

**MESSAGE FROM ASIAN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS CENTER (ADPC) TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON RECOVERY, AND IRP STAKEHOLDERS MEETING (11 TO 13 MAY 2005)**

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Asian Disaster Preparedness Center would like to congratulate the co-organizers of this event, the International Seminar on Recovery, namely the Cabinet Office of Japan, Hyogo Prefectural Government, UN/ISDR, UNDP, UN/OCHA, and ADRC, World Bank (WB), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), International Labour Organization (ILO), on the first initiative in support of the development of the International Recovery Platform (IRP). While appreciating the invitation to both the seminar and stakeholders meeting, ADPC is unable to attend the meeting due to our preoccupation with preparation for the forthcoming 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ADPC Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management being held next week in Hanoi in cooperation with the Government of Vietnam. The Seminar on Recovery would indeed have been a valuable learning experience for us and an opportunity to share lessons with other participants.

ADPC, as one of the key regional entity members of the UN Inter Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction and a long-standing stakeholder in the area of disaster recovery, mitigation and management in Asia, is very supportive of the establishment of the International Recovery Platform. It is a mechanism whose time has come, and will fill a gap in the current international system and thus be of benefit to countries and communities struggling to cope with recovery from disasters, particularly those with major economic, social and environmental impacts. We congratulate the lead organizers, namely the Government of Japan and ADRC, UNDP and UN ISDR. ADPC has worked closely with each one of you, both in Asia and globally, and looks forward to continue to work collaboratively to advance the objectives of the IRP and contribute to implementing the work program that will result from the stakeholders meeting.

**ADPC's past work in supporting post-disaster recovery in Asia and related capacity building**

Though working on capacity building and programming with an emphasis on pre disaster preparedness and mitigation, ADPC has, since its inception in 1986, supported affected countries and communities in capacity building for planning and implementing post disaster reconstruction and recovery programs. This has been done working in partnership with Governments at national and provincial level, UN Agencies, bilateral donors, the World Bank and ADB, the IFRC and NGOs. These include earthquakes (Nepal, 1988, Baguio –1990, Flores 1992, Latur 1993, Chamoli – 1999, Gujarat 2001), volcanic eruptions (Pinatubo 1991, Rabaul), floods (Bangladesh 1987 and 88, 98 and 2000, China 1991 and 1998, Vietnam 1999 and 2000, Cambodia 1996, 2000 and 2001, Sri Lanka 2003), landslides ( Sri Lanka 1993 and Thailand 2002) and cyclones/typhoons (Philippines – 1988, Bangladesh-1991 and 1997, Vietnam and Thailand 1991 and 1997, Andhra Pradesh 1996, Orissa 1999). In some of the above disasters, ADPC personnel contributed to the Reconstruction Assessment missions from World Bank, Asian Development Bank, UN Agencies and bilateral donors.

From 1999 to 2002, ADPC had also undertaken with USAID/OFDA support, and in consultation with countries of the region and concerned UN Agencies, an exercise to review and consolidate the methodology for Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis in countries of

South, South East and East Asia. Subsequently, national workshops to improve national systems were run in Vietnam, Philippines, Thailand and Bangladesh.

In August 2002, ADPC, in collaboration with the World Bank and Provention Consortium, had conducted the first Asian Regional Workshop on Reconstruction Needs Analysis, Planning and Implementation; to draw out lessons learned from past recovery programs. A proposal is currently under discussion with Provention to organize a second workshop.

ADPC has been collaborating with UN ECLAC and the Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority (GSDMA) in undertaking a study on developing a Methodology for **Damage Assessment and Loss Estimation** for the state of Gujarat, which is in its final stages. The methodology and the local institutional arrangement designed to back it up, provide the state with the necessary know-how to undertake a more systematic post disaster assessment of damages and losses for all sectors including housing, infrastructure, environment, education, health etc., which will enable them to plan better and more swiftly for recovery. The proposed methodology is also being reviewed by the Central Government. The study and related exercise is also being offered as a case study contribution to the ongoing UNDP UNESCAP project on assessing socio economic impact of hydro meteorological disasters.

The theme of recovery has featured in our newsletter in several issues over the years. Guidelines on “key considerations for recovery planning” and for the shelter sector, initially prepared for the Gujarat Government in 2001, were revised and published in a special issue of the newsletter that year.

ADPC also served as an advisory panel member of the global Provention/World Bank study on Lessons learned from past disasters, and as an active Provention member is committed to work with the World Bank and other Provention partners in implementing the strategy for dissemination of the study outputs.

### **ADPC’s contributions to post-tsunami recovery activities in affected countries**

Since the Dec 2004 Sumatra Earthquake and Indian Ocean Tsunami, ADPC has been involved in assessments and providing support to Recovery processes in several of the affected Asian countries, working with Governments, planning and recovery agencies, taskforces and authorities, and with UN Agencies, bilateral donors and the World Bank and the ADB.

1. Immediately after the Tsunami, ADPC has been involved in conducting assessment of Damage and Recovery needs in several of the affected countries. Specifically:

- In Sri Lanka, ADPC conducted an independent assessment of Recovery needs (with particular emphasis on housing Reconstruction) in collaboration with our longstanding partners in country in January.
- Similarly, through UNDP, we provided support for the design of a joint IFI-UN System-Government of Sri Lanka workshop (February March 2005) for the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of district level Planning for Recovery in **Sri Lanka** and made a presentation on key considerations in recovery planning based on lessons learned from past national and regional disaster recovery programs

- In **Maldives** and in **Indonesia**, ADPC members worked with UNDP towards determining Recovery needs in the area of Disaster Risk Management, as part of the wider joint IFI UN System assessment.
- In **Thailand**, ADPC has been working closely with the government in planning its recovery, in addition to our work to meet the region's needs of establishing and strengthening its Early Warning System using an end to end multi hazard approach.

2. Currently, ADPC has initiated a **regional study**, likely to be funded by the World Bank and Provention on the **Economic Impacts of the Tsunami to the region**, as a whole, using the ECLAC Methodology for Estimation of Socio-Economic and Environmental Impacts. A similar study was conducted immediately following Hurricane Mitch in the Americas and provided useful insights into financial risk transfer mechanisms for recovery from the hurricane.

3. ADPC also offers **training courses for Recovery Program Managers on Challenges in Recovery Planning and Implementation**. The training workshop for Sri Lanka, mentioned above was designed along similar lines.

4. In response to request from its RCC member countries ADPC is also working with the agencies assigned the responsibility of implementing reconstruction in each of the countries to identify capacity building needs and meet the gaps. Specific regional workshops are also being planned.

### **Possible ADPC Contributions to the IRP Work Program**

Based on its past and ongoing work, ADPC will be pleased to work along with other partners and stakeholders of the IRP in playing specific roles, in close cooperation with other partners, as follows:

1. **Capacity building:** Running courses targeted primarily at managers of recovery programs at various levels of Government, line Ministries, NGOs and donor and UN Agencies. The focus is on practical lessons learned and advancing past good practice in new programs as they get developed and implemented.
2. **Assessing damage, loss and recovery program needs:** Continue to work with users to refine checklists, methodologies and tools, develop handbooks and improved software and to develop and undertake training at the national level and in local languages
3. Packaging **lessons learned** and actively **disseminating** products like guidelines, booklets and case studies

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Bangkok, 11 May 2005