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## PRESS RELEASE

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### International Recovery Platform launches new website

*Kobe, Japan-* The International Recovery Platform (IRP)<sup>1</sup> is launching a new website that will provide relevant information about worldwide practices and lessons learned from past disaster recovery experiences.

The new IRP website will be officially launched in Kobe at the International Recovery Forum 2009, scheduled to take place 26-27 January, in the presence of Ministers and high level representatives of several Governments including those from Ecuador, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Thailand. The initiative is part of IRP's advocacy activities to promote the recovery phase as an essential process for rebuilding communities in a safer and better manner after they have been struck by disaster.

“The new interactive tool is an essential resource that will improve the work of practitioners and policy makers in post-disaster situations. This website is the first of its kind and I am certain it will be very relevant to many practitioners in governments, local authorities and community-based organizations. A lot can be learned from past experiences and the expertise of past recoveries. This interactive website is an ideal way to share that knowledge,” says Salvano Briceño, Director of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR).

The IRP website will contain various resources such as publications, tools and guidelines, and data information along with specific countries and relevant recovery themes such as shelter, livelihood and environment. The site will also offer online discussion forums where visitors can exchange and discuss successful recovery processes and challenges that still remain in post-disaster planning and programming. It will be regularly updated with content provided by IRP partner organizations and be expected to greatly increase information sharing on post-disaster recovery practices and policies.

The IRP is a joint initiative between international organizations both within and outside the UN System and Governments. It is supported by UNISDR as one of the thematic platforms within the ISDR system.

For more information about the project or to submit contents please visit:

[www.recoveryplatform.org](http://www.recoveryplatform.org) or contact the IRP secretariat at: [irp@recoveryplatform.org](mailto:irp@recoveryplatform.org).

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<sup>1</sup> The IRP Secretariat is based in Kobe. The IRP Steering Committee Members are Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC), Cabinet Office of Japan, Hyogo Prefecture, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Labour Organization (ILO), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), United Nations Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN/OCHA), and The World Bank (WB).