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# IRP Herald

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## IRP Engagement at the Third World Reconstruction Conference (WRC3)

*6-8 June 2017, Brussels, Belgium*

The International Recovery Platform (IRP) had actively participated in the third edition of the World Reconstruction Conference (WRC3), 6-8 June 2017 in Brussels, Belgium. IRP extended support in organizing and documenting a number of sessions, including: (i) An Update from 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2017); (ii) Livelihood Recovery and Social Protection; (iii) Private Sector as a Key Partner in Preparedness, Response and Recovery; (iv) Preparing and Planning for Recovery - Strengthening Institutions and Capacities; and (v) Policies and Institutional Arrangements for Recovery. At the session for an update from GP2017 organized by UNISDR, the Chair of IRP Steering Committee presented on the engagement of IRP with GP2017.

The discussions at the sessions during WRC3 demonstrated how the concept of “build back better”, which is highlighted in Priority Four of the Sendai Framework, can be implemented in transformative manner that reduces risks and builds resilience, while need to be mindful that the next disaster may be of different nature from the previous one. Based on a number of experiences shared at the sessions, it was explicitly shown that build back better is not only about upgrading infrastructure with disaster resilient construction technologies but also about stronger governance systems, improved basic services, support for diversified livelihoods, and better social protection mechanisms for the poor and vulnerable families. To build back better, it is critical to understand the underlying causes of failures and to take the opportunity in recovery phase to address those failures such as through risk-informed land use planning and improved build standards and enforcement. There are many factors that can contribute to a successful build back better effort by governments, including enhancing the:



- Ability to develop specific institutional, policy, and legal frameworks for recovery process

- Capacity to support recovery interventions efficiently and effectively so that these support to be sustainable
- Ability to coordinate multiple stakeholders that support and bring financial and technical resources to implement recovery programs

It was affirmed in the plenaries and sessions that one of the contributory factors to achieve “resilient recovery” (the overarching theme of WRC3) is the degree of preparation for recovery. “Preparedness for recovery” – as promoted in countries like India, Japan, USA, and New Zealand that have developed a well-planned and a well-resourced institutional and financial system – means putting in place the following instruments prior to disaster:

- Institutions, policies, and laws on recovery
- Financial mechanisms for recovery
- Dedicated personnel and resources for recovery



At the final day of the WRC3, this question was debated: *What can we do to make recovery resilient?* Obviously a generic solution is not possible because recovery is a complex and integrated process. As already known based on past experiences, various factors need to be considered to make recovery resilient such as: (i) preparedness and readiness to recover; (ii) context and capacity; (iii) systems and institutions; (iv) localization; and (v) inclusiveness or “all of us”. The complexity of recovery process may call for context-specific strategies and actions for resilience. For instance the World Bank, in the context of urban resilience, suggested the following actions to make recovery resilient for cities and urban communities:

- Prepare the community, e.g. raising awareness and drills
- Build institutions, e.g. recovery agency/department
- Create a financing system, e.g. financing facility for recovery



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- Invest in recovery, e.g. mitigation efforts
- Social protection, e.g. inclusion of vulnerable groups in the whole process

As way forward, the participants at the WRC3 may take the cue from message of the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management who recommended three key action points:

- Strengthen Resilience
- Understand Risk
- Work with Private Sector

## IRP Participated in the 8th Asian Safe Community Conference

*6-8 March 2017, Mashhad, Iran*

In response to the invitation extended by the Mashhad Disaster Management Department, IRP sent a representative to the 8th Asian Safe Community Conference, 6-8 March 2017 in Mashhad, Iran. The representative imparted the message that “recovery is an opportunity to strengthen safe community agenda”. Injuries and deaths are commonly exacerbated in times of disaster, especially if infrastructures like housing, buildings, roads, and offices are weak or vulnerable to hazards. To help build a safer community, past mistakes and failures can be corrected and mitigated during the recovery phase. Several case studies from around the globe were shared at the conference to illustrate the concept of build back better and to strengthen safer community programs.

“Safe Community” is a movement aimed at promoting safety and preventing injuries, and efforts depend largely on local engagement and regional networking, including academic centers and universities. In 1989, Certification of Safe Communities has been started based on seven criteria developed by the Safe Community Network in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO).

Based on agreed criteria, safe communities are those that have the following features: (i) an infrastructure based on partnership and collaboration, governed by a cross-sectional group that is responsible for safety promotion in their community; (ii) long-term and sustainable programs covering gender and all ages, environments, and situations; (iii) programs that target high-risk groups and environments, and programs that promote safety for vulnerable groups; (iv) programs that are based on all available evidence; (v) programs that document the frequency and causes of injuries; (vi) evaluation measures to assess the programs’ processes and the effects of change; and (vii) ongoing participation in national and international Safe Communities networks. Since 1991, annual conferences on Safe Communities were organized in the regions to facilitate knowledge exchange.



## Public-Private Partnership Movement Demonstrated at Crime and Disaster Prevention Exhibition

*8-9 June, 2017, Osaka, Japan*



The Crime and Disaster Prevention Exhibition in Kansai 2017 took place on 8-9 June 2017, at INTEX Osaka, Japan. It was one of the largest events in Western Japan that number of visitors exceeded 19,000 in two days. The event gathered all levels of governmental body, private sector and academia. Many companies provided their new technology and innovations, services, latest equipment, ideas etc., and demonstrated significant movement of Japan’s public-private partnership, which reflected the increased importance of private sector as a vital player in the area of risk mitigation, prevention and reduction.



Kumamoto castle was heavily damaged by the earthquake. One of the impressive demonstrations at the Exhibition was quake-absorbing seismic isolation device, provided an analysis of its predicted response to an earthquake based on the location where it is installed, the weight of its load and anticipated seismic motion, enabling the most effective possible use of its seismic isolation functions. It employed as an earthquake safety-measure to protect life, assets, precision instruments, artwork and historic artifacts.

The event showcased many other products such as advanced security live cameras and SD card recorder cameras, emergency foods such as canned bread, cooked rice-Onigiri, mineral water which can be kept for five years. The event also displayed earthquake resistant room shelter called Wood-Luck which can be arranged inside of houses, as well as less-costly portable cardboard beds, tables, chairs, etc.

In addition, government of Kochi prefecture was well engaged with this year’s exhibition, showed the region’s updated countermeasures for dealing with Nankai Trough earthquake, and distributed a booklet of disaster preparedness “Made in Kochi Products”.

At the same venue, the parallel seminars and lectures were also held where many municipal government officials, experts and delegates from companies shared their experience on crime and disaster prevention, DRR management measures and experiences including Kumamoto earthquake, preparedness for Nankai Trough Earthquake by Cabinet Office, Government of Japan, and many others.

Many technologies and innovations related disaster prevention, emergency, early recovery which were introduced in the exhibition are good reference not only for domestic entities but also for disaster prone countries and regions all over the world.