

Recovery Network



“A Newsletter from International Recovery Platform”

IRP Partners:

UNDP, UN/ISDR, Cabinet Office of Japan, Hyogo Prefectural Govt., ADRC, ILO, Govt. Of Italy, Govt. Of Switzerland, UN/OCHA, IFRC, World Bank, UN-HABITAT

International Forum on Tsunami and Earthquake

Kobe Communiqué: For further Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action

Issue 2, May 2007

The International Forum on Tsunami and Earthquake took place in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan on 15-16 January 2007. The Forum was hosted by the Government of Japan, International Recovery Platform (IRP) Kobe, Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) and Hyogo Prefectural Government in partnership with Governments of Switzerland and Italy, UN/ISDR, UNDP, UN/OCHA, ILO, The World Bank, IFRC and UN-HABITAT.

About 300 participants from 34 countries and 20 international organizations attended the Forum.



The Forum aimed to contribute to achieving the goals of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) to reduce risks and vulnerabilities of countries and communities. The specific objectives of the Forum were to:

- Present important perspectives of post disaster recovery;
- Facilitate and promote exchange of lessons and experiences on post disaster recovery, particularly the ongoing recovery efforts; and
- Provide feedback from countries on their respective implementation of the HFA priorities of action.

His Excellency Mr. Kensei Mizote, Minister of State for Disaster Management, Japan, opened the Forum and conveyed its commitment to promote international cooperation in building the disaster resilience of nations. Mr. Takeshi Iwaya, Sr. Vice Minister

for Foreign Affairs, Japan, Mr. Toshizo Ido, Governor, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan, Mr. John Ohiorhenuan, Deputy Assistant Administrator and Senior Deputy Director, UNDP/BCPR, Mr. Salvano Briceno, Director, UN/ISDR made opening speech. Ms. Maryvonne Plessis-Fraissard, Sr. Advisor, Sustainable Development, the World Bank delivered the keynote speech. Former US President and UN Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery Mr. William J. Clinton sent a video message on the occasion of the forum. The Forum facilitated in-depth discussions on key issues of recovery and highlighted following outcomes:

1. The importance of advancing international cooperation in disaster risk reduction, promoting **Build Back Better** principles, and addressing issues on governance, institutional arrangements, education, and local culture in recovery processes.
2. A better understanding among the participants regarding the appropriate and sustainable recovery practices deployed in disaster affected countries in local contexts. The disaster recovery experiences of Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Maldives, India, Pakistan, Thailand, Japan and other countries underscored the necessity of the incorporation of risk reduction elements in every aspect of recovery process.
3. The Forum discussed the critical aspects of post disaster recovery in the areas of, a) Housing, b) Livelihood, c) Governance and Institutional Arrangements for Recovery, and d) Crosscutting issues, e.g. Environment, Gender and Information Dissemination (Early Warning) and came-up with following recommendations;
 - Need for an integrated recovery planning considering the socio-economic, cultural and environmental context,
 - Use of appropriate recovery guidelines and standard for sectoral recovery initiatives,

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Upcoming IRP events

IRP side event in Global platform for disaster Reduction meeting on June 06, 2007 at Geneva

Launching of IRP website in IRP side event during Global Platform

4th IRP Steering Committee Meeting on July 19, 2007 (tentative)

International Forum on Tsunami and Earthquake

- Sustainable institutional arrangement for effective post disaster recovery, and
 - Equity issues in all aspects of recovery.
4. The participants emphasized the need for expansion of networks and partnerships through the International Recovery Platform (IRP) activities of recovery stakeholders, among others, UN agencies, international/ regional institutions, countries, local governments, NGOs, IFIs and communities for promoting effective experience sharing and pragmatic initiatives on disaster risk reduction and recovery practices. Further enhancement of global disaster recovery network was proposed to ensure better recovery. The importance of facilitating South-South cooperation was stressed.
 5. Participants emphasized the need to strengthen the capacity of countries and communities by enhancing knowledge networking and recovery preparedness, providing human resource develop-



ment training as well as damage and needs assessment tools, recovery monitoring tools, developing user-friendly recovery databases, and organising constant on-line dialogues and forums.

6. The Forum recognized risk reduction as an integral component of recovery to achieve sustainable development. Further efforts are required to mainstream risk reduction and to address appropriate policy development and reform in high risk countries. For this purpose, strengthening of the ISDR system is crucial for effectiveness of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), IRP and other relevant platforms, networks and initiatives.

Overall, the Forum has called for collective action for the pursuit of the goals of the HFA, in particular development and strengthening of national platforms, including enhanced mechanisms for multi-stakeholder coordination and collaboration and for increased involvement of national policy makers, national and local government officials, and community leaders in disaster risk reduction and post disaster recovery efforts.

For detail information, please visit : www.recoveryplatform.org

IRP RETREAT IN TURIN

The IRP Retreat was held at the ILO Training Center in Turin, Italy, on 20-22 November 2006, with support of the Government of Italy and ILO. The objectives of the retreat were to articulate the IRP vision and mission, to discuss key result areas and proposed work plans of the IRP activities in Kobe, Turin and Geneva, and to foster teamwork among the three hubs. The retreat was expected to result in improved understanding of IRP mission, objectives, and working modalities, and to finalize the IRP Work Plan for 2006-2008.

The retreat assembled 48 representatives of key partner institutions and national agencies from south Africa, India, Pakistan, Bolivia, Indonesia.

The retreat emphasized IRP as a collaborative network, and elicited the following reflections on the various challenges at hand:

1. Disaster risk reduction is a development issue and a matter of political responsibility. It must be addressed through efficient and intelligent recovery processes which could serve as vehicle for building more disaster resilient communities and ensuring sustainable social, economic and environmental development.
2. IRP should assist, guide, and work with national governments to meet their recovery needs, to address pre-existing vulnerabilities including poverty, and to achieve their development goals through an effective process of disaster recovery with risk reduction.
3. While major progress in IRP work is evident, much remains to be done, particularly in improving networking and linkages, harnessing resources, generating knowledge, developing standards, tools, and guidelines, grounding work on field realities, and promoting horizontal cooperation among disaster prone countries, among others.

4. Donors and stakeholders of IRP expressed strong support to IRP efforts as they look forward to enhanced IRP capacity, more active involvement of partners and donors, setting up of funding mechanism integrated in bilateral and multilateral cooperation, and the development and promotion of recovery planning models.

5. The challenging task of ensuring better recovery with disaster risk reduction should engage IRP to interact actively with communities in urgent need of recovery assistance and services, to ground its services on field realities, and to provide guidance and assistance to local government authorities, as well as hope and encouragement to affected peoples.

6. IRP as a platform could derive its strengths and sustain its capacities from its coalition of partners and advocates world wide with their respective networks at all levels fully aware of and engaged in IRP.

7. The capacity building of countries in recovery, with focused action in the field and a bias for the poor and the needy, is a major goal of IRP.

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IRP RETREAT

The retreat sessions reported on progress of IRP, discussed proposed work plans for 2007-2008, vision and mission, and experiential learning from countries and regions, and donors' viewpoints and priorities. The plenary presentations and ensuing discussions generated the following **Expectations and Recommendation:**



- a) IRP should focus its delivery of services on high disaster risk countries.
- b) Local governments in need of recovery could help define relevant IRP services and products.

- c) IRP services and products should include:
 - Common sets of terminologies, standards and indicator
 - Harmonized tools and methodologies, including post disaster needs assessment, etc.
 - Knowledge management kit
 - Capacity building training modules (multilingual)
- d) Develop an integrated work plan for IRP which should Indicate and define these deliverables
- e) IRP should be able to serve and guide governments in the development of national platforms.

For detail information, please visit : www.recoveryplatform.org

The World Bank : Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)

Disaster reduction is a critical dimension of the global poverty reduction agenda as disasters impact poor the most. With this in view, the World Bank is developing various instruments to support its client governments to integrate risk reduction strategies in development processes at the country and local levels, especially in countries where risks are high. In consultation with different stakeholders, the World Bank Board has approved a new partnership, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), based on three key guiding principles:

- The new United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) system provides coherent and coordinated approach among all global stakeholders for disaster reduction and recovery.
- The ongoing ISDR processes, particularly joint work programs, strengthen global advocacy, knowledge sharing, and partnerships in disaster reduction.
- The focus of the Facility is on building capacities at the local and national levels to disaster proof the MDGs.

OPERATIONS

The Global Facility has three-track operations to achieve its development objectives at the global, regional and country levels. These include the following key deliverables under each track, in order of increasing financial importance:

Under TRACK 1:

Global and Regional Deliverables

This track will support ISDR's global and regional processes to enable leveraging country resources for ex-ante investment in prevention, mitigation and preparedness activities, particularly in low and middle-income countries. The key deliverables are:

- Enhancing global and regional advocacy, partnerships and knowledge management facilitated through the ISDR secretariat for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction (DRR) in low and middle income countries at risk.
- Standardizing hazard risk management tools, methodologies and practices

Under TRACK 2:

Country level deliverables

This track will provide technical assistance to assist low and middle income countries to mainstream disaster risk reduction in strategic planning, particularly the Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSs) and various sectoral development policies. The key deliverables are:

- Ex-ante risk management strategy and institutional development including early warning systems and emergency preparedness in low and middle income countries
- Supporting innovative projects to demonstrate cost-effective hazard mitigation to reduce risks associated with critical infrastructure
- Learning, research, and knowledge management for current and future risks
- Developing frameworks to catalyze investment in hazard prevention, mitigation and preparedness
- Ex-ante disaster recovery financing mechanism established in middle income countries

Under TRACK 3:

Accelerated Disaster Recovery in Low Income Countries

(in pipeline) [This Standby Recovery Financing track](#), proposed to be operated through a mechanism linked to IDA, is to support disaster-stricken countries' immediate recovery needs before medium and long term recovery programs are formulated and launched. However a low income country would be eligible for this only if pre-disaster preparedness and mitigation instruments (Track 2) have been institutionalized in the country, measured in terms of investments in risk reduction as a percentage of GDP or such other measures agreed by the partners of the Global Facility. This is being developed in close collaboration with World Bank's IDA team and a position paper on this will be available soon for wider consultation.

For more information please visit <http://www.worldbank.org/hazards/gfdr>

Public seminar: "Livelihood Recovery after Crises: ILO's Activities in Indonesia and Timor-Leste"

ILO Office in Japan organised a public seminar on 18 January 2007 on "Livelihood Recovery after Crises: ILO's Activities in Indonesia and Timor-Leste" in the World Bank Tokyo Office's E-Learning Center .



The Objectives of this seminar were to: 1) highlight the important roles the ILO plays in livelihood recovery after crises, and 2) showcase good practices of ILO's crisis response in Indonesia and Timor-Leste.

At the opening, Mr. Shiniichi Hasegawa, Director, ILO Office in Japan, welcomed the

participants from government, international and development agencies, NGOs, universities, and research institutes in Japan. Then, Mr. Alan Boulton, Director of ILO Office in Jakarta, explained about ILO operational activities in Indonesia (Aceh, Yogyakarta & Papua), and Timor-Leste, that was complemented by Mr. Alfredo Lazarte's (Director a.i., CRISIS: International Programme on Crisis Response and Reconstruction/ILO) presentation on the comprehensive picture of the ILO crisis response at the global level.

Mr. Lazarte, who represented the ILO at the International Tsunami and Earthquake Forum held in Kobe, also referred to IRP's activities and the achievement of the Kobe Forum during his presentation.

Contributor: ILO Tokyo

UNDP Learning Event : Enhancing Capacity for Disaster Recovery

The UNDP Regional Programme for Capacity Building for Sustainable Recovery and Risk Reduction (RPCB) conducted a **learning event on Enhancing Capacity for Disaster Recovery in Bangkok from 6-13 March 2007**. The training workshop was designed to strengthen the capacity of UNDP Country Offices (CO) to play the lead role in designing and implementing post-disaster early recovery strategies and activities.

In a highly interactive manner, the workshop drew on the experience of the 27 participants, majority of whom are from tsunami affected countries in the region. Participants include those with recovery programme management roles, sectoral experiences in livelihood, shelter, environment and governance as well as in disaster risk reduction and in operational support. The topics were determined during previous consultations and included exercises on operationalizing UNDP's Guiding Principles for Recovery, designing post-disaster recovery-oriented damage and needs assessments, and developing recovery frameworks, formulating project plans and mobilizing recovery resources according to UNDP's standard operating procedures (SoPs). Further, participants were trained on recovery coordination skills and the process of IASC contingency planning. Throughout the workshop emphasis was placed on integrating disaster risk reduction and cross-cutting issues into the recovery process (human rights, gender, local capacity, govern-

ment commitment, media).

The workshop served as a basis to building up a regional surge capacity for recovery in UNDP and participants recommended corporate actions that may contribute to promoting linkages with the global surge project. Further, this initiative will be followed up in tune with the development of a regional Community of Practice which is being facilitated through the DRM-Asia network.



The design and output of the training workshop will also contribute to the current development of corporate training modules on disaster recovery and risk reduction for UNDP. BCPR's Office in Latin America and Caribbean who provided a resource person is keen on replicating this in their region. BCPR's Disaster Reduction Unit (DRU) will produce country-support packages with an overview course on disaster risk reduction and specialized modules on mainstreaming and recovery.

For more information contact sanny.jegillos@undp.org

Disaster Reduction Hyperbase (DRH) Kobe Meeting, March 12-15, 2007

The Earthquake Disaster Mitigation Research Center of the National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention, Japan (EDM-NIED) organized two meetings related to the Disaster Reduction Hyper base (DRH) Project, which is developing a web-based database of disaster reduction technologies and knowledge. The meetings were held in the main conference room of EDM in Kobe city. More than 50 persons, mostly project members, working in disaster field gathered from 10 different countries as well as international organizations, such as ISDR, EC/JRC, ADRC, IRP, UNCRD-Kobe, and OCHA-Kobe.

In the Disaster Reduction Hyper base (DRH) Contents Meeting altogether twenty-nine planned contents were presented in

sessions on three different types of technologies, namely "implementation oriented technology", "process technology" and "transferable indigenous knowledge". Details of the form for content proposals (DRH template) were also discussed. In the "First Workshop on Disaster Reduction Hyperbase – Asian Application (March 14-15)", participants confirmed the plan of activities in the following one-year period, including the basic direction of the system development necessary to create the database.



For detail information, please visit: <http://www.edm.bosai.go.jp/old/im-n.html>

Recovery News From Field

Lessons-learned from Yogya Shelter Recovery Programme

According to the damage and loss assessment for Yogyakarta and Central Java around 157,000 houses were destroyed and 202,000 houses were damaged. The monetary value, for the housing sector, is estimated at Rp 15.3 trillion. The overall damage and economic losses, per family, were from Rp 13 mio in Gunung Kidul to Rp 30 mio in Klatento Rp 55 in mio in Bantul.



The widespread damage was caused by flaws in most houses. The traditional building culture was complacent about earthquake risk, even though earthquakes of this type are rare in this region. Traditional masonry structures suffered most, but is wholesale change required? Both masonry – traditionally without reinforcement – and modern reinforced concrete structures were damaged and often collapsed. In the case of the latter, the causes are most often simple : bad design, bad detailing, bad materials, bad workmanship. Very often, columns failed at their weakest points. Joints of columns and beams got dislodged. In several cases, ground floors of multistory buildings simply gave way. Knowledge and skills on seismic building are for sure not better in Java compared to Aceh or Nias. Most of the traditional masonry buildings in Yogya were failed due to following reasons:

- All masonry buildings that collapsed suggest a shear failure indication of a brittle building
- Shear failure is typical for a brittle building and such failure is very quick.

- Masonry walls made of burnt bricks connected with weak mortar are no match for strong earthquake accelerations.
- Lack of adequate anchoring and poor workmanship enhance the seismic vulnerability of the buildings

Following measures could help to reduce the vulnerability of the houses;

- Some tension resisting elements, e.g. timber, reinforced concrete, steel should be used along with mortar mix of sand and cement.
- All elements should be connected appropriately so that the building can act as one unit when shaken by earthquake
- Half-brick thick masonry walls without reinforcement shall be retrofitted
- For one brick thick masonry walls, it is suggested to use mortar consisting of sand and cement.

If people rebuild a masonry structure confined with reinforced concrete, on good foundations, with rebars well placed, with good anchoring between all parts, then safety is well guaranteed.



Contribution: Bruno Dercon, UN-HABITAT, Indonesia

Disaster Risk Reduction in Post Tsunami Recovery in Maldives

Maldives was not classified as a seriously vulnerable country to disasters. There was no history of serious disasters in this country. The tsunami was the wakeup call for Maldivian people to realize their vulnerability to natural disasters. Being a very small scattered island country (1192 island) with little elevation (only 1.5 meters) above sea level, there is no immediate solution for disaster management. The remoteness of the islands, limited sources of income, lack of knowledge and experience accelerated the vulnerability of the population. The tsunami caused death of 108 people, destroyed 8797 houses economic loss nearly \$450 millions (62% of the GDP). 104 jetties or harbors, which were the lifeline to the livelihood and only access route to the islands for the people were damaged.

Despite many constraints, Maldives introduced a well coordinated Tsunami recovery programme focusing on Risk reduction issues. By adopting the **Build Back Better** approach



in the housing reconstruction and repair, the government recovery authority has already built 1369 houses and repaired 3665 houses. Most of the temporary shelters were rebuilt in to permanent shelters. The buildings were built in much stronger and of better quality following tsunami safe construction method. Livelihood recovery through repairing harbors, agricultures and fishery loan are also on going .

The governments, with support of UN agencies developed an institutional framework and policies for disaster management and strengthen the National Disaster Management Center (NDMC) with well defined organizational and legal structure. The NDMC developed multi hazard preparedness and response plan beside of Post tsunami recovery initiative to reduce potential risk of disaster and vulnerabilities of the population. Alongside, the establishment of early warning system and



national and regional Emergency Operational Centre (EOC) in the country, the government has undertaken a major initiative to develop of safer islands by a) redesigning of physical feature of island (reclaiming land, elevated areas for vertical evacuation, etc.), b) Create wider environmental protection zone, etc. These initiatives are critical but costly solutions for government to reduce disaster risk that require additional funding. The

population consolidation program was good quick solution. However, populations, even though severely affected were not willing to move to safer island. All these issues combined with logistics and accessibility problem to small islands caused considerable challenges for the effective recovery and DRR initiatives of Maldives.

Contribution: The Ministry of Construction, Govt. of Maldives

Disaster-hit Communities From Thailand, Across Asia and New Orleans Call for Greater Voice in Recovery Process :

Powerfully entitled “People’s Leadership in Disaster Recovery: Rights, Resilience and Empowerment” , the meeting brought together more than 200 representatives from grass-roots communities hit by natural disasters from across Asia and from the USA. The participants came from tsunami countries including Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Maldives, and Thailand; from disaster-affected communities in Pakistan, Philippines and Nepal; and from Hurricane Katrina-hit communities in New Orleans, USA.



The meeting focused on issues such as conflicts over land, inequitable access to relief and rehabilitation support, insufficient community consultation, heavy-handed recovery programmes, violations of human rights, and disregard for the special needs of marginalized groups and cultural minorities.

It was especially touching to witness the interaction between the community leaders from Katrina – hit New Orleans with communities from the other countries, the feeling of solidarity between them, and how they learn from each other about the power of community empowerment in face of slow and

inadequate outside help.

Three main messages emerged from the meeting:

- 1) The key to success in disaster rehabilitation is to ensure that the people affected are involved in the planning and implementing of recovery programmes from day one, based on an open dialogue and a strong partnership between the communities and government and aid agencies.
- 2) Communities must prepare for future disasters by building on their strengths and solidarity and developing their own capacities.
- 3) Equity and respect for human rights are central to the recovery process, especially for the more marginalized and poorest communities such as ethnic minorities, migrants, the elderly, and children.



The workshop is jointly organized by The Community Organizations Development Institute (CODI), the Chumchonchai Foundation (CCF), the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR) and Thailand’s Tsunami Affected Communities Network, UN-HABITAT; and sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

For more information, please visit :

<http://www.undp.or.th/news/news-061102.html>

Rising from the sand – progress in the post-tsunami reconstruction in Xaafuun, Puntland State of Somalia

Despite the difficulties in transporting the materials to the remote Xaafuun village, UN-HABITAT has finished the construction of two technical workshops which will be converted into municipal offices at the end of the project, three demonstration houses for community to select the suitable one as per their need, and the first 200 houses. The settlement project has been implementing in a relocated areas, since the old settlement was identified unsuitable due to its location in an instable dune area at sea level that often hit by strong sand-laden winds. The relocation area was selected with the support of rural planners and environmental experts, and in consultation with the community.



Interventions by other agencies – now largely completed – have been coordinating by UN-HABITAT (particularly site identification) through its integrated planning approach. A health centre, a meat market, a mosque, a madrasa and a

women’s centre were built to complement the residential development. All finished houses have already been occupied by the beneficiaries.

The reconstruction programme in the tsunami-damaged Xaafuun village was funded by UNICEF and Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF). During interviewing, Shaa’a Sais Awale expressed her appreciation for the shelter by making below comments: “We moved into this new house in September 2006, because the living conditions of our *buul* in the old settlement were too difficult. The plastic sheets covering the house were suffocating and was not suitable to protect from the heat, strong winds and dust. Cooking was a problem and often we had food mixed with sand. The living conditions in the new houses are much better. I am very happy with the size of my new house, though the space might not be enough for families with many wives and children. My husband and I have only five kids and for us there is enough



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room. I have a small shop in one room which help me to earn some money for my family in addition to my husband's salary.

I am also using front space of the house for our goats. I am very grateful to UN-HABITAT and UNICEF for giving us this very valuable gift."

When the international spotlight turned to the areas affected by the tsunami, a number of interventions showered the Somali coast, already stricken by years of drought and civil

-war. In the case of Xaafuun, this disastrous event turned into an opportunity to boost the local economy. Due to the consistent investments received, a small fishing village now has the chance to become an important centre for coastal development. This is particularly needed in the Somali context, where small centres are being deserted in favour of bigger towns, which often offer more economic opportunities.

Contributor: UN-HABITAT, Somalia

World Bank support in Recovery

Feb. 2007 - Caribbean Countries Pool Risks Ahead Of 2007 Hurricane Season Demonstrating support for the world's first ever multi-country catastrophe insurance pool, donors today pledged US\$47 million to the reserve fund of the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF), which will provide participating governments from the region with immediate access liquidity if hit by a hurricane or earthquake.

Dec. 2006 Youth Helps Protect Tsunami Damaged Coast in Sri Lanka : The World Bank's Small Grants Program in 2006 awarded a grant to a youth-managed NGO -- the Derana Community Development Foundation, Waskaduwa, in the South of Sri Lanka. The Derana project focuses on building



capacity and management skills of youth in the tsunami affected area of Kalutara district to enable them to regain livelihoods lost after the tsunami. The training program inspired the youth to undertake a program to recreate a protective

green belt on the beach in their hometown.

Dec. 2006 Aceh Post-Tsunami Reconstruction Lessons Learned two years on: Before the 2004 tsunami, Aceh was one of Indonesia's most neglected and isolated regions.

Several decades of conflict in the province brought isolation and despair to its people. It is now home to the largest reconstruction effort in the developing world. For the first time in three decades, Aceh is at peace, and maintaining this stability is key to its economic recovery. The 2005 peace agreement between the government of Indonesia and the Free Aceh movement has been strengthened through the first-ever local elections which were held in Aceh on December 11. Up to \$8 billion, of which \$5.8 billion is already allocated is expected to be spent on reconstruction by 2009, representing about 1500 projects by more than 300 institutions.

Dec. 2005 Pakistan Earthquake: The 7.6-magnitude earthquake that struck on October 08, 2005 left widespread destruction of most of the private houses and public infrastructure in Pakistan's North West Frontier and Azad Jammu and Kashmir province caused death of at least 73,000, severely injured another 70,000 people, and left 2.8 million people without shelter. World Bank financed US\$430 million in December 2005 to support the emergency recovery initiative of the Government of Pakistan.

For more information contact : hazardmanagement@worldbank.org

Earthquake Risk Reduction and Recovery Preparedness Programme for South Asian Region

The Government of Japan has given **\$4.83 million** of grant to UNDP to implement "Earthquake Risk Reduction and Recovery Preparedness Programme for South Asian Region". An Exchange of Notes were taken place on March 17 in New York between Mr. Kenzo Oshima, Ambassador to the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, and Mr. John Ohiorhenuan, Deputy Assistant Administrator and Senior Deputy Director, Bureau for Crisis and Prevention and Recovery, UNDP).

In the South Asian region, earthquakes occurring in various places in recent years are resulting in huge damages. Limited capacities of the national organisation and low awareness in the most vulnerable communities adds to the impact of disasters. Public buildings (schools, hospitals, community centres, etc...) and private houses in the region are in many cases highly vulnerable to earthquakes. As a result, large number of school children died, and women, who tend to remain at home in sex-segregated societies, were more affected than men in the recent south Asian earthquakes. Increased efforts are required for earthquake preparedness and mitigation to

reduce the risk of future disasters. UNDP, the leading agency of the International Recovery Platform (IRP, Office: Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture), established by the initiative of Japan, requested grant aid from Japan while cooperating on this programme aiming to strengthen the institutional and community capacity to plan and implement earthquake risk reduction strategies integrating disaster preparedness, mitigation and post disaster recovery in five South Asian countries (Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan).

The programme seeks to support regional cooperation for disaster risk reduction and recovery preparedness in the context of SAARC Framework for Disaster Management. The Framework is also aligned with the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters.

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The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), IRP's constituting institution in Japan, (Office: Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture) will provide technical support to implement the project. It is expected that Japan's knowledge on and experiences of seismic hazard will be fully used. The assistance will be rolled

out as part of the support pledged by Mr. Junichiro Koizumi, the former Prime Minister of Japan, at the Asian-African Summit of 2005. This support includes 2.5 billion dollars for Asia and Africa over the next five years.

For inquiries, contact the International Press Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Govt. Of Japan ((tel. 81-3-5501-8134).

First Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

First Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction will be held on 5, 6 and 7 June 2007 at the International Conference Centre (ICCG) in Geneva. The Global Platform is the main consultative forum on disaster risk reduction at the global level. It brings together a wide range of actors in the various sectors of development and humanitarian work, and in the environmental and scientific fields related to disaster risk reduction. It aims at expanding the political space dedicated by governments to disaster risk reduction, in all sectors, and contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals particularly in respect of poverty reduction and environmental sustainability. The Platform, as a global forum, will advocate for effective and timely action by nations, communities and all stakeholders and partners to mitigate risk, manage vulnerabilities and reduce disaster.

The United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, in his capacity as chairperson of the [International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction \(ISDR\)](#), launched a consultative process in 2006 to consider practical ways to strengthen the ISDR system and better support Governments to meet their commitment to implement the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters*. Those broad consultations identified

a set of proposals, one of which was to convene a multi-stakeholder Global Platform for Disaster Reduction.

On the first day of the session, a [high level dialogue](#) will consider the urgency for all stakeholders to engage in disaster risk reduction from three perspectives. On the second day a series of session [workshops](#) will address thematic priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action. On the third day of the session [plenary meetings](#) will focus on monitoring progress in implementation of the Hyogo Framework and will identify gaps, opportunities and priorities for further action by ISDR system partners. For more information, please visit :<http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/index.html>

IRP side event in Global Platform

During the First Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) from 5-7 June 2007 at Geneva, a side event "International Recovery Platform - A Global Catalyst for Better Recovery" will be organized by the International Recovery Platform (IRP) Secretariat on 06 June, to focus on recovery as an integral component of disaster risk reduction in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA).

Images of some IRP activities



Thai delegation in Tsunami Forum



IRP Retreat: national and International participants



3rd IRP Steering Committee meeting



Bangladesh Ambassador's visit to ADRC and IRP



Tsunami Forum welcome reception



IRP meeting with EU-JRC, Ispra, Italy

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