



Latest News from
International Recovery Platform

In this Issue

2nd World Bosai Forum
Bosai Kokutai 2019
HEM21 Symposium

2019
Vol.29

Lorem ipsum



IRP Herald

Practical Solutions for Building Back Better at the World Bosai Forum 2019

9-12 November 2019, Sendai, Japan

The Second World Bosai Forum was held from 9-12 November 2019 in Sendai City, Japan, focused on drawing out concrete solutions to make progress toward Target E of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Target E sets a goal of substantially increasing the number of national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction by 2020, and marks the first of the Sendai Framework targets to come due. Toward this goal, the conference drew from the experience and knowledge of its 900 participants from 40 countries, representing policy makers and practitioners from national and local governments, academics and civil society. With sessions on disaster recovery and building back better featured strongly throughout the agenda, the International Recovery Platform Secretariat and members and observers of its Steering Committee were engaged as participants and contributors to the sessions, while the IRP Secretariat also delivered a presentation as a flash talk.

The Second World Bosai Forum drew upon recent experiences in disaster recovery from around the world for discussion. At the opening, the representative of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) delivered a message from Ms. Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of UNDRR. Session speakers brought forth innovative ideas in disaster recovery that have been grounded in, and tested by experience. The discussions that followed offered some valuable insights and lessons that could be distilled from these contextual experiences.

Following the 7.5M earthquake and tsunami that struck Central Sulawesi, Indonesia in September 2018, recovery planners and their partners looked for ways to catalyze recovery, and to build back better by identifying synergies between high priority areas in their recovery. Local planners, drawing from lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake recovery, believed that social capital was an important contributor to recovery. They therefore focused their early efforts on restoring local marketplaces, which

served a central role in the affected communities, as a place where all members of the community would come together. The markets were also an important precursor for restoring livelihoods, particularly for female entrepreneurs. With nearly 200,000 people displaced, they settled on recreating the marketplaces within the temporary settlements – to catalyze economic activity and rebuild social capital where people already were, and to avoid waiting for the reconstruction of the nearly 40,000 damaged and destroyed homes.

Local planners built on this early investment in marketplaces by developing small and medium enterprise (SME) centers alongside the marketplaces in the temporary settlements. The innovative SME Center became a one-stop shop for getting businesses back on their feet and supporting the development of new business, with support for training, financing, and all the processes and paperwork needed to set up and register a business. The SME Centers tried to prioritize businesses that could contribute to social capital, particularly those that operated in social spaces. The SME Centers also provided space for inventory and warehousing. These centers were so successful in the temporary settlements, local planners have proposed installing them in permanent settlements once they have been reconstructed.

Meanwhile, JICA had partnered with the Indonesian government to try to catalyze resilient housing reconstruction. JICA initiated a carpenter training programme, partnering with certified, qualified instructors to train people who had lost their livelihoods to the disaster. Targeting farmers who had lost their farms in particular, the programme was designed at modernizing livelihoods, developing the capacity for self-recovery in the affected communities, and building more resilient homes.

JICA speakers reflecting on recent recovery efforts spoke of widening the scope of efforts to build back better, particularly with respect to livelihoods recovery, and revitalizing local economies. Building on the experiences

International Recovery Platform (IRP)

Higashikan 5F, 1-5-2 Wakinoama Kaigan-dori,
Chuo-ku, Kobe, 651-0073, Japan

For more information visit our website:
<https://www.recoveryplatform.org>

Tel: +81-(0)78-262-6041
Fax: +81-(0)78-262-6046
info@recoveryplatform.org



shared earlier, JICA speakers noted that affected communities are economically linked with other places that may or may not have been affected. Revitalizing local economies therefore requires that planners consider regional approaches to building back better. Taking a regional or area view allows planners to see critical infrastructure that links with the local economy, and supply chains upon which local businesses may depend.

Local government speakers, representing communities still recovering from the Great East Japan Earthquake spoke of taking a long-term view when building back better. Speakers noted that many affected areas are undergoing demographic transition, with aging and depopulation as significant challenges in their recovery. They urged planners in such situations to consider a forward-looking approach, and what building back better should mean for these communities in 10 years or more. The recovery process can reshape local economies for livelihoods suitable for future generations. To this end, they spoke of engaging youth leaders in recovery planning, "smart" land use plans, and building resilient infrastructure that supports a vision for the future of these communities.

The IRP Secretariat also delivered a flash talk on recovery governance at the World Bosai Forum, reflecting on the recovery governance literature, recent recovery experiences and recovery institutions. The presentation addressed the need to institutionalize flexibility in recovery governance, in order to build back better, faster, and more inclusively. The Secretariat presented cases from the Great East Japan Earthquake, Typhoon Haiyan, and the 2004 Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami that illustrate institutionalizing flexibility into financing, pre-disaster recovery plans, arrangements, contracts, and bureaucratic processes in order to accelerate and promote efficiency in recovery.



Disseminating IRP Knowledge Products at the Fourth National Conference on Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction 2019

19 - 20 October 2019, Nagoya, Japan

The Cabinet Office of Japan hosted the fourth National Conference on Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction 2019 ("Bosai Kokutai"), 19-20 October in Nagoya, Japan. The purpose of the annual conference is to raise public

awareness, to learn and share experiences about disaster risk reduction, and to promote self-help and mutual assistance. This year, the conference focused on the theme of, "Preparing for Large-Scale Disasters: Bringing Disaster Risk Reduction into Everyday Life."

Of the estimated 15,000 participants, more than 200 visited the IRP booth, which was jointly organized with the UNDRR Office in Japan. Visitors to the IRP booth included national and local government officials, university professors, and private sector representatives. The IRP Secretariat shared knowledge products and information about the Platform .



HEM21 Symposium on Enhancing Disaster Risk Reduction Activities of Local Communities

3 June 2019, Himeji, Japan

The Hyogo Earthquake Memorial 21st Century Research Institute (HEM21) organized a symposium on enhancing disaster risk reduction activities of local communities. The event emphasized ensuring safety of all residents amidst a shortage of workers, declining population, and aging communities. The IRP Secretariat participated in the symposium to learn from the discussions.

Mr. Yoshiharu Hurumasa, President of Neighborhood Association of Akamatsu District, Kamigori-Town, Hyogo Prefecture delivered a keynote speech. He reported that in the Akamatsu district, the Shirohata Castle Festival is one of the most well-attended events in the community. In view of this, the association decided that it would be the good entry point for engaging stakeholders in developing disaster reduction plans and activities more inclusively. The association piloted the project at the Shirohata Castle Festival in 2018, identifying vulnerable groups, including the elderly and people with disabilities ahead of time, and taking concrete steps to ensure their participation. Convening, at an event already well-attended by the community led to high engagement, with more than half of the people from their target groups attended. By investigating why certain groups were still unable to attend, the association was able to glean even more insights into the challenges for vulnerable groups in disasters. Based on the inputs gathered from this planning event, the community put together a local disaster management and pre-disaster recovery plan. As the festival is an annual event, community leaders can reconvene stakeholders to review and refine plans with lessons from previous years' experiences, on a regular, annual cycle.