

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

IRP side event at Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

International Recovery Platform - a Global Catalyst for Better Recovery

Issue 3, September 2007

IRP was launched in May 2005 in Kobe (Japan) in support of the HFA to systematically incorporate risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of recovery programmes. IRP, in its critical role as a global catalyst to promote better and effective recovery has been pursuing for various Knowledge Management and capacity building activities in terms of producing a knowledge product “Learning from Disaster Recovery”—a guidance for decision makers, establishing a preliminary data base of case studies on various



aspects of Recovery, Designing of interactive website “Recovery Web”, Developing of Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) methodology, Conducting capacity building training for the disaster management practitioners in Latin American Region, Organizing International Forum on Tsunami and Earthquake Recovery in Kobe, etc..

During the First Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP/DRR) from 5-7 June 2007 at Geneva, a side event “**IRP – a Global Catalyst for Better Recovery**” has been organized by the IRP Secretariat, on June 06, 2007 to focus on recovery as an integral component of disaster risk reduction in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). The side event was co-sponsored by the Government of Japan and ISDR secretariat. The event aimed to:

a) brief on the IRP’s role and activities as a global impetus for better recovery to the participants of GP/DRR to disseminate the critical importance of recovery, and

b) receive potential contributions and co-operation from participating countries and other international organizations.

The meeting was chaired by Ms. Kathleen Cravero, Assistant Administrator, UNDP and Director, BCPR/UNDP and Co-chaired by H.E. Ambassador Makio Miyagawa, The Permanent Mission of Japan to the UN in Geneva. Around 80 representatives from countries, donor agencies, UN, World Bank, Regional, Inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations attended the meeting. Ms. Margareta Wahlström, ASG and UN Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, delivered keynote speech which was followed by two presentations, ‘[Strengthening Recovery Capacity in the SAARC region](#)’ by Mr. PG Dhar Chakrabarti, Director, SAARC Center for Disaster Management and ‘[Post-Disaster Needs Assessment \(PDNA\) – an emerging tool for better recovery](#)’ by Mr. Ricardo Zapata-Marti, Focal Point on Disaster Evaluation, UN-ECLAC. Ms. Cravero, summarized the meeting highlighting following recommendations:

- Considering the importance of effective post disaster recovery, it was recognized that IRP is firmly established as a thematic platform of ISDR system and as a global catalyst for better recovery
- Demonstrated value of IRP through a number of tangible outcomes, e.g. international Forum, report on



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Upcoming IRP events :

Opening of UN/ISDR Hyogo Office in Kobe, October 14, 2007

IRP Regional Forum on November 07, 2007 at Delhi

IRP / JICA Joint Forum on January 23, 2007 at Kobe

5th IRP Steering Committee Meeting on January, 2007 (tentative)

IRP side event at Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

Learning from Disaster Recovery based on lessons from past disasters, progress on development of tools for better coordination and capacity building programme.

- Need to expand the Community of Practice focused on recovery and ensure active participation of stakeholders at all levels (Govt. at all levels, community, NGOs, IFIs, Donors, UN agencies, etc.)

Mr. Satoru Nishikawa, Director, Cabinet Office of Japan conveyed the concluding remarks emphasizing the importance of strengthening of the IRP for better

recovery support with making following suggestions:

- Cultivating and promoting IRP as a delivery centric thematic platform of ISDR.
- enriching and strengthening of IRP by sharing ideas and closer partnership effort, and,
- IRP goals to be linked ultimately to achieve sustainable development in the long-term.

During the event, IRP also organized a display of its various publication and communications materials for the event audience.

For more information, please visit the site www.recoveryplatform.org

The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2007

The “Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2007: Working Together for a Safer World (ACDR 2007)” was held on 25-27 June 2007 in Astana in the Republic of Kazakhstan. It was organized by the government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the government of Japan (Cabinet Office), the United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC). A total of 136 participants from 22 countries, mainly ADRC member countries, and from 32 organizations, including the UN, other international organizations, NGOs, and academic institutions, attended ACDR 2007.

ACDR 2007 aimed to further review the progress made in Asia toward the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in January 2005, as well as to present good practices and achievements, to identify the challenges that remain, and to propose ways to accelerate the implementation process in the future. It addressed such topics as governance, education, application of scientific knowledge, public-private partnerships, and community-based disaster risk reduction.



H.E. Mr. Katsuei Hirasawa

On behalf of the host government, Conference Chair, H.E. Mr. Victor Khrapunov, Minister for Emergency Situations of the Government of Kazakhstan, delivered the opening address and read greetings from the Prime



Minister, H. E. Mr. Karim Masimov and the President, H. E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbaev regarding the importance of disaster reduction to the country's internal and external security.

As vice chair of the conference, H.E. Mr. Katsuei Hirasawa, Senior Deputy-Minister for Disaster Management of the government of Japan, thanked the government of Kazakhstan for hosting the conference and stressed the importance of the opportunity that it presented to participants for sharing ideas about the methods of implementing the HFA. Mr. Haoliang Xu, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative in Kazakhstan and Prof. Shigeru Itoh, ADRC Chairman, expressed their firm commitment to promoting cooperation on disaster risk reduction in the region.

Messages by Mr. Michel Jarraud, WMO Secretary General, and Mr. Salvano Briceno, UN/ISDR Director, both of whom were unavoidably prevented from attending the conference, were read by Dr. Wong Ming-Chung, Deputy Director of Hong Kong Observatory and Mr. Xu, respectively. Their messages conveyed their intent to further increase national capacities in the region.

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The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2007



Kazakh_Minister_Khrapunov

In his keynote speech, H.E. Mr. Khrapunov acknowledged the incentive provided by HFA for developing a national platform and promoting international cooperation. Mr. Koji Suzuki,

The summary of the active discussions that took place throughout the ACDR 2007 was read by Mr. Suzuki at the Closing Ceremony. The Conference Chair, H.E. Mr. Khrapunov, closed the conference by stressing the need to accelerate HFA implementation with an eye toward achieving sustainable development in the region. Participants expressed their profound appreciation to the government of Kazakhstan for hosting the Conference.



The Conference report and other related documents are available on the ACDR 2007 website: <http://web.adrc.or.jp/acdr2007astana/index.html>

Contributor : E. Tsunozaki , ADRC, Kobe

Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Local Development

- Capitalizing on a one-year Training Experience in Central America and the Caribbean -

The first edition of the Delnet Specialization Course on *Disaster Risk Reduction within the Framework of Sustainable Local Development* is drawing to its finalization. Since November 2006, 20 participants from Central America and the Caribbean have been involved in a training process. The primary objective of the course is to enhance at the local level the promotion of policies and initiatives in support of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015.



This Specialization course, run by the **Delnet Programme of the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ITC/ILO)**, was conceived within the framework of the **United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR)** in response to increasing concern about the magnitude of disasters and their impact on local communities worldwide.

Being part of the capacity-building component of the **International Recovery Platform (IRP)**, run in conjunction with the **ILO Programme on Crisis Response and Reconstruction**, it also looks at post-disaster reconstruction, and identifies recovery as one of the key opportunities for reducing disaster risk.

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Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Local Development

The training process has been alternating distance learning modalities with face-to-face training held at the International Training Centre of the ILO, Turin, Italy.

Between **19th and 23rd November, in Managua (Nicaragua)**, the closing act of this Course will take place in order to evaluate the one-year training experience and to further strengthen the capacity of the local actors involved, who are going to be key promoters of disaster risk reduction initiatives in the region.

The objective of this second face-to-face session, whose contents and design have been elaborated in close collaboration with the LAC regional office of UN/ISDR in Panama and thanks to the technical support of the UNITAR Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT), is twofold:

- It is an opportunity for participants, coordinators and tutors to wrap up the key contents of the Delnet Specialization Course with the aim to transfer them to concrete actions and projects on disaster risk reduction and sustainable local development, in the realm of intervention of the participating institutions.
- Secondly, the closing week will also give the participants the opportunity to participate in a 3-day workshop dedicated to *“The Use of Satellite Imagery and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)*

Applied to Strategic Planning for Disaster Risk Reduction at the Local Level”.

- This additional training is to get participants accounted for and provide them with hands on practical knowledge on the use of satellite imagery and GIS in support of disaster risk reduction at local level.

With regard to the global activity evaluations and results, they will be systematized in a detailed report by the beginning of 2008. As a first direct result of the training experience, we can already count on a new **network of committed actors** who are actively working for promoting safer and more resilient societies in their territories and within their respective institutions. This network will be supported both by Delnet and UN/ISDR, through an inter-agency effort, with the aim of capitalizing on the capacity building effort developed in Central America and the Caribbean; plus to also start creating a community of experts, with a role of regional repositories of knowledge and experience for disaster risk reduction at the local level.

For further information, please visit Delnet Website www.itcilo.org/delnet

Contributor : Alice Vozza, Delnet Programme -ITC/ILO

UNEP-GEC Workshop-Seminar on “Understanding the Environmental Impacts of Disasters

The Global Environment Center (GEC) and UNEP’s International Environmental Technology Center (UNEP IETC) organized a Seminar-Workshop on “Understanding the Environmental Impacts of Disasters” on 23 March 2007 in Osaka, Japan. This event was organized to clarify the link between Environmental Management and Disaster Management. A number of relevant experts involved in environment and disaster management issues from international organizations, local governments, universities and NGOs participated in this workshop-seminar.

The workshop was held in collaboration with International Recovery Platform (IRP) and Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), and was supported by the Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan. Mr. Koji Suzuki, Executive Director, ADRC and Mr. Anil Sinha, Programme Advisor, IRP made opening remarks in the workshop.

In the first half of the Programme, a keynote speech entitled “Disaster prevention and Environment –from a point

of view of sustainability” was presented by Mr. Satoru Nishikawa, Director for Disaster Preparedness, Cabinet Office, the Government of Japan.

Following the key note speech, four organizations (IRP, UNCRD, DRI and Kyoto University) presented case studies relating to the inter-linkages between environmental aspects and disaster management



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Mr. Sohel Khan, Programme Analyst, IRP/UNDP talked about [“Post Disaster Recovering Operations -Issues, Concerns and Observations”](#) focusing on environmental aspects. Dr. Shoichi Ando, Coordinator, Disaster Management Planning Hyogo Office, UNCRD, discussed on [“Disaster and Environment under Urbanization and Globalization”](#).

Dr. Kenji Harada, Research Scientist, DRI presented key research findings on [“Costal Forest and Tsunamis”](#). Finally, Mr. Phong Tran, Researcher, Graduate School of Global Environment Studies, Kyoto University, made a presentation on [“Towards an Integrated Approach of Disaster and Environment Management”](#).

In the second half, participants were divided into three groups to discuss “Governance”, “Education” and

“Technology” issues in relation to environment and disasters. After the discussion, each session-facilitator presented the summary of the discussion. Lastly, Dr. Hari Srinivas, UNEP IETC made a presentation to summarize the day’s workshop-seminar.



Mr. Takafumi Masuda, Executive Director, GEC delivered closing remarks. Mr. Masuda, thanked all participants for their active participation in the workshop sessions.

For further information, please visit: <http://gec.jp/gec.nsf/en/activity>

Recovery News From Field

Regional Workshop on Building Risk Knowledge

The UNDP Regional Centre Bangkok through the Regional Programme on Capacity Building for Sustainable Recovery and Risk Reduction for Tsunami affected countries recently organized two Regional Workshops on Building Risk Knowledge in collaboration with UNDP-BCPR’s Global Risk Identification Programme (GRIP) from 28 June- 4 July 2007 in Bangkok.

The regional workshops on a) risk assessment methodologies (28-30 June) and b) enhancing disaster loss databases (2-4 July) aimed to enhance understanding for building disaster risk knowledge through cross learning in maintaining disaster loss databases, multi-hazards risk assessment and their applications in disaster risk management and development.



The risk assessment workshop resulted to effective sharing of experiences as well as the identification of the needs of the participating countries for



undertaking systematic risk assessments. A notable result was the agreement to undertake a standardized and coordinated approach for conducting national risk assessment which can also contribute to future global risk assessment reports. The technical clinics during the disaster loss database workshop helped the participating countries improved their understanding of key competencies, such as data quality, validation, dissemination, institutionalization and sustainability.

Participants from the 5 tsunami-affected countries joined the two workshops together with selected participants from other countries in the region, viz. Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, and the Philippines. The two regional workshops were enriched by the contributions of resource persons from ICG Working Group 3, Munich Re, Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC), ISDR, Centre for Research on Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), La Red, ESCAP, and CADRI.

For more information, please contact Sanny Jegillos, sanny.jegillos@undp.org

Recent Earthquake in Peru : *an on site report on damage, response and recovery*

On 15 August 2007, an earthquake of magnitude 8.0 struck off the coast of Peru, some 150km south-south-east of the Capital Lima. It claimed over 500 lives while damaging more than



Collapsed adobe houses in Pisco

147,000 residential buildings. The earthquake caused significant damage to schools, hospitals, roads and other important infrastructure. The damages were most severe in the coastal city of Pisco, where 69% of deaths occurred. The city was also hit by a tsunami.

During the earthquake, approximately 40,000 houses and buildings were completely collapsed and additional 30,000 were partly damaged. Many of these houses were made of adobe, one of the most commonly used building materials in Peru. The major cause for the vulnerability of adobe houses is that they are typically built by residents without applying necessary engineering techniques for structural safety. Notably, most of the completely collapsed houses were situated in old, long existing urban areas and the countryside.



Demolition of damaged houses for reconstruction

The early reconstruction and recovery efforts were initiated by citizens themselves. Residents started to take the remains of collapsed or damaged buildings from their properties out to streets. Some people rebuilt collapsed walls to protect themselves against cold wind. To meet the supply needs for building materials, adobe blocks were sorted between those that were reusable and those that needed watering for recycle and reproduction of the material.

However, these efforts of citizens could lead to surface

recovery and might not fundamentally improve the safety of the living environment.

Government assistance was also visible in the form of tents on streets along the destroyed houses. Local government in an affected city developed a guideline on the reconstruction of houses. Military as well as police forces were deployed to restore and maintain order.



Recycle adobe rubbles for construction

As emergency relief supplies began to reach the sufferers, it became obvious that needs of the people in cities were been met; however, those who are outside the city areas were receiving less attention. It is obvious that



Lima: organizing emergency response

the recovery plan needs to address equity issues and include all those who were affected. In addition, reconstruction of houses and infrastructure needs to ensure earthquake resistance for future risk reduction.

Peru has experienced number of earthquakes in the past. Affected areas in recent history include Lima (1966), Chimbote-Huaráz (1970), Nazca (1996) and Atico (2001).

Dr. Shoichi Ando, Coordinator, Disaster Management Planning Hyogo Office, United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) and Ms. Naoko Mishima incidentally arrived in Peru on the following day of the EQ disaster on a pre-scheduled mission. Dr. Ando extensively visited the affected areas. The above report was extracted from his recent presentation in Kobe on Peru earthquake. UNCRD is implementing a project titled "Housing Earthquake Safety Initiative", which aims to assist national and local governments in Peru and other project countries to implement their national building codes effectively.

UN-HABITAT Support for Tsunami Recovery: *Sub-district Planning in Banda Aceh and Nias*

One year after the Indian Ocean Tsunami of December 26th, 2004 the UN agencies initiated, within the framework of UNDP's ERTR programme for sustainable reconstruction, the UN-Joint Programming (UNJP) in Meuraxa, Banda Aceh, and in Teluk Dalam, South Nias. The overall purpose of UNJP was to promote a well planned and

coordinated recovery at local level, by means of joint UN actions and assistance programmes for communities and local authorities.

In 2006, UN-HABITAT entered into partnerships with local government institutions and non-governmental organisations. In both locations, it facilitated an Urban Forum. It delegated teams of facilitators for spatial planning to the forum.

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UN-HABITAT's spatial planning benefited from the joint programming, because of its close connection to the context. In Meuraxa, a community radio programme and a community forum were organized during the planning exercise.

Newsletters were published to facilitate the dissemination of information. A community centre was constructed to house and conserve spatial planning information for a longer period. The information is available in the form of photo-books, videos, maps etc.

UN-HABITAT's spatial planning exercise follows a strong participatory approach. UN-HABITAT also carefully coordinated its planning work with other planning programmes that were conducted by different organisations, including BRR, the Government Reconstruction Agency and the Banda Aceh City Government.

Within the capital city of Aceh Province, Meuraxa is an important and complex coastal sub-district with a rich heritage. It was also the most heavily destroyed area, where massive loss of life occurred.

UN-HABITAT aimed not to rush the completion of legal land use plans. Instead it facilitated consensus building on such issues as the basic spatial structure, major infrastructure reticulation and general visions and scenarios - elements and levels where the participation of the survivors proved to be possible.

UN-HABITAT's support for planning has been an opportunity to strengthen local capacity and governance, which will still be needed in the years of reconstruction to come.

Planning activities by UN-HABITAT have also been an instrument for the formation of operational links between reconstruction and long-term development goals. It turned out to provide space for a proactive conflict management based on the development of common visions, goals, and a forward-looking thinking.



For more information, please visit: www.unhabitat-indonesia.org

Contributor : Diella Dachlan, UN-HABITAT Indonesia

News and Announcements

ITC/ILO Delnet Training Offer for 2008

The Delnet is planning to organise forthcoming edition of specialisation course on "Disaster Risk Reduction within the Framework of Sustainable Local Development" for the participants from Latin American Countries. The course will offer an integrated combination of capacity building activities, ranging from face-to-face training at the ITC/ILO campus and in the field, to distance learning courses based on Internet use and networking. The target groups of the course are policy-makers, key players in local development and disaster risk management and reduction.

The course consists of 200 study hours, distributed over six months period. Furthermore, for the year after the course starts, the participants will have access to Delnet's virtual platform, which includes: virtual classroom, e-mail account, virtual library, Web links, information, technical assistance and networking.

A diploma and certificate of attendance issued by the ITC/ILO will be awarded to participants upon successful completion of the course.

Official call for applications and detail information on course will be available shortly in the Delnet Website www.itcilo.org/delnet

2nd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, New Delhi, 7-8 November 2007

The Government of India will host 2nd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held on November 7-8, 2007 at New Delhi. The theme of the conference is proposed to be 'development without disasters', while the goal would be to review the implementation of the Hyogo framework for Action in Asia in the context of various initiatives taken by the national, regional and international governments during the past two years.

The Conference would be attended by Government and Non-Government representatives from Asia and Pacific island countries. Government representatives will consist of the Ministers and one/two senior Officers concerned with disaster management in their respective countries. Representatives of the United Nations agencies, regional organizations and other specialized agencies at the international, regional and national level shall also attend the Conference.

For further information on conference, please visit Conference website <http://www.amcdrrindia.com>

IRP Regional Forum :

Beyond Lessons Learned from Post-Disaster Recovery

During the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Delhi, a regional recovery forum will be organized on November 07 at 15:00-18:00 on the theme of 'Beyond Lessons Learned from Post Disaster Recovery'. The forum will be organized jointly by the International Recovery Platform and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) of India in cooperation with the World Bank and the UNDP. The side event will provide a platform for cross country and cross regional dialogue with knowledge sharing and exchange of hands-on experiences with focus on lessons learned from

past disasters and how these are being applied in the ongoing recovery operations in different countries.

The main objective of the side event is to highlight the cross country and cross regional lessons learned from post-disaster recovery operations in Asia. Further it is intended to explore the synergies and complementarities amongst the countries in the region in terms of mutual resources and expertise.

Delegates to the 2nd Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR, UN agencies, regional, Inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations actively engaged in DRR will be the expected participants of the forum.

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

Opening of the UN/ISDR Hyogo office in Kobe

The ISDR secretariat will soon establish the ISDR Hyogo office in Kobe, Hyogo, and will organize the opening ceremony on Sunday 14 October 2007 at Hitomiraikan Building where the ISDR Hyogo Office will be located. The Ceremony will be held with the support of the Japanese Government, the Hyogo Prefecture, and other partners at 13:45-14:00 with the presence of Mr. Toshizo Ido, Governor of the Hyogo Prefecture and Mr. Sálvano Briceno, Director, UN/ISDR.

On that occasion, the ISDR secretariat together with the Hyogo prefecture, United Nations Information Centre

(UNIC), and UN/OCHA Human Security Unit, will also co-organize a public awareness event "Human Security and Disaster Risk Reduction" at 15:00-17:00 on 14 October at Hyogo house (4-4-1, Shimo-yamate dori, Chuo-ku, Kobe) on the occasion of the opening of the photo exhibition on the theme of Human Security.

The main task of the ISDR Hyogo Office will be to promote and develop collaborative activities with relevant international agencies based in Japan and East Asia, and Japanese academic, scientific, civil society, and government institutions, with a view to expand support to international effort for disaster risk reduction in support of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

Images of some IRP activities



SAARC Sec. General Mr. Dorji's Visit to IRP and ADRC



IRP participated in ECOSOC



ILO side event during GPDRR



Intern Gulzer from China & Gerald from Philippines working at IRP office in Kobe



4th IRP Steering Committee meeting



Miguel Bermeo & Sálvano Briceno at IRP SC meeting



UN/ISDR Global Platform meeting in Geneva

International Recovery Platform (IRP)
Hitomiraikan 5F, 1-5-2 Wakinohamakaigan Dori, Chuo-ku, Kobe, Japan
Phone: 81-78-262-6041, Fax: 81-78-262-6046, Website: www.recoveryplatform.org

To submit news or articles for the next issue, or to send comments or questions, please contact: at irp@recoveryplatform.org