

Minutes of the Brainstorming Meeting Asia Regional Task Force on Urban Risk Reduction (RTF-URR)

23 and 24 January 2008 Kobe, Japan

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

UN/ISDR recently started functioning in Kobe with a new office nestling in the same premises where ADRC, UNCRD, IRP Secretariat are also located. In addition to bringing in synergy in disaster risk reduction in the region, this office is also proposed to act as a focal point for the functioning of the RTF-URR in the context of ISDR Thematic Platform on Urban Risk Reduction. It is recognized that many organizations in the Asia Pacific region are doing remarkable work in risk reduction regime but may not be noticing it mutually or able to find common platform to work collectively. Moreover, donors also pointed out to synergize and facilitate the work of various institutions and promote joint local/national/regional activities in URR. Hence, the several-fold purposes of the meeting were to:

- 1) Facilitate cooperation among agencies;
- 2) Share information and minimize overlap;
- 3) Promote joint local/national/regional activities; and
- 4) Promote action to take advantage of ongoing priority initiatives globally and regionally.
- 5) Discuss feasibility of establishing a Regional Task Force on Urban Disaster Risk

The brainstorming meeting provided an opportunity for the participants to inform their respective work areas, further discuss with other participants to engage wider discussion, explore possibility of partnership, get to know new avenues and priorities and finally ways to optimize benefits arising out of new RTF-URR initiative.

PARTICIPANTS:

ADPC, ADRC, DRI, EMI, IRP Secretariat, JICA, Kobe University, Kyoto University, UNCRD, UNEP, UN-Habitat, UN/ISDR, UNU (Tokyo), WHO

MAJOR DISCUSSION

The key points of discussion from the two-day meeting held in ADRC & UNCRD in Kobe are as follows:

(1) RTF will facilitate knowledge and information exchange, and will act as a platform of information sharing but will not implement any specific project by its own - donors already identified gaps in synergies which need to be addressed immediately. Hence RTF may also help linking possible networking/funding opportunity to those projects which one or many members will be implementing individually or jointly.

(2) Specific projects will be conducted by the participating organizations and institutions, and will be reported to the RTF for its wider dissemination.

(3) RTF will work in line with the HFA priorities of action for the region. National reports are being prepared by June 2008 and regional (including thematic) reports by August 2008, which will be fed into the Global Assessment Report to be ready by December 2008. The final version of the Global Assessment Report will be presented at the 2nd Global Platform meeting in June

2009. One or two members may take up the task of compiling all information available for regional report on urban risk. Thematic reports are already being prepared and there is a concrete proposal to prepare 'Regional Report of all good initiatives' targeted this year. The Asian Ministerial Conference held in Delhi last year also felt that mapping of activities of the institutions in Asia Pacific region is required and ADB might fund this project.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES:

It was suggested that the activities of the RTF-URR may be categorized in following key working themes. Each of these themes represents wide range of activities and lead organizations are proposed to take responsibilities to initiate appropriate actions.

1. Policy and Advocacy
2. Knowledge Management
3. Promoting synergies and cooperation

Some of the suggested activities are as follows:

In immediate future:

- Contribute to HFA progress reporting on urban risk (thematic report)
- Mapping of urban risk and resilience in the Asia Region (as a contribution/input to the Regional Mapping Initiative which is being carried out under the auspices of the Expanded ISDR Asia Partnership with potential funding from ADB)
- Comments on the: Report on the Baseline Status of DRR in Asia and the Pacific (especially a report in urban context covering important vulnerable cities the region)
- Comments on the : Technical/ policy note on building codes and land use management
- High level advocacy through 'key messages' to influence policies
- To boost/enhance immediate actions with the support from the UN/ISDR, Kobe office.
- Develop a TOR for the Regional Task Force on Urban Disaster Risk and develop mailing list of Task Force members.
- Prepare a brochure on the Task Force and its objectives/activities.

In near future:

Three major activities (1) Networking and knowledge sharing (presentations and participation in the major global and/or regional forum) (2) Developing knowledge products (knowledge repository, training and capacity building programs) (3) Initiative and/or provide link to country activities (country specific actions and dissemination), (4) Regional policy paper on urban disaster risk (based on GFDRR Technical Notes and EMI policy paper)

In Long term:

Influence urban policy and programmes of various vulnerable countries to enable and strengthen urban risk reduction and contribute to building resilient city environment.

PROPOSALS SHARED BY THE CORE MEMBERS:

These activities listed will be taken up by the individual organizations or in partnership with some members or other organizations. This list is not comprehensive and members may add more activities as per the discussions held in Kobe. Their proposals may not be initiated by the RTF but will be linked through RTF for wider dissemination.

SN	Names of the organizations (in alphabetical order)	Ongoing Urban DRR Activities	Proposed Urban DRR Activities
1	ADPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Urban Disaster Management Training ➤ Advocacy for mainstreaming DRM at local level ➤ Documenting city level practices ➤ Knowledge dissemination ➤ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Development of resource pool, knowledge bank ➤ Catalog of DRM tools ➤ Asian Urban DRR Conference ➤ Inventory of most vulnerable cities and conduct URR in 100 selected cities in next five years ➤
2	ADRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Knowledge dissemination and coalition building ➤ Sharing experiences from the region ➤ Networking among member countries ➤ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Documenting 'urban' Database from present disaster database ➤ Urban Search and Rescue Training of member countries ➤ Good Practices ➤
3	DRI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sharing experiences of public awareness ➤ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Networking with other networks ➤ Participation in international forums ➤
4	EMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Website ➤ Documentation of case studies ➤ Specific publications on urban and megacities DRR ➤ Regional megacities fora ➤ Cluster Cities Program ➤ 3cd programme ➤ City-2-City Sharing ➤ MEGA-Learn eLearning package ➤ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mainstreaming DRR in megacities (Pilot already done in Manila, Kathmandu) ➤ 'Urban Disaster Risk Management Specialist' Certification ➤
5	IRP Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support of the Earthquake Risk Reduction and Recovery Preparedness Programme for the South Asian region through ADRC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recovery lessons sharing (urban context) ➤ Development of recovery guidelines (urban context) ➤

SN	Names of the organizations (in alphabetical order)	Ongoing Urban DRR Activities	Proposed Urban DRR Activities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Development of Recovery Case Study Databases ➤ 	
6	JICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Training Programs ➤ City specific risk assessment (microzonation) ➤ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Monitoring after project completion ➤ Training ➤ Further training of JICA trained professionals in URR ➤
7	Kobe University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Training with JICA ➤ RCUSS (Risk Center for Urban Safety and Security) ➤ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Experience sharing ➤ HFA for local Authorities ➤
8	Kyoto University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Climate Change Adaptation ➤ Country specific activities (Vietnam, Philippines, India etc.) ➤ Education and learning ➤ Development and delivery of knowledge ➤ Regional professional workshops, forums etc ➤ Forging partnerships among practitioners and researchers ➤ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Climate and Disaster Resilience Index ➤ Policy guidelines for HFA for local Authorities ➤
9	UNCRD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Housing earthquake safety initiative ➤ Gender in urbanization and CBDM ➤ School earthquake safety initiative ➤ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Expert inputs on urban gender issues ➤ Urban governance project ➤ Urban housing issues ➤
10	UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Water and sanitation ➤ Waste Management / 3R initiatives ➤ Environmental dimension of prevention and risk reduction in urban areas ➤ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Environmental Lessons sharing from Urban disasters ➤ Environmental mandate/aspects in disaster ➤
11	UN-Habitat (Fukuoka)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ World Urban Forum ➤ Recovery experiences in urban areas ➤ Urban Observatory (indicators; monitoring) ➤ Urban Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Experiencing sharing (community dimensions from urban projects) ➤

SN	Names of the organizations (in alphabetical order)	Ongoing Urban DRR Activities	Proposed Urban DRR Activities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Programme (with UNDP) ➤ Sustainable Cities (with UNEP) ➤ 	
12	UN/ISDR (BKK/Hyogo)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ PreventionWeb platform ➤ Public awareness ➤ Institutional awareness campaigns ➤ Newsletters ➤ ISDR Informs Magazines (LAC, Asia, Africa) ➤ GP/DRR (every two years) ➤ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ UN/ISDR, Kobe office to be focal point for Task Force ➤ Awareness Campaign on urban risk: 2010-11 (?) ➤
13	UNU (Tokyo)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Catastrophic risk assessment in urban areas ➤ Training and implementation research ➤ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Training program of extreme flood risk ➤ Technically competent persons in environmental risk ➤ Environmental change assessment information framework for cities ➤ Linking disaster reduction with urban futures ➤ Vulnerability mapping in cities ➤
14	WHO, Kobe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Resource Database Sharing experiences on inclusion of informal settlements ➤ Knowledge network on urban setting ➤ Urbanization and health issues for urban risk reduction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ An element on urban governance ➤ Integrating urban health equity with urban health risk reduction ➤ Platform of information sharing towards step-wise urban risk reduction ➤
15	Invited members (if required)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤

TENTATIVE TIME LINE (WHAT RTF-URR WILL BE DOING IN THE YEAR 2008):

There are a number of important events scheduled this year and RTF-URR will proactively represent in them. Major events are:

Dates	Name of the event or follow-up action	Lead or contact person
13 February	Nomination of TF Chair	ISDR and ADRC (matsuoka@un.org and tsunozaki@adrc.or.jp)
13-15 February	ISDR Asia-Pacific Partnership (IAP) Meeting	ISDR (planitz@un.org)
Start by April	Production of local version of “Words into Action”	ISDR and Kyoto University (matsuoka@un.org and shaw@global.mbox.media.kyoto-u.ac.jp)
14 th July (prior to the 2 nd UCLG Asia Pacific Congress, 15-18 July 2008 at Pattaya, Thailand)	Asia Pacific Regional Meeting on good practices in mitigating and adapting to potential impacts of climate change and natural disasters in Urban Areas (WB, ISDR, UCLG)	WB-ISDR (planitz@un.org)
Start by August	Dialogue with capacity development opportunities and programs with JICA	Pilot activities with JICA (mimura.satoru@jica.go.jp), Kobe University (ytgeotec@tiger.kobe-u.ac.jp), ISDR (matsuoka@un.org) and EMI (fouadmail@sbcglobal.net)
Start by October	-Mapping of urban risk and resilience in the Asia Region -Report on the status of DRR in Asia (especially a report in urban context covering important vulnerable cities in the region)	IAP (planitz@un.org and matsuoka@un.org)
Others to suggest		

Participation of core RTF members in these events will emphasize on linking urban management with disaster risk reduction in the cities in the Asia Pacific region. The core group members may also propose projects or actions of set of organizational functions with following criteria:

1. Hydro-meteorological Disaster Risks in the urban context (Climate induced risk)
2. Geological Disaster Risks in the urban context
3. Urban Development/Management and linking DRR to future urban growth and planning

ACTIVITIES AND LEAD GROUPS:

This part is just a suggestion from RTF-URR Secretariat. Please feel free to add your comments.

GROUP-1: Policy and Advocacy
(ADRC and EMI as lead organizations)

GROUP-2: Knowledge Management
(ADPC, Kyoto University and UNU as lead organizations)

GROUP-3: Promoting synergies and cooperation

The lead groups will seek the cooperation / inputs from other organizations and/or individually in the core group.

PROPOSED KEY ACTIVITIES OF RTF-URR

	Proposed Activities
Policy & Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Policy papers on urban DRR■ Identifying priorities for urban DRR and gap analysis■ Participation in key regional and international events■ Awareness raising including information kits■ Agency leadership on sub-themes■ Progress monitoring, reporting and indicator setting■ Setting standards and codes of practice
Knowledge Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Knowledge base on experts/resources/tools/activities■ Network of experts and resource persons■ Development of guidelines, tools, knowledge products, e.g. “Local Words into Action”, training kits■ Mapping of urban DRR Activities■ Urban profiles and good practices
Promoting Synergies & Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Pilot demonstrations■ Joint programmes/training initiatives

DRAFT MATRIX OF ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

1. Please add more activities, if required

2. Please indicate short term and long term activities

	ADPC	ADRC	DRI	EMI	IRP Secretariat	JICA	Kobe Uni.	Kyoto Uni.	UNCRD	UNEP	UN- Habitat	UN/ ISDR	UNU (Tokyo)	WHO
GROUP-1: POLICY & ADVOCACY [Lead Organizations/ Core Leaders : ADRC and EMI]														
Policy papers on urban DRR														
Identifying priorities for urban DRR and gap analysis														
Participation in key regional and international events														
Awareness raising, including information kits														
Agency leadership on Sub-themes														
Progress monitoring, reporting and indicator setting														
Setting standards and codes of practices														
Other (please specify)														

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GROUP-2: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

[Lead Organizations/ Core Leaders : ADPC, Kyoto Univ., UNU (Tokyo)]

Note: This will include *Development of Knowledge* (means generation, standardization, customization) and *Delivery of knowledge* (means training and capacity building)

Knowledge base on experts/ resources/ tools/activities														
Network of experts and resource persons														
Development of guidelines, tools, knowledge products, e.g. “Local Words into Action”, training kits														
Mapping of urban DRR activities														
Urban profiles and good practices														
Other (please specify)														

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GROUP-3: Promoting Synergies and Cooperation
 [Lead Organizations/ Core Leaders : UN HABITAT, EMI and JICA]

Pilot demonstrations														
Joint programmes/training initiatives														
Other (please specify)														