



Asia Regional Task Force On Urban Risk Reduction

Yuki Matsuoka, UNISDR Secretariat, Hyogo Office

4th Meeting of the RTF-URR

1 December, 2009

3rd Asia Ministerial Conference on DRR



United Nations / International Strategy for Disaster Reduction



UNISDR Thematic Platforms Concept

Thematic platform is an important element of the ISDR system;

➤ **a multi-stakeholder partnership mechanism through which ISDR partner organizations collaborate on specific themes, typically of a technical nature relevant to the reduction of disaster risk and the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) implementation;**

➤ **Existing ISDR Thematic Platforms and working groups**

Early Warning, El Nino, Drought, Floods, Water Risks, Wildland Fire, Landslide, Environment, Climate change, Education, Disaster recovery, and Capacity development.

UN/ISDR Hyogo Office together with close partners took an initiative to develop the Asia Regional Task Force on URR as a thematic group on urban risk reduction within the ISDR system in Asia to facilitate and accelerate efforts and actions for urban risk reduction.



The Asia Regional Task Force on Urban Risk Reduction

Focus on Urban:

Urgent need to address urban risks; Vulnerability due to the urbanization of cities is increasing; Urban areas are prone to both geological hazards like earthquake and landslides, as well as hydro-meteorological disasters like typhoons (cyclones) and flooding.

Focus on Asia:

The pace of urbanization is high in Asia; Population density is high and getting higher in speed, and high density is creating additional vulnerability, by developing informal settlements; All those people living in informal settlements are mostly exposed to different types of hazards like floods and typhoons; Population density, combined with recent effects of climate change is creating new risk in the urban areas of Asia.



The Asia Regional Task Force on Urban Risk Reduction (RTF-URR)

Currently represented by 15 members and open for expansion

The Goals of the RTF:

➤ To enhance decisive actions to reduce risk and increase community resilience in the urban areas in the Asia region.

The Objectives of the RTF:

- To act as an advocacy vehicle to major urban policy bodies;
- To provide a platform for collective information and knowledge development sharing ;
- To facilitate interactions and cooperation among related organizations and stakeholders for collaborative efforts.



**In line with HFA implementation, some concrete progress
and activities within the RTF-URR:**

1. The RTF-URR was established in January 2008 Kobe, Japan

- 1st Meeting, January in Kobe
- 2nd meeting, February in Bkk,
- 3rd meeting, May in Kobe, and
- 4th meeting in Dec in KL

2. Production of basic concept and documents

- Terms of Reference
- Flyer and CD Rom
- Standard PPT and presentations at various opportunities
- Work-in-progress Workplan and relevant meeting list

3. Intranet of the RTF-URR within PreventionWeb



**In line with HFA implementation, some concrete progress
and activities within the RTF-URR:**

4. Short Thematic Review on URR in Asia submitted as input to the Global Assessment Report on DRR

5. Inventory of urban risk reduction initiatives in the Asia Region and production of **HFA Status Report on URR in Asia** (to be finalized and disseminated at the Global Platform on DRR)

6. Production of the Guideline for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action for local governments 'Local Words into Action of HFA'

7. 'RADIUS plus 10' project to support analysis of seismic risks for cities, and development of risk scenarios and an action plans for cities, and a set of recommendations (as the follow up project of the original RADIUS). (Assessment mission in Zigong conducted in October).

8. Urban Risk Profiling Initiative for Asia and Pacific Cities



Urban Risk Profiling: Climate Disaster Resilience Initiative (CDRI) for Asia-Pacific Cities

Initiative led by Kyoto University in cooperation with CITYNET, UNISDR, and UNU.

The goal of the initiative is to capitalize community's resilience

- To measure the level of climate disaster resilience of urban poor communities
- To develop a yardstick i.e., climate disaster resilience index (CDRI) to measure the level of climate disaster resilience and
- To demonstrate the methodological approach to do that
- To map the communities' position in the level of climate disaster resilience
- To help policy formulation by the development organizations and take necessary action to enhance climate disaster resilience of communities.



The Asia Regional Task Force on Urban Risk Reduction

• Current members:

ADPC, ADRC, CITYNET, DRI, EMI, IRP secretariat, JICA, Kobe University, Kyoto University, UNCRD, UNEP, UN-Habitat, UNISDR, UNU and WHO

• Chair: Mr. Rajib Shaw, Kyoto University

• Vice-chair: Ms. Etsuko Tsunozaki, Asian Disasters Reduction Center (ADRC)

• RTF-URR secretariat: UNISDR Hyogo Office Ms. Yuki Matsuoka

Contact: ISDR-Hyogo@un.org

Thank you very much