The International Recovery Platform (IRP), in collaboration with Central America’s Center for Disaster Prevention (CEPREDENAC), had organized an Intergovernmental Dialogue on Recovery Processes, 11-12 November 2014 at Hilton Princess Hotel in San Salvador, El Salvador. The event was also strongly supported by UNISDR and UNDP. The main objective of the dialogue was to facilitate knowledge exchange so that government organizations and cities can improve their programs based on the sharing of experiences.

The discussions dwelt on: How have recovery processes been institutionalized at the country and local levels? What institutional and policy arrangements were commonly adopted? What types of tools were adopted for assessment and framework development? Do governments secure necessary financial, administrative, and political resources for recovery? Are there mechanisms in place to monitor recovery processes? Answers to these questions inform the recommendations for next steps such as galvanizing national efforts on recovery and institutionalizing recovery processes.

Over 40 government officials and heads of development organizations participated in the dialogue. Among those represented included Paraguay, Honduras, Japan, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Colombia, and Panama.

The cities of Santa Tecla, Bogota, and Curundu were also represented. Moreover, the World Bank, the Swiss Development Council (SDC), and the Global Education and Training Institute (GETI) of UNISDR had representations. Participants to the dialogue were high-level with El Salvador Vice President Sr. Oscar Ortiz inaugurating the event. Tecla, Bogota, and Curundu were also represented.

IRP shared available tools and guidance on recovery as well as global case studies on recovery processes. The sharing adds value to the ongoing initiatives in Central America by offering wide array of options concerning strategies and actions for ‘Build Back Better’. In particular, Mr. Shingo Kochi, senior recovery expert at IRP, shared Japan’s experience by highlighting the advances, needs, and requirements for a more effective recovery process.

Several recommended next steps were outlined at the dialogue. These include efforts to further (i) disseminate best practices and lessons on recovery and reconstruction processes implemented in recent years; (ii) share the results of the dialogue processes to other regions and countries; (iii) inform the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction on recovery and reconstruction issues that should be taken into account.
The “IRP Website” serves as a key tool of sharing international source of knowledge on good recovery practices. There are 11 sector specific Guidance Notes on Recovery on the homepage which emphasizing global lessons learned and good practices, and providing a menu of options to inform recovery planning and mainstreaming DRR in development.

In the Resource page, up to now, there are nearly 700 publications which are extracted from web-based various sources. There are also more than 80 tools and guidelines on disaster recovery uploaded on the page. It also provides the information on most recent international conference on disaster recovery and reconstruction.

One of the most important services of the website is hosting “PDNA Workspace” to IRP stakeholders. The Post Disaster Needs Assessment page is providing common knowledge on PDNA process, documents on past PDNA experiences of countries, PDNA guidelines, and active Work Spaces. More information on PDNA workspace will be coming in the next issue of the “IRP Herald”.

The “IRP Website” plays an increasingly important role in recovery aspects of the post disaster scenario. It is a hub of free access to recovery knowledge. The “IRP Website” now welcomes you to contribute contents by visiting http://www.recoveryplatform.org/resources/publications. For inquiry and comment, please contact Ms. Gulzar Qeyyum (gulzar@recoveryplatform.org).

Some specific actions were also mentioned such as the following: (i) recovery frameworks/plans may be prepared, discussed, and approved before the disaster happens; (ii) recovery process shall incorporate DRR and integrated into development; and (iii) evaluation and monitoring mechanisms of recovery projects to be implemented. It was also observed that there is so much recovery experience in Central America that should be documented, analyzed, and shared to other regions and countries. For inquiry and comment, please contact Mr. Shingo Kouchi (kouchi@recoveryplatform.org).

Title: Introducing the Upgraded “IRP Website”

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Cover Story:

Stakeholders Consultation Workshop on Disaster Recovery Planning
Dhaka, Bangladesh
9 - 10 December, 2014

During the two-day consultation workshop, discussions pertaining to (i) post-disaster recovery experience, (ii) recovery action plan, and (iii) institutionalization of recovery functions at the national and local governments will be

IRP Upcoming Events

16 January, 2015

“IRP’s International Recovery Forum 2015”
Kobe, Japan

“IRP’s International Recovery Forum 2015” will commemorate the 20th Year of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. It will be held on January 16, 2015 at Hotel Okura in Kobe, Hyogo. The Forum will further explore how the lessons from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake can be effectively disseminated, analyzed, and applied to situations with similar challenges. The outcomes of the Forum will include recommended strategies and actions of implementing the recovery component of the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.