



## Asia Regional Task Force On Urban Risk Reduction

### Founding members:

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



## Overview

**I** ISDR system and Thematic Platform concept

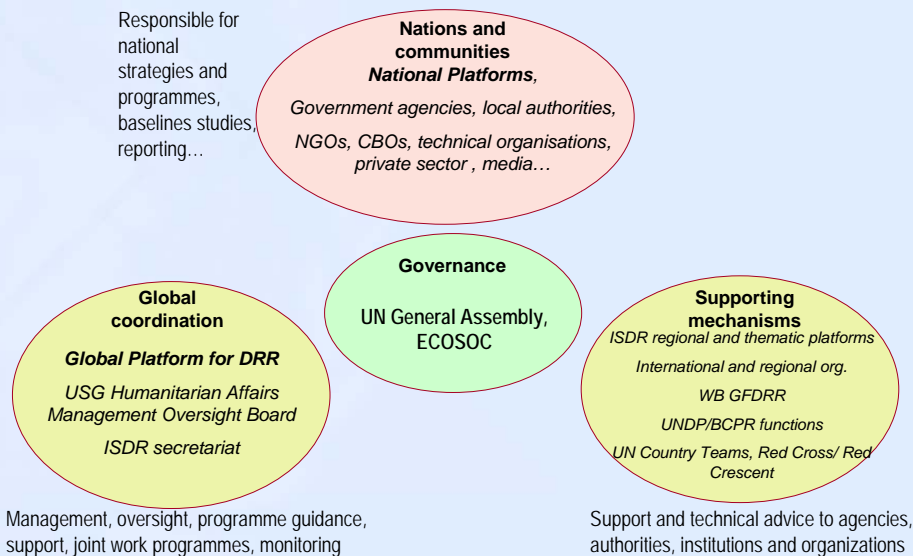
**II** Asia Regional Task Force on Urban Risk Reduction

## Build a disaster risk reduction movement – ISDR system

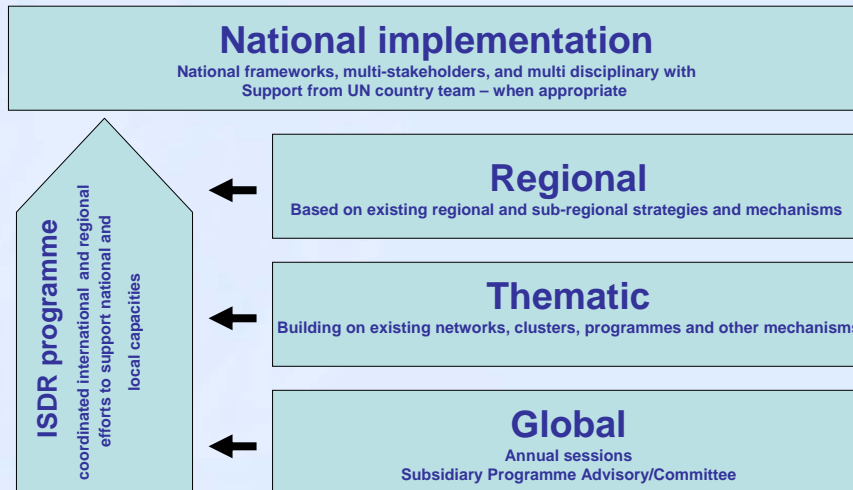
- ✓ Our objective: To reduce disaster risk, worldwide, focussing on nations and communities
- ✓ The instrument: Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015
- ✓ The vehicle: ISDR system - ‘movement’



## Main elements of the strengthened ISDR System in support of the Hyogo Framework for Action



## ISDR system levels of action (“platforms”)



### UN/ISDR 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, 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 in this context.



## **The Asia Regional Task Force on Urban Risk Reduction**

### **Why focus on Urban Risk?**

- **Urbanization is a complex process of development, economic growth, population increase, and other associated elements;**
- **Urbanization is accelerated by the rapid globalization, expansion of local economies, and continuous migration from the rural areas, especially in Asia ;**
- **Vulnerability due to the urbanization of the cities is increasing which causes many challenges, such as poverty, pollution and disease ;**
- **Urban areas are prone to both geological hazards like earthquake and landslides, as well as hydro-meteorological disasters like typhoons (cyclones) and flooding.**



## **The Asia Regional Task Force on Urban Risk Reduction**

### **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**

### **Focus on Resilience**

- Resilience suggests a proactive stance towards risk;
- Building resilient cities;
  
- Resilient cities have two specific implications:
  - 1) balanced approach on urban ecosystem, with equilibrium of natural and built environment;
  - 2) the resilience should be reflected on the dynamic changes of risk;
  
- Resilience should be built in areas such as coastlines, cities, agricultural land and industrial zones which are often the most impacted by humans .



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

- The RTF-URR was established in January 2008 Kobe, Japan (1<sup>st</sup> meeting, January in Kobe, 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, February in Bkk, and 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, May in Kobe)
- The RTF-URR is to facilitate interactions among the different stakeholders in the Asia region and represented by 14 founding members and open for expansion;
- The RTF-URR does not implement any specific project by its own, but facilitates knowledge and information exchange, and acts as a platform of information sharing.
- The RTF-URR will develop links to the community of urban planners, architects and engineers who are engaged in shaping the future of urban growth to ensure that disaster risk reduction is incorporated in urban development planning as well as future urban development trends incorporated in disaster risk reduction strategies.



## Goals and Objectives of the RTF-URR

### 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.



## Priority Activities and Outputs

### In line with HFA implementation, two immediate activity areas:

- HFA Reporting on Urban Risk Reduction in the Asia Region (to be prepared for the next Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in mid 2009)
- Mapping of Urban Risks and Resilience in the Asia Region (starting with producing inventory of initiatives and activities on Urban Risk Reduction in the Asia Region).



## Activities of the RTF-URR

Activities are divided into three main categories:

### 1. Policy and Advocacy

- Identifying priorities for urban DRR and gap analysis
  - Developing policy advocacy paper and participation in the key regional events.
- Outputs: Policy Papers and participation in advocacy forums

### 2. Knowledge management

- Developing and maintaining knowledge base of experts, resources, tools and activities
  - Setting standards and codes of practices.
- Outputs: knowledge repository, training and capacity building programs

### 3. Promoting Synergies and Cooperation

- Promoting joint implementation of its members organizations
  - Promoting training and capacity building programs.
- Outputs: Country specific actions and dissemination



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• Chair Mr. Rajib Shaw, Kyoto University

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

• URL: <http://www.adrc.or.jp/events/RTFmeeting20080130/top.html>

• UN/ISDR Hyogo Office Ms. Yuki Matsuoka

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# Thank you very much