

## POWER FROM WITHIN TO OVERCOME VULNERABILITIES: A PHILIPPINE CASE ON ENDOGENOUS SYSTEM OF RESPONSE TO RIVER FLOODING

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*As a tropical country facing the Pacific Ocean, the Philippines is very vulnerable to typhoons. The people have different levels of vulnerability and capacity, based on socio-economic differentiation and the level of development of the communities where they live. When the formal local institutions fail to respond to disasters, the people are left to depend on themselves. Using their resources and capacities, the families from various vulnerable groups come and complement each other into an endogenous system of responding to disaster events. This paper looks at the endogenous system of response in a typical rural municipality in the Philippines that is often affected by typhoons. The endogenous way of the people is a source of power from within, collectively manifested as community resilience that can help overcome vulnerabilities and disasters. As a universal phenomenon that cuts across time, space and cultures, the endogenous system has to be recognized and mobilized in initiating changes and transforming communities to reduce risks and disasters.*

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