

SAARC-Japan Workshop on Regional Cooperation on Disaster Risk Reduction 6th November 2007, in Delhi

1. Background

Countries in the South Asian region, through the experiences of the recent catastrophic disasters occurred in relatively quick succession, have started realizing the urgent need of establishing and strengthening regional cooperation mechanism and system for disaster risk reduction and management under the initiative of the SAARC. An Expert group of SAARC countries in a meeting held on 9-10 February 2006 developed “Disaster Management in South Asia: A Framework for Action 2006-2015” which was adopted at the 14th SAARC Summit held in April 2007. A SAARC Disaster Management Centre was set up in New Delhi to promote regional cooperation among South Asian countries on disaster risk reduction and management.

The International Conference on Japan-SAARC Cooperation held on July 31, 2006 in Bangladesh with a financial support of Japan-SAARC Special Fund recommended that one of the focus areas for future Japan-SAARC Cooperation should be to engage, provide and facilitate mitigation of disasters both in terms of disaster preparedness and environmental protection in SAARC region through technical assistance, capacity building programs and project development where the Japanese have expertise and can contribute in substantial way for human security.

Based on these recommendations, Japan-SAARC Special Fund Cooperative Program for Promoting Regional Cooperation for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in the SAARC Region has been taken under SAARC-Japan cooperation. And also other contribution of Government of Japan regarding to the disaster risk management “Earthquake Risk Reduction and Recovery Preparedness Programme (“ERRP”)” is to be launched as an UNDP regional project for 5 south Asian countries. ERRP Programme has been developed in the context of the International Recovery Platform (IRP) for the fulfillment of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

2. Event Objectives

The purpose of this workshop is to disseminate information on the regional programme initiatives on disaster risk reduction under the SAARC-Japan cooperation programme to the SAARC member and other Asian countries as a pre-event of the 2nd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Delhi, Nov.2007. The workshop will also be considered as kick off meeting of the programme to enhance the mutual recognition between the member countries on the initiative. The specific aims of the event are:

- Introduce the programme and other contribution of Government of Japan for promoting regional cooperation for disaster risk reduction and management in the SARRC Region”
- Explain the approval process and implementation modalities of the regional programmes
- Review the key challenges, gaps and opportunities on the regional programmes
- Identify the potential solutions and future development of the regional programmes

3. Format of the Event

The workshop of South Asian Countries on Disaster Risk Reduction will be organized by SAARC Disaster Management Centre, in collaboration with ADRC and financial support of Japan-SAARC Special Fund. It will take place in the afternoon of 6th November 2007 before 2nd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction in New Delhi, India. The workshop will be held room #294 at the Hotel Ashok, Chanakyapuri, Delhi.

The workshop will bring together conference participants from 8 SAARC member countries. The same participant of the workshop will participate in the 2nd Asian Ministerial Conference. Invitations to participants will be sent prior to the conference. It will be chaired by Asian Disaster Reduction Center and Co-chaired by the SAARC.

4. Agenda of the Event

- Opening and Welcome Remarks - 25 minutes
 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs of GOJ - 7 minutes
 - SAARC Disaster Management Centre - 6 minutes
 - SAARC Secretariat - 6 minutes
 - Asian Disaster Reduction Centre - 6 minutes
- Broad View of Disaster Risk Reduction in the SAARC region - 30 minutes
- Coffee break - 20 minutes
- Introduction of the programmes - 60 minutes (Power point Presentations)
 - 1) SAARC-Japan Special Cooperation Programme for Disaster Risk Reduction:
 - i) Feasibility Project; *Digitized Vulnerability Atlas of South Asia Integrating Spatial Data on Physical, Demographic and Socio-Economic Features of Different Regions of Each Country*
 - ii) Pilot Project; *Documentation of Indigenous Knowledge and Coping Mechanism of Different Communities Living in Multi-Hazard Zones of South Asia*
 - 2) Other Contributions of Government of Japan
- Discussion – 15 minutes
- Meeting summary by the Chair - 15 minutes

Total: 2hrs 45 minutes

5. Expected Outcome

A one-page “summary of the chair” which will include the recommendations from the meeting.

6. Others

Japan-SAARC Special Fund will bear the travel cost, accommodation and DSA for the 2 participants from each SAARC countries during the workshop periods. SAARC Disaster Management Center will bear the cost of the venue and arrange the resource person.

