

**Concept Note on the Workshop “Disaster Risk Reduction in Pacific Islands”  
March 17-18<sup>th</sup> 2007, Kobe, Japan**

**1. Background**

The Pacific Island Countries are threatened by various kind of the natural hazard such as earthquake, tsunami, volcano eruption, flood and cyclone due to its geographical condition, and also they will be vulnerable for the flood risk by the future rising of the sea level by the climate change. For these countries, once they could suffer heavily losses by these natural disasters, the recovery could not be easily due to their economic size of the country. And the country's geographically dispersed condition could not make easy to communicate each other in the sub-region as well as the communication between islands within the countries.

The Pacific Island Countries were the earliest countries to commit themselves to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA), when they met in Madang, Papua New Guinea to adopt the Pacific Framework for Action, 2005-2015: An Investment for Sustainable Development in Pacific Island Countries- Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management.

Subsequently, several sub-regional initiatives had been launched to build the resilience to natural disasters to the communities and countries in the Pacific. Within 2007, two important forums were convened to boost capacity of the Pacific:

- (1) Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network in Suva on 12-13 April 2007
- (2) 13<sup>th</sup> Regional Disaster Management Managers Meeting Majuro from 27 to 29 June 2007, which focused on community-based disaster risk management and also regional early warning systems.

On the other hand, JICA provide some assistance to mitigate the natural disasters in the region as follows;

- Emergency assistance after the natural disasters
- Training program on the natural disaster mitigation
- Provision of the sensing instruments for the cyclone and earthquake, and functionalized of them
- Enhancement of the capability of the DRR for officers in charge of DRR

The project building survey was conducted by JICA in 2006 and 2007 for the DRR

in the region. They observed that the needs of the enhancement of DRR in the community level will be pointed out in the regions. And since the UN agencies and donors provide the assistance on DRR separately, to provide effective assistance to the region, it is important to communicate and coordinate between them for DRR activities to decrease the duplication.

## **2. Objectives of the Workshop**

In order to help to move the Pacific sub regional efforts forwards, it is important to build on the above achievements. In this context, the objectives of the workshop are listed as follows;

- To share the implementation of the initiatives on DRR
- To clarify the key challenges, gaps and opportunities of the community DRR
- To share the good practices and lesson learnt from other countries in Community DRR
- To discuss the regional cooperation in DRR
- To study the direction of the future cooperation on DRR in the community such as enhancement of disaster information network system (EWS) and strengthening of the natural disaster resilience community for the “5<sup>th</sup> PALM2009”

## **3. Tentative Agenda**

March 17 <sup>th</sup>	15:00-17:30	Participating in the “Disaster Risk Alliance Forum 2008” at Portopia Hall
	18:00 (?)	Reception
March 18 <sup>th</sup>	09:30-10:00	Inaugural Session
	10:00-12:00	Presentation on the “National Report” by participants
	12:00-13:30	Lunch
	13:30-14:30	“Community based Disaster Risk Reduction Activity” by ADRC “Community Participation in the Better Recovery” by IRP
	14:30-15:00	“Capacity Survey on the DRR in Pacific Countries” by JICA(?)
	15:00-15:10	Discussion & Wrap Up
		Transport to “Disaster Reduction Museum” from Portopia Hotel
	15:40-15:50	Explanation of Disaster Reduction Museum

15:50-16:10 Theater  
16:10-17:30 Exhibitions

**4. Expected Outcome**

TBD

**5. Others**

- For the “National Report” session, we would ask the participants to make a presentation for 15-20 minutes on the “Overview of the Natural Disaster Risk”, “The Status of the HFA Implementation” and “The Status of Community based Disaster Reduction“. It would be appreciated if you could provide us by March 8<sup>th</sup>.
- The contact for subject; watabe@adrc.or.jp