



In this Issue

- IRP at the 6th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
- World Reconstruction Conference 2

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IRP Herald

IRP at the 6th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction ~Collaborating with IRP Partners~

22-27 June 2014 Bangkok, Thailand

Collaborating with Japan Cabinet Office, ADRC and UNISDR

International Recovery Platform (IRP) organized a side event “Investing in Recovery for Resilience: Articulating Recovery in HFA2” at the Sixth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (6AMCDRR), on June 24, 2014 and put up a booth to further advocate recovery as an opportunity to build resilience.

Following the opening and special remarks by Mr. Kaoru Saito, Director of Cabinet Office, Japan, with panelists coming from diverse backgrounds, the case for recovery in building resilience was discussed. The discussions noted that in the context where many governments struggle to deliver effective recovery because they are not ready for disasters, investing in recovery can be an opportunity to build better and safer, and hence, should be adequately integrated in HFA2.

In response to the questions, the speakers offered insights to facilitate adequate articulation of recovery in HFA2.

“The recovery component in HFA2 should also adequately articulate quantitative, clear-cut, and easy-to understand targets. Additionally, recovery should be more structured, action-oriented, and with clear indicators to monitor progress.”

– Mr. Kaoru Saito, Director Disaster Preparedness Public Relations and International Cooperation Division, Cabinet Office Government of Japan



“SAARC experienced few trans-boundary disasters, and this calls for trans-boundary recovery initiatives. In view of this, it is important to develop regional mechanism which seamlessly be integrated into national priorities with recovery framework addressing funding gaps.”

– Prof. Santosh Kumar, Director SAARC Disaster Management Center (SDMC).



“In the Philippines, the political dynamics between national and local governments affect recovery efforts, as in the case of super typhoon Haiyan. Learning from this, the government recognized the importance of developing clear policies, standards, guidelines and protocols to guide recovery.” – Atty. Violeta Seva, Senior Advisor to the Mayor, Makati City, Philippines

“In Japan, engaging private sector in recovery can provide insights why public and private collaboration is important. The Development Bank of Japan, through the Tohoku Alliance program, works closely with the government in recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake.” – Mr. Tadao Hasue, Deputy General Manager, Development Bank of Japan

“Recovery needs further advocacy at the policy and legislative levels to outline clear roles of government departments and units in implementing recovery programs.” – Mr. Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Member of Parliament Bangladesh

IRP Upcoming Events

September 2014

World Reconstruction Conference 2, Washington, D.C. US

October 2014

IRP Workshop on Disaster Recovery Planning, Panama

January 2015

IRP's International Recovery Forum 2015

March 2015

The 3rd World Conference on DRR, Sendai, Japan

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Page 1 continues~

After putting together the inputs from speakers and audience, the side event came up with the following key recommendations:

- Institutionalizing recovery functions in national and local governance systems
- Ensuring financial predictability for recovery programs and activities
- Strengthening coordination of recovery actors as well as considering the trans-boundary nature of recovery
- Recognizing human security as an essential foundation for effective recovery
- Developing concrete and measurable indicators to monitor progress of implementation and achievement of recovery goals

The following conclusions were reached at the end of the session. Firstly, recovery should be adequately articulated in HFA2 so that governments can have general guidance in implementing recovery programs. Secondly, recovery (seen as an opportunity to build back better) must also be aligned with the sustainable development goals. Finally, recovery needs further advocacy at the policy and legislative levels to outline clear measures for monitoring progress as well clear roles of government departments and units in implementing recovery programs.

The event was concluded successfully with the closing remarks by Mr. Kiyoshi Natori, Executive Director of ADRC.

Collaborating with ILO

Following the 6AMCDRR, the IRP Secretariat participated in the knowledge sharing workshop on “Job-rich Recovery after Natural Disasters: Lessons from the Great East Japan Earthquake” organized by ILO Asia-Pacific Office on 27 June 2014 at Meeting Room D of the United Nations Convention Center in Bangkok.

The objectives of the workshop included raising awareness of the relevance of employment and social protection policies in the contexts of disaster risk prevention and post - disaster reconstruction; sharing experiences, lessons, and good practices generated from the reconstruction process in Japan since the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake; and identifying strategies for further enhancing knowledge on job-rich disaster risk prevention and reconstruction practice in Asia and the Pacific. ILO, as active member of IRP, shared the outcomes of the study conducted in Japan so that it can further provide insights in organizing recovery of livelihoods in countries impacted by disasters. The participants who attended the workshop were experts and practitioners in employment policy, social protection, and disaster risk management from selected governments, humanitarian, and development assistance organizations in Asia and the Pacific.



IRP Booth at the 6th AMCDRR

The IRP booth, which was strategically located in front of the plenary rooms, showcased various knowledge products. In addition, the works and activities of IRP are presented in attractive posters that caught the attention of many delegates at the conference.



At the booth, the Secretariat pursued wider dissemination of IRP products and services as well as building and strengthening partnerships. In particular, it offered opportunity to build alliance between IRP Secretariat and the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), represented by Ms. Vineeta Thapa, Senior Program Officer for Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation and Management.

IRP Thematic Sessions at World Reconstruction Conference (WRC 2)

September 10-12, 2014 in Washington, D.C.

Collaborating with the World Bank

Thematic Session 1:

Making Post-Disaster Recovery Efficient and Effective: Elements of Good Recovery for Articulation in Post - 2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

September 10, 16:00 – 17:30

In this session, panelists will share recovery initiatives, which have been tried and tested. The sharing is expected to highlight the important principles that made the recovery initiative ‘successful’ in further reducing risk or achieving development agenda.

Thematic Session 9:

10 Years after the Indian Ocean Tsunami: A Retrospective

September 11, 16:00 – 17:30

In this session, the panelists will review and reflect upon the experiences and lessons of 2004 Tsunami recovery as reflected in the socio-economic conditions of communities, and progress achieved in relation to policies and institutions for recovery. The panelists will discuss different models of recovery programme, and how they have influenced the evolution of recovery as an area of public policy and government intervention.

Thematic Session 16:

Role of Private Sector in Recovery: The case for private sector engagement in recovery for Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

September 12, 11:00 – 12:30

This session explores knowledge gaps and barriers in public-private collaboration for recovery. It looks into concerns like how to initiate, how to implement, and how to sustain private sector engagement in DRR and recovery. It also looks into the DRR and recovery investments/initiatives of the private sector.



It is expected to outline the essentials for converging public and private initiatives in recovery and provide further inputs on recovery component of Post - 2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction .