Announcement:

At the Second World Reconstruction Conference (WRC2), 10-12 September 2014 in Washington, D.C., an in-depth discussion was organized by IRP to explore the possibility of voluntary commitments for recovery in support to the implementation of the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Through a resolution at the United Nations General Assembly, voluntary commitments are encouraged to support implementation of the framework. The discussion, which was participated by over 40 country governments, had identified a number of proposed areas for commitments as stated below.

**Box 1. Recovery in the Pre-zero draft of Post-2015 Framework for DRR**


16. There is a call... Actions should include:

1. Promoting the institutionalization of national recovery strategies and plans, through legislation and other means, as a policy imperative to risk governance to ensure recovery readiness and enhance resilience.

2. Integrating appropriate recovery indicators into the post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction that governments and stakeholders can use to monitor progress of implementation and achievement of recovery goals.

3. Providing sufficient financial reserves and resources within government to manage and respond to disasters triggered by natural hazards, and formalize strategic and resource commitments towards recovery planning, implementation, and performance management.

4. Strengthening mechanisms for cooperation with services in areas of recovery and reconstruction that include standardized approaches for post-disaster needs assessments and recovery planning frameworks, and other support services.

5. Strengthening capacity for recovery planning, implementation, and monitoring at the regional and all levels of government, and establishing clear roles and responsibilities for all actors in a recovery setting.

The proposed commitments are work-in-progress, and will be further deliberated at the sides of the Second Preparatory Committee Meeting, 17-18 November 2014 in Geneva and at the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, 14-19 March 2015 in Sendai. It will particularly fine-tune recommendations made in terms of indicators of progress and means of verification for short-term, medium-term, and long-term targets.

[http://www.recoveryplatform.org/assets/meetings_trainings/WRC2/]

---

**In this issue**

- Zero Draft: Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction Celebrating the Success of HFA
- The Role of Private Sector in Disaster Recovery - DBJ
- IRP at the 6th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
- IRP at the Second World Reconstruction Conference
- Voluntary Commitment of the Nations for Recovery in Support of HFA

**Upcoming Events**

- **11^th-13 November 2014**
  - Multiregional Organizations Dialogue on Recovery Processes and Cities Resilience, El Salvador
- **16 January 2015**
  - IRP’s International Recovery Forum 2015
- **14-18 March 2015**
  - The 3rd UN World Conference for DRR, Sendai, Japan

**To submit news item or articles for the next update, or to send comments or questions contact M. Gulzar Qayyum at info@recoveryplatform.org**
The Role of Private Sector in Disaster Recovery

DBJ Initiatives for Tohoku’s Region-Wide Recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake

Market Incentives to build private sector resilience

Development Bank of Japan Inc. (DBJ) was the first financial institution in the world to develop and implement a disaster risk reduction (DRR) and prevention rating system in 2006. The DBJ Disaster Prevention Rating is a progression of traditional credit ratings that are an indicator of a company’s credit worthiness. In 2011, the DBJ Disaster Prevention Rating evolved into the DBJ BCM Rating with stronger emphasis on business continuity. The lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake (GEJE). DBJ’s disaster rating-related loans have reached about 100 cases and 100 billion yen since 2006.

Learning from the GEJE

The lessons learned from the GEJ Earthquake provided the impetus to redesign the evaluation parameters of the original 2006 DBJ Disaster Prevention Rating, and the redesign resulted in the DBJ BCM rating, which goes under the formal name of Enterprise Resilience Rated Loan Program.

The GEJ Earthquake also provided a massive boost in interest in BCM. DBJ’s disaster rating-related loans have, since 2006, reached a total of 102 cases, about 92 billion yen, by the end of March 2013, but nearly 72% of the cases and nearly 85% of the loan amount have been provided in the two years following the GEJ Earthquake.

DBJ provides expertise in BCM development to client companies that have realized the necessity of developing and improving their business continuity management capacity. They give financial support for disaster prevention initiatives, such as DBJ’s comprehensive services related to crisis management.

Such are DBJ’s comprehensive services related to crisis management. As Japan’s financial institute for strategic development, DBJ actively promotes practical disaster risk reduction measures for client companies. DBJ’s BCM rating financing scheme was reported in the World Economic Forum’s Global Risks Report 2012 to be an innovative and effective financial product with a global impact.

The good practice

• Since the GEJ Earthquake, corporate value indicators have diversified as businesses are increasingly recognised as the pillars that support the resilience of society as a whole. When business continuity is included as a consideration in rating agencies in financial markets, its value becomes more tangible, and will encourage further efforts for business continuity.

• DBJ’s rating system is an effective system for encouraging companies to improve their business continuity and disaster preparedness initiatives because it evaluates comprehensively, beyond the presence/absence of a BCM, and is a rating based on its actual content and monitoring of its implementation.

• DBJ encourages companies to undertake business continuity and DRR measures, not only by giving an economic incentive in the form of financing, but also by providing a good corporate social responsibility (CSR) marketing tool through its BCM rating certification and award system.

• DBJ maintains an original, but also objective, evaluation system that it has developed, which draws on international standards such as BS 25999 and ISO 22301, on the opinions of various experts in Japan and market research following the GEJ Earthquake, but is ultimately based on the lessons learned and scope for improvement.

• Financial institutions face potential massive losses from irretrievable debt in disasters, therefore it is beneficial for them to support the improvement of their clients’ business continuity capacity.

• The need to expand the options open to companies when developing and implementing BCPS, because so many issues still remain in this regard. This can be done by expanding the range of technical support services and financial avenues available, both by industry bodies and the public sector, and finding the optimum combination of such initiatives.

• This was a truly groundbreaking initiative to evaluate the capacity of companies for disaster preparedness and business continuity. It is hoped that in future the evaluation will be extended to cover the critical capacity for disaster preparedness and business continuity. If properly implemented and in a wider variety of applications, e.g. in financial and tax fields.

Practical tips for replication

• It is desirable for financial institutions, which regularly evaluate companies for credit worthiness, to promote a change in thinking from disaster prevention to ensuring business continuity after a disaster, as a part of their regular work.

• There are many ways to provide incentives to encourage business continuity besides financial, such as tax incentives and technical support. The financial industry should take into account its position in each country, and promote business continuity with appropriate means.


DBJ BCM Rating evaluation criteria and outcomes

IRP Side Event

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 (AMCDRR), on June 24, 2014 and put up a booth to further advocate recovery as an opportunity to build resilience.

The lessons from the GEJ Earthquake provided the impetus to rethink the role of the private sector in recovery planning and implementation. The three IRP technical sessions contributed greatly in the discussions to achieve the objectives of the conference through the recommendations from the panelists and participants.

The International Recovery Platform organized a number of the IRP side events at the second World Reconstruction Conference (WRC 2) in Washington D.C., 10-12 September 2014.

In Session 1: Making Post-Disaster Recovery Efficient and Effective: Elements of Good Recovery for Articulation Recovery in HFA2, the recommendations to aid governments in facilitating effective recovery are as follow: (i) having stable fund for recovery; (ii) using scientific information to support policy decisions; and (iii) collaborative efforts among all stakeholders, including the private sector.

In Session 8: Ten Years after Tsunami: A Retrospective, the recommendations to improve recovery operations include the following: (i) ensuring speed and focus on recovery of livelihoods; (ii) creating greater participation of community in recovery planning and implementation processes; (iii) linking recovery from tsunami to long-term development; and (iv) adopting simple measures of impacts of recovery programs.

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

The WRC2 will inform the next round of deliberations at the second Preparations Committee meeting in November in Geneva leading to the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015 in Sendai, Japan where the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction will be adopted.