



# ADRC

## Highlights

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➤ **Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction**  
□ **First session held in Geneva, ADRC participated**

The First Session of the Global Platform (GP) for Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Geneva, Switzerland by the United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) at the International Conference Centre Geneva from 5 to 7 June 2007. It was attended by upwards of 1,400 participants from more than 120 organizations worldwide. The session aimed to reaffirm the commitment to the Hyogo Framework for Action, as well as to facilitate international cooperation on disaster risk reduction. The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) was represented at the session by Mr. Koji Suzuki, Executive Director, Mr. Masahiko Murata, ADRC Special Expert & International Recovery Platform (IRP) Secretariat Recovery Expert, Ms. Etsuko Tsunozaki, Senior Researcher, and Mr. Shuhei Tanaka, Senior Researcher.

During the opening ceremony, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General, expressed his expectations for the GP session in a video message. Mr. John Holmes, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief and Coordinator and convener of the Global Platform, then delivered the keynote speech.

Mr. Toshizo Ido, Governor of Hyogo Prefecture, gave the first presentation in the Statement Session, beginning with acknowledgments of the international support that was received following the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. He stated that to ensure the implementation of the HFA, Hyogo Prefecture has a responsibility to continue to work with the UN/ISDR as well as the ADRC and IRP to promote international disaster reduction cooperation efforts and to share its experiences both at home and abroad in order to help build a safer society.



ADRC representatives gave presentations on community-based hazard mapping at the Session Workshops and Side Events, and the attendees eagerly shared ideas, agreeing with presenters on the importance of the role of communities in improving local disaster resilience. Also, at the invitation of the ADRC, Mr. Tatsuya Fujioka, Professor of the Graduate School of Joetsu University of Education, reported on disaster education in Japan.

For more information on the session, please visit the GP website (<http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/>).

□ **Successful IRP Side Event Draws 80 to Exchange Ideas on Disaster Recovery**

On the second day of the session, the IRP organized a Side Event together with the government of Japan and the UN/ISDR Secretariat, which focused on ways to contribute to better disaster recovery. It was attended by about 80 people from the ADRC, IRP partners, international & regional institutions, governments, and NGOs.



H.E. Mr. Makio Miyagawa, Ambassador to the Permanent Mission of Japan to the UN in Geneva, delivered the opening address. He spoke not only about Japan's contributions to international disaster cooperation efforts aimed at promoting the HFA, but also about the achievements of the IRP, such as its organization of the International Forum on Tsunami and Earthquake, its development of recovery support tools, and its launch of the earthquake disaster risk reduction project for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Many participants expressed great expectations for the IRP's role in facilitating a smooth transition from emergency response, rehabilitation, and reconstruction through long-term recovery. Furthermore, Mr. Satoru Nishikawa, Director for Disaster Preparedness, Public Relations & International Cooperation in the Cabinet Office of Japan noted that the IRP is expected to function as a catalyst for better recovery by creating and sharing expertise and know-how with relevant institutions and persons in need of such information. He concluded the meeting by expressing the need to further promote these activities, to avoid making the mistakes of the past, and to work with stakeholders to contribute to sustainable development.

At the plenary meeting on the last morning of the event, IRP Program Advisor Mr. Anil K. Sinha gave a briefing on the IRP's main activities since its establishment. In the Poster Session, we highlighted the activities of the ADRC and the IRP with poster-size displays of various materials and by distributing several IRP publications.

If you have comments or questions regarding this newsletter, please contact the ADRC.

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