

## Side Event # 49: Recovery as an Opportunity to Prevent Risk

Suld Hall 1, Best Western Premier Tuushin Hotel

5 June 2018, 10:15 – 11:15

### Background

The International Recovery Platform (IRP) organized this Side Event to showcase recovery initiatives, pre- and post-event, that contribute to preventing risk and sustaining development. Panellists discussed the ways in which recovery contributes to resilience through “build back better” efforts, while giving due consideration to specific contexts, and recognizing unique features of different locations in terms of vulnerabilities and risk factors.

### Opening



**Mr. Shinichi Takahashi**, Vice Mayor Sendai City, described three recovery initiatives to strengthen resilience following the *Great East Japan Earthquake* of 2011: (i) applying multiple defense measures, e.g., constructing higher coastal levees and elevating the roads to mitigate the impacts of tsunami; (ii) widening of evacuation routes and increasing the accessibility of evacuation centers; and (iii) relocating houses in areas away from the coast.



**The IRP Secretariat** reported the outcomes of the International Recovery Forum 2018 highlighting key issues in integrating “Build Back Better” in recovery process: 1) clarity of framework, 2) task execution set up, 3) context-specificity, 4) comprehensive, 5) speed, 6) consultation and inclusion, 7) science and technology, 8) financing, 9) investment, 10) assessment, 11) healing, and 12) networking.

### Interactive Panel

**Ms. Myat Moe Thwe**, Director, Department of Disaster Management, Government of Myanmar, looked back at the *recovery experience and lessons 10 Years after Cyclone Nargis*. She reported recovery was an opportunity to strengthen community resilience in housing, infrastructure, livelihoods, and public awareness while acknowledging the need for standard recovery guidelines and strong interagency coordination for recovery.



**Mr. Arghya Sinha Roy**, DRM Specialist Asian Development Bank, explained that post-disaster assistance for recovery can create opportunities to strengthen resilience but success is dependent on: (i) longer-term commitment; (ii) robust, flexible approaches for reconstruction; (iii) good governance arrangements; (iv) adequate and timely availability of financing; and (v) facilitating knowledge and strengthening partnerships.

**Mr. Mahesh Pradhan**, Programme Officer UN Environment, reported that effective Disaster Waste Management (DWM) during recovery process can enhance resilience through the following actions: (i) integrate disaster contingency planning in national and city-level waste management strategies; (ii) improve routines for sorting, collecting, and storing disaster waste; (iii) reduce the impact of waste on the environment during recovery; and (iv) utilize engineered landfills.



**Ms. Setsuko Saya**, Cabinet Office of Japan and Co-Chair of the IRP Steering Committee served as the moderator. She noted that the panellists' responses to questions from audience that pre-disaster recovery planning (PDRP) can be viewed as an investment planning tool that both national and local governments can adopt. She concluded with the following messages:

- Preparing for recovery prevents risks and strengthens resilience
- Recovery contributes to resilience by initiating investments, pre-disaster recovery planning, pre-contracts, and pre-agreements before the disaster
- To “Build Forward Better” vulnerabilities need to be addressed today

