

Workshop on the “Disaster Risk Reduction in the Pacific Islands”

March 18th, 2008 at Kobe, Hyogo, Japan

Organized by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
Asian Disaster Reduction Center
In Cooperation with JICA

09:30-10:00 Inaugural Session

[Welcome & Opening Remarks]

- Mr. Masanori Nakano, Senior Regional Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan
- Mr. Koji Suzuki, Executive Director, Asian Disaster Reduction Center
- Mr. Satoru Mimura Team Director, Disaster Management Team

[Program Overview]

- Background
- Objective of the Workshop

[Photo Session]

10:00-12:00 Presentation on the National Report on DRR

[Contents]

- Natural Disaster in the country
- Organization & DRR Law
- DRR Activity based on HFA Five Priority

[Presentation Order, 20 Minutes Presentation /Speaker]

1. Fiji
2. Marshall
3. Solomon
4. Tonga
5. Tuvalu
6. SOPAC

Background of the Workshop

- 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:
 - Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network in Suva on 12-13 April 2007
 - 13th 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.

Objective

- 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 “5th PALM2009”

Expected Contents on the Presentation

1. Natural Disasters in the Country
2. DRR Organization and Law
3. HFA Five Priority
 - National Platform (DRR Organization / Law)
 - Early Warning & Risk (Hazard) Map
 - Disaster Education
 - Prevention Activity
 - Relief, Rescue and Recovery Activity