

Video Conference

Date: 11 May 2005, 15:00-18:00

Venue: Briefing Room, JICA Hyogo International Center, Kobe, Japan

Presentations and discussion took place using the JICA Net and the World Bank's Global Development Learning Network (GDLN), connecting with Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Manila, GDLN in Delhi, JICA Center in Ankara, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy in Rome and the Tokyo Development Learning Center (TDLC)

Theme: How can we transform disasters into opportunities?

Coordinator: Mr. Emmanuel de Guzman, Consultant, ADRC

Rapporteur: Ms. Takako Izumi, Humanitarian Affairs officer, UN/OCHA Kobe

Mr. Mohamed Abchir, Programme Officer, UN/ISDR

Mr. Hossein Kalali, Shelter & Built Environment Advisor, UNDP/BCPR

Outline

The session was conducted using the JICA Net and WB's GDLN systems, connecting with ADB in Manila, GDLN in Delhi, JICA Center in Ankara, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy in Rome and TDLC. In the session, speakers, including representatives from various countries affected by disasters, gave their presentations focused on (1) the key opportunities revealed by the disasters; (2) institutional comparative advantages of international agencies to leverage these opportunities and support national recovery; (3) role of national government agencies and line ministries in utilizing post disaster recovery to contribute to sustainable economic development; and/or (4) best practices in transforming disasters into opportunities for sustainable socio-economic development. Besides, the effectiveness to utilize the video conference system for sharing information among the stakeholders worldwide was recognized.

Summary of discussion

1) From Kobe, Japan

Mr. Emmanuel de Guzman, Coordinator of the video conference, welcomed all the audience and explained the mechanics of the video conference which linked in real time six conference sites located in Manila, Delhi, Rome, Ankara, Tokyo and Kobe.

In his welcome speech, Mr. Chihiro Oishi, Director General, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Hyogo Center, cited the major activities of JICA, including its conduct of trainings for participants from developing countries and its active involvement in the World Conference in Disaster Reduction. He conveyed his warm welcome to the participants of the

International Seminar on Post Disaster Recovery and expressed his support to IRP.

Mr. Andrew Maskrey, Chief, Disaster Reduction Unit, UNDP/BCPR, cited six issues to be addressed in post disaster recovery: (1) differences and challenges in response and post recovery; (2) how to deal with risks; (3) the timeframe of recovery – when does it start and when does it finish; and (4) the scale of recovery, among others.

Mr. Esteban Leon, Disaster Management Specialist, UN-HABITAT, discussed some critical issues to address in pursuing a sustainable and resilient society: (1) long-term shelter strategy; (2) economic recovery; (3) land/property administration; (4) good local governance; and (5) vulnerability reduction and disaster mitigation. *See CD 2.1.

2) From Manila, Philippines

Mr. Edgar Ollet, Director/Chief, the Philippine Office of Civil Defense, discussed the initiatives National Disaster Coordinating Committee (NDCC) for recovery in the affected areas hit by the flashfloods in December 2004. These initiatives included core shelter assistance, strengthening disaster preparedness capacities of local municipalities, and capacity building for local government units in identified vulnerable areas. *See CD 2.2.

Dr. Carmencita Banatin, Officer in Charge of the Health Emergency Management Staff, the Philippine Department of Health, discussed their response activities in the flashfloods affected areas in December 2004. *See CD 2.3.

Mr. Muhammad Ehsan Khan, Project Economist, Asian Development Bank (ADB), spoke about the bank's contributions to the reconstruction efforts in Indonesia after the tsunamis. These included cash contributions, grant for reconstruction programmes, social development (health and education), infrastructure, rebuilding, environmental protection, and governance. *See CD 2.4.

Ms. Meriaty Subroto, Country Programs Specialist (MLD), ADB, presented the bank's activities in the tsunami affected countries, which included assessment, assistance projects, development of sectoral and stakeholders' partnership, and emphasized on the importance of active cooperation among NGOs.

Dr. Arturo M. Pesigan, Emergency and Humanitarian Action, WHO/WPRO, explained the activities of the UN Country Team (UNDP, FAO, UNICEF, WHO) at the emergency, recovery and rehabilitation phases, as well as the opportunities in recovery, which included infrastructure development, health systems development, and the health sector's contribution to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals. *See CD 2.5.

3) From Delhi, India

Mr. S.K. Swami, Director, Ministry of Home Affairs, introduced the activities of the Government of India to deal with natural disasters and emphasized the importance of the rehabilitation of communities, shelter, food, fishery, and long-term reconstruction. He cited also the importance of damage assessment activities supported by WB, ADB, and UN agencies.

Mr. N.V.V. Raghava, Municipal Engineer, WB, stated that the challenges and opportunities in recovery include economic/social losses and the necessity to invest in prevention. WB provided India with loans for experience, knowledge and resources sharing, country level assistance programmes, integration of disaster management in development, earthquake construction projects, and cyclone disaster management project. *See CD 2.6.

Mr. Manu Gupta, Director, Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS), emphasized on the importance of cooperative mechanisms allowing to share resources, public awareness, education, experience and lessons to prepare for next disasters, partnerships, and community participation in the partnership. *See CD 2.7.

Mr. G. Padmanabhan, Emergency Analyst, UNDP India, presented some issues in recovery, which included capacity building of vulnerable people and community, risk reduction of buildings and houses, enhancement of coordination mechanism, effective resource mobilization, and cooperation with WB and ADB.

4) From Rome, Italy

Mr. Giuseppe Deodato, Representative, Director General for Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs discussed the challenges concerning recovery, including the promotion of cooperation among governments, international organizations and NGOs, strengthening the effectiveness of resource management, and contributing to inter-agency coordination.

5) From Tokyo, Japan

Mr. Ryu Fukui, Partnership and Program Manager, WB TDLC, introduced the system of Global Development Learning Network (GDLN). He also recommended the exchange of experiences in the recovery process as a means to raise awareness on disaster preparedness. He further explained the opportunities in sharing lessons from each other's recovery activities and creating a knowledge network of specialists and practitioners. *See CD 2.8.

6) From Ankara, Turkey

Mr. Selahattin Durmaz, Head of Department, Emergency Management Directorate of Turkey (TEMAD), presented and discussed the major tasks of TEMAD, which included the establishment of emergency management centers at governmental agencies and departments, monitoring and evaluation of response activities, coordination of relief efforts and activities of voluntary organizations in response. *See CD 2.9.

Mr. Bekir Tuzel, Head of Earthquake Research Department, General Directorate of Disaster Affairs (GDDA), Ministry of Public Works, introduced the major post disaster recovery activities undertaken by the Ministry. These included emergency aid fund, damage assessment studies, temporary housing, beneficiaries, infra-structure, and site selection/land-use planning activities, and removal of collapsed and/or heavily damaged buildings. *See CD 2.10.

Mr. Murat Sungur Bursa, Director, Project Implementation Unit (PIU), Prime Ministry, described the developments after Marmara earthquake. These included the establishment of TEMAD, the set-up of the National Catastrophic Insurance Programme, and the change in the disaster management paradigm from rehabilitation and recovery to mitigation and preparedness. *See CD 2.11.

7) From Kobe, Japan

Mr. Itsu Adachi, Group Director, JICA, reported on JICA's approach to ensuring effective assistance in disaster management. This approach includes incorporating disaster management viewpoint into socio-economic development, assisting in disaster risk identification and assessment, assisting in formulating comprehensive disaster management plan, and promoting community based disaster management activities from the viewpoint of human-security. *See CD 2.12.

8) Comments

Mr. William Berger, Acting Senior Regional Advisor, USAID/OFDA, articulated that the opportunity for risk reductions can be found anytime. It is important to consider the creation of sustainable livelihood, i.e., cash for work programme and micro-credit programme.

Mr. Satoru Nishikawa, Director for Disaster Preparedness, Cabinet Office of Japan, emphasized the necessity of determining how we could reduce risks during the recovery phase.

Ms. Helena Molin Valdes, Deputy Director, UN/ISDR, stressed the importance of sharing lessons learnt from disasters in our efforts to reduce risks and prevent potential losses from probable disasters.

Mr. Terje Skavdal, Deputy Head, OCHA Regional Office Asia and the Pacific, UN/OCHA, stressed the importance of involving the community and local governments in the recovery process.

Mr. Claudio Lenoci, Director, ILO in Rome, expressed the need for UN agencies to streamline their roles in disaster management. IRP will help to find a common solution in reconstruction and seek a joint action.

9) Closing

In closing, Mr. Alfredo Lazarte, Director, a.i., ILO, emphasized the importance of combining risks and opportunities to achieve better opportunities, to strengthen coordination in disaster management, and to encourage the participation of local communities in disaster response and preparedness.

In concluding the video conference, Mr. Emmanuel de Guzman, thanked the moderators and speakers in the six conference sites, the audience and participants, the technical staffs, and the support of partners, including WB, ADB, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Italy, and JICA for the use of their respective video conference facilities.