the Pacific partners, May 2013. Dr Alex Robinson; alex.robinson@asbindonesia.org; Ms Valerie Scherrer; valerie.scherrer@cbm.org: Anne Gormally; a.gormally@handicap-international.org.