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## Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning Orientation Workshop *Asian Institute of Management*

29 April 2016, Makati, Philippines

Through the request of the Manila Observatory, and in collaboration with the SM Prime Property Company and the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF), the International Recovery Platform (IRP) facilitated an orientation workshop on pre-disaster recovery planning (PDRP), 29 April 2016 at the Asian Institute of Management, Makati City, Philippines. The event gathered about 90 recovery decision-makers, planners, and implementers from public and private sectors, including civil society, scientific community, academe, media, and representatives of local communities to learn the essence of pre-disaster recovery planning. The composition of participants was diverse to effectively simulate the PDRP exercise and to facilitate complementarity of recovery support functions.

The workshop explored various approaches of formulating a PDRP based on existing tools and experiences, including strategies, actions, and case studies from global experiences. Japan's pre-disaster recovery agreements as observed during the recovery from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake 1995, the Great East Japan Earthquake 2011, and the Kumamoto Earthquake 2016 were highlighted. The importance of the PDRP was emphasized by prominent speakers, namely: Ms. Antonia Loyzaga of the Manila Observatory, Ms. Liza Silerio of the SM Prime, Mr. Guillermo Luz of the PDRF, Gen. Alexander Pama of the Office of Civil Defense, and Ms. Remedios Endencia of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA).



The speakers generally recognized that PDRP is essential because all governments and communities face similar organizational and policy issues in a disaster recovery (e.g. governance, financial management, effective operations, redevelopment standards, infrastructure, transportation, health, and livelihoods). Therefore, they are critical areas for planning in advance.

Firstly, it increases the "speed" of recovery when all stakeholders (i.e. multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary, and inter-



ministerial/departmental) plan in advance. It facilitates coordinated planning and implementation that minimizes uncertainties, overlaps, and bottlenecks. Secondly, it builds stronger relationship among all stakeholders that limits poor decision taken under post-disaster stress. It prepares stakeholders' full participation in recovery – making it easy to engage and reach a risk-informed decision. Finally, it establishes beforehand the modalities for financing recovery process, including pre-agreements and contracting services.

Using the Metro Manila earthquake scenario shared by Dr. Renato Solidum of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), the workshop came up with two main outputs. One was a Checklist for Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning and the other was a Template on Pre-Agreement for Disaster Recovery. As way forward, the participants agreed to scale up discussions on PDRP with National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC) and explore the options for pre-agreements in disaster recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.

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# Consultation of the Handbook on Build Back Better in Recovery ~For Faculty and Students in Bangladesh~

27 March 2016, University of Dhaka

## Introduction

The Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies (IDMVS), University of Dhaka, the BUET-Japan Institute of Disaster Prevention and Urban Safety (BUET-JIDPUS), the Islamic Relief Bangladesh (IRB), the International Recovery Platform (IRP), and the Build Back Better Foundation (BBBF) had jointly organized a Consultation of the Handbook on Build Back Better in Recovery for Faculty and Students in Bangladesh, 27 March 2016 at the Center for Advanced Research in Sciences (CARS), University of Dhaka. Over 30 participants, comprising professors and lecturers as well as officials from government, came together to actively discuss the substance and form of the handbook with the end view of making it more practical and useful to faculty members and students in Bangladesh.

The idea of developing a handbook was one of the recommendations during the Training of Trainers (ToT) on Build Back Better in Recovery.<sup>1</sup> The handbook intends to put together relevant information to guide teachers and students of what strategies and actions can be taken in order to effectively contribute in build-back-better in recovery. It was envisioned that the handbook may be developed by: (i) consolidating the ideas and messages on build-back-better as shared during the training as well as in other related events in Bangladesh; (ii) incorporating references, articles, and case studies that were presented and emphasized by the resource speakers; and (iii) annexing relevant tools, checklists, and resource materials on build-back-better in recovery.

## Consultation Version of the Handbook

The pioneering effort of Dr. Akram H. Chowdhury, honorary chairperson of BBBF, to facilitate the development of the handbook was lauded by all the guests who attended the consultation. In particular, Dr. Khondoker Mokaddem Hossain, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh Open University, stated that if the handbook is properly designed, it can offer information to help address “gaps in between” of the existing disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts in Bangladesh – especially in the areas of needs assessment, scientific planning, structural and non-structural measures, and policymaking with reference to the global frameworks such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Brigadier General Ali Ahmed Khan psc, Director General of Fire Service and Civil Defense, indicated that

useful in specifying the potential linkage of volunteers (including students) with the Fire Service to improve the existing disaster mechanism at pre- and post-event. Dr. Tahmeed M. Al-Hussaini, Director of JIDPUS-BUET, mentioned that academic institutions have important role to play in disaster risk reduction and should get involved in pre- and post-disaster activities. It is in this role that the handbook is useful to show the way how academicians can be effectively engaged in the process.

Mr. Shabel Firuz, Country Director of Islamic Relief Bangladesh, clearly pointed that recovery is the missing link in the disaster risk management discourse in Bangladesh, and therefore the handbook on build-back-better in recovery is very much attuned to the local need of Bangladesh.

Finally, Prof. Dr. Mahbuba Nasreen, Director of IDMVS, noted that the handbook can be a useful tool to popularize build-back-better as “investment” and not as cost. Moreover, the handbook can be useful in helping raise awareness that build-back-better is part of Priority Four of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction – hence, need to be localized or contextualized.

## Recommendations for Handbook Revision

The participants agreed that the handbook can be improved both in substance and form. The general recommendations were to: (i) link the contents of the handbook with the relevant components of key documents at the global and national level, such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Sustainable Development Goals, the COP21 Paris Agreement, and the local Disaster Management Act of 2012 as well as the Standing Orders on Disaster; (ii) localize key strategies and actions on build-back-better in recovery so that these are easily understood in the Bangladesh context – including option to translate the handbook into Bangla language; and (iii) engage more members on the editorial board as well as encourage more contributors.

## Way Forward

Consolidation of specific comments and recommendations: All written comments and suggestions made by the participants will be consolidated by the BBBF. The consolidated comments or summary of the consultation will be shared to all participants to further review and guidance.

Editors and contributors: The BBBF will coordinate with all participants to encourage wider membership in the editorial board of the handbook. BBBF will also facilitate collecting articles or resource materials as contribution from the participants.

Linkages and small meetings: BBBF will keep in touch with the participants on updating the substance and structure of the handbook. Small meetings will be organized towards finalizing the handbook.

