



**Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction**  
Second Session, Geneva, Switzerland  
16 - 19 June 2009



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## **SPECIAL EVENT**

# **Integrating Social, Economic, and Environmental Concerns in Post-disaster Recovery**

~ Promoting Effective Build-Back Better Approaches through IRP ~  
(Draft Concept Note on IRP Special Event for the GP/DRR Session)

**Wednesday, 17 June 2009  
13:00-15:00**



**Draft**

## **Background**

The International Recovery Platform (IRP) is one of the key thematic platforms of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) system for the implementation of the “Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters”, a global action plan for disaster risk reduction for the decade adopted by 168 governments at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR).

As an international source of knowledge on recovery practices, the IRP Steering Committee members and the Secretariat are engaging in various knowledge management activities such as developing databases, conducting case studies, compiling practices on better recovery, and developing recovery tools to facilitate effective recovery operations. The knowledge products emanating from these activities are disseminated not only through the renewed IRP web but also through high level events such as the International Recovery Forum.

The recent International Recovery Forum 2009 with the theme “building back better and greener” showcased several recovery experiences and knowledge that take into account environment and climate change concerns. Through this Forum, the IRP community of practice was able to identify the current gaps and needs in the area of knowledge management. For instance, the need for more knowledge and experiences on post-disaster assessments, recovery planning, and recovery funding were identified.

Since many of the issues were crosscutting, a holistic approach to recovery operations was suggested. In particular, the social, economic, and environmental concerns should be integrated into the recovery operations and practices. The Forum came up with suggested measures for promoting holistic recovery through the identification of baseline requirements for effective integration of social, economic, environmental issues in recovery.

In view of this, IRP seeks to ensure that the identified gaps in recovery practices and capacities are addressed in post-disaster situations. The recent earthquake that hit Italy in April 2009 is the most recent case, where lessons and tools on recovery can be utilized.

## **The IRP Special Event**

The theme of the special event, organized within the framework of the ISDR Global Forum 2009, is “Integrating Social, Economic, and Environmental Concerns in Recovery.” The question of how to effectively put all suggested measures (i.e. social, economic, and environmental measures) together into a coherent approach to attain a

holistic recovery has yet to be answered. Furthermore, it is important to effectively disseminate the lessons and knowledge drawn from the Forum. IRP seeks to address these issues in accordance with its mission to identify best practices, gaps and constraints that are currently experienced in the context of disaster recovery and to serve as catalyst for the development of tools, resources, and capacity for resilient recovery.

The IRP Special Event will be an occasion to discuss recent issues on recovery and agree on specific measures to address them. It will also discuss various ways of effective dissemination and application of knowledge and lessons on holistic recovery approach.

### **Objectives**

The main objective of the IRP Special Event is to discuss the different mechanisms for effective integration of social, economic, and environmental concerns into recovery operations and practices with the most recent disaster as case point (e.g. Italy Earthquake of April 2009).

In this context, the following issues will be tackled:

1. How the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) platform and process takes into account the social, economic, and environmental impact of a disaster and can inform the recovery programming process and its practical applications
2. What appropriate technologies and mechanisms should be considered to immediately address the gaps in: (i) recovery planning, and (ii) recovery funding
3. What are the immediate actions to be done to effectively disseminate knowledge and lessons dealing with integrating social, economic, and environmental concerns into recovery

### **Expected Outputs and Link to 2009 Global Platform Outcomes**

This Special Event will provide:

- An overview of the PDNA process and the launching of a peer review exercise on the same to ensure that social, economic, and environmental concerns are taken into consideration
- A presentation of best practices and lessons learned that can help mitigate disaster impacts on the livelihoods and the environment
- Proposals for effective dissemination of knowledge and lessons learned, including those outputs of the International Recovery Forum 2009, to wider community of practice

This event will support the expected outcome of the Global Platform of identifying remaining gaps as well as actions to accelerate national and local implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

#### **Format**

The format of the Special Event will have both presentations and commentaries moderated by the chairperson. The presentations will dwell on current recovery experiences as well as technical aspects for promoting holistic and effective recovery operations. The technical presentation and the presentation of the outputs of the International Recovery Forum 2009 will be followed by an open discussion to draw comments and suggestions to move the IRP agenda forward.

## Agenda

12:45 - 13:00 *Lunch will be offered to the participants of the Special Event (just outside the venue)*

### Opening Session

13:00 - 13:05 **Opening Remarks and Background of the Special Event**

*Mr. Alfredo Lazarte-Hoyle, Director ILO/CRISIS and Chair IRP SC*

13:05 - 13:10 **Welcome Remarks**

*H.E. Mr. Masayoshi Namiki, Vice-Minister for Disaster Management, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan*

### Special Reports on Recent Disasters

13:10 - 13:30 **Recovery Status Report from Italy Earthquake of April 2009**

*Mr. Guido Bertolaso, Head of Civil Protection, Undersecretary of State, Government of Italy*

13:30 - 13:40 **Current Knowledge and Practices for Disaster Reduction and Recovery**

*Professor Kenji Okazaki, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies*

### Technical Forum

13:40 - 14:15 **Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) Process**

*- Mr. Maxx Dilley, Chief, Disaster Reduction and Recovery Team*

*UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, Geneva*

*- Mr. Doekle Wielinga, Team Leader, Sustainable Disaster Recovery/GFDRR, The World Bank*

*- Hon. Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi, Director General, Office of the President National Planning Commission, Namibia*

14:15 - 14:20 **Question & Answer on PDNA**

### Environmentally-Sound Recovery

14:20 - 14:30 **Integrating Environment Perspective into Recovery - Experience from Cyclone Nargis**

*Dr. Nizar Mohamed, Development Specialist and UNEP Consultant for the Myanmar recovery process*

14:30 - 14:40 **Recommendations Drawn from the International Recovery Forum 2009**

*Mr. Alfredo Lazarte-Hoyle, Director ILO/CRISIS and Chair IRP SC*

14:40 - 14:45 Question & Answer

### Closing Session

14:45 - 14:55 Wrap Up

*Mr. Praveen Pardeshi, UNISDR and IRP Special Event Facilitator*

14:55 - 15:00 Closing Remarks

*Mr. Naoto Tajiri, Director Cabinet Office of Japan and Vice-Chairman IRP SC*

**Facilitator** *Mr. Praveen Pardeshi of UNISDR*

### Organizers

International Recovery Platform (IRP) Secretariat, Government of Italy, Government of Japan, International Labour Organization (ILO), and United Nations Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)

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