The International Recovery Platform (IRP) is organizing this Side Event to showcase recent recovery initiatives, pre- and post-event, that contribute to preventing risk and sustaining development. It intends to discuss these topics:

- How post-disaster recovery contributes to preventing risk by improving both structural and non-structural measures, and specifically addressing the limitations revealed during disasters
- How recovery contributes to resilience through “build back better” efforts that consider specific contexts, recognizing unique features of different locations in terms of vulnerabilities and risk factors
- How specific recovery preparedness efforts (e.g., pre-disaster recovery planning, pre-contracts, and pre-agreements) can facilitate effective recovery

Expected Outcomes

- Sharing of 12 Key Issues to Consider in the Recovery Process as the outcome from the International Recovery Forum 2018 (Jan 2018)
- Evidence-based examples of post-disaster recovery initiatives/programme proven to have prevented risk
- Showcased pre-disaster recovery planning, pre-contracts, pre-agreements that contribute to addressing gaps in recovery

Programme

10:15 – 10:20  Introduction
Mr. Paul Rosenberg
Associate Programme Management Officer
UNISDR/IRP Secretariat

10:20 – 10:25  Opening Remarks
Mr. Shinichi Takahashi
Vice Mayor of Sendai City, Japan

10:25 – 10:35  Presentation on Outcomes of the International Recovery Forum 2018
Mr. Akihiro Shiomi, Senior Recovery Expert
Mr. Gerald Potutan, Recovery Expert
IRP Secretariat

10:35 – 11:10  Panel Discussion
Moderator
Ms. Setsuko Saya
Director, International Cooperation Division
Disaster Management Bureau, Cabinet Office
Government of Japan

Wrap up and Closing
Ms. Setsuko Saya
Mr. Shinichi Takahashi joined Sendai City Government in April 1980. Prior to the current position, he served in prominent positions of Sendai City Government such as Senior Director in Urban Development Department of the Urban Planning Bureau, Deputy Director General in Urban Planning Bureau, Post-Disaster Reconstruction Director in Post-Disaster Reconstruction Bureau, Director General in Wakabayashi Ward, Director General in Construction Bureau, Waterworks Managing Director. In April, 2018, he was appointed as Vice Mayor of Sendai City Government.

Ms. Myat Moe Thwe is a Director for the Coordination and Research Division within the Department of Disaster Management (DDM), under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. She works on international cooperation and coordination, ASEAN affairs, research and human resource development activities and overall disaster management. She has been involved in relief and response operations following Cyclone Nargis, as well as Cyclone Giri, Tahlay earthquake, and recent floods among others. Her research focuses on the nexus between disaster recovery and building resilience and identifies in particular strengths and bottlenecks of implementing recovery programmes in the context of Labutta, the most severely affected area by Cyclone Nargis 2008. She was formerly a Senior Assistant Teacher under the Ministry of Education for nine years. She received her Master’s in Development Studies from the University of Melbourne in 2015, and her Master’s Degree in Education from Yangon Institute of Education in 2008.

With over 20 years of experience with UN Environment, Mr. Mahesh Pradhan is Programme Officer at UN Environment’s International Environmental Technology Centre in Osaka since March 2016. He is currently working on environmentally sound technologies and holistic waste management with linkages to climate change, resilience and mainstreaming disaster waste management. The IETC’s waste management programme has over 30 countries and cities participating in developing national and city level waste management strategies with associated action plans and pilot demonstration projects, spanning Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

Ms. Setsuko Saya is Director in the Cabinet Office since July 2016. She leads the Japanese delegation for the negotiation on implementation of the Sendai Framework, in particular, for development of indicators and terminologies. She is responsible for raising risk awareness among citizens and private sector, enhancing collaboration with volunteers and NGOs, strengthening communication with academia. She focuses on promoting DRR planning at the community level to build resilient communities, and at companies to develop Business Continuity Planing. Prior to joining in the Cabinet Office, she was the Head of Division, Regional Policies for Sustainable Development, Public Governance and Territorial Development in the OECD in Paris 2012-2016. She started her professional career in the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, and worked in Housing Bureau and City Bureau, and engaged in responding from the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and in developing environmentally friendly cities.

Mr. Arghya Sinha Roy joined the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in 2012, where he supports implementation of the Integrated Disaster Risk Management Framework, whose key objective is to strengthen disaster resilience in developing member countries. He supports DRM-related operations in different sectors, including post-disaster recovery and reconstruction, and manages technical assistance projects related to risk-informed development, urban disaster resilience, and strengthening community resilience. Mr. Roy supports the management of the Integrated Disaster Risk Management Trust Fund for Southeast Asia. He has previously worked with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center and with capacity building efforts across the Asia Pacific region. He was involved in post-disaster recovery efforts after 2001 Gujarat Earthquake, India; 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami; 2013 Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines; and 2015 Nepal Earthquake. Mr. Roy has a master’s degree in urban and regional planning.

The International Recovery Platform (IRP) was established following the Second UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, in 2005 to support the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) by addressing the gaps and constraints experienced in the context of post-disaster recovery. After a decade of functioning as an international source of knowledge on good recovery practice IRP is focusing on more specialised role as an “international mechanism for sharing experience and lessons associated with build-back-better”.

“To enhance international mechanisms, such as the International Recovery Platform, for the sharing of experience and learning among countries and all relevant stakeholders”

- Sendai Framework Paragraph 34(d)