

**Closing Speech**  
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Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)

Dear participants:

First, please allow me to express my sincere gratitude to each of you for your very active participation for full three days and the pre-meeting and evening sessions in addition, on behalf of the organizers.

Through the conference, we have identified the significant aspects of the various elements of Total Disaster Risk Management or TDRM. Immediate relief response in disaster situations can only be well conducted with good preparedness and, furthermore, with good prevention and mitigation. Lessons learnt in response and relief must be reflected in prevention and mitigation activities. Rehabilitation and reconstruction must be conducted with a view to contribute to future prevention and mitigation. Valuable information and guidance on disaster prevention and mitigation, preparedness and response, relief and rehabilitation, and experiences from various points of view were well deliberated upon and shared among the participants here.

Now, I would like to make three specific requests to our dear participants. The first request is to reflect on the concept of TDRM, and to translate or convert its idea in your own language so that the TDRM approach would be well accepted in various sectors and the people in your country. The second request is to provide us further inputs to enrich the initial version of the set of materials distributed to you on the first day of the conference, so that we can always update the current information of your country. The third request is to show the TDRM video tape to your colleagues and other people so that this information could be useful to their task. Although it is not really a complete one, I am sure that it will give you some ideas or hints on TDRM approach.

As I mentioned earlier, now we are able to recognize very important aspects and various elements of TDRM. Let us spread the word of the positive aspects. Let us highlight the success stories and best practices. Let us involve more and more stakeholders, and thus create a very positive cycle towards disaster reduction and sustainable development. As we know, in January 2005, there would be the World Conference organized by the United Nations. We must not make it just a conference. The process leading to this conference is very important. Let us enlarge the participation of discussions leading towards the January 2005 in our respective countries. And let us make differences that the process leading to the 2005 conference would give a positive influence in the countries so that the work of disaster reduction of good response would be further implemented.

Lastly, I would like to thank once again all the participants, especially, those coming from the non-traditional sectors. In this meeting, we have the participants from various sectors. i.e. governments, other non-governmental organizations, private sectors and mass media. And we are quite encouraged by the fact that this conference gained a very productive and informative outcome from a wide range of participants. And I would finally like to thank all the supporters of this conference who have provided funds, facilities and other resources. Special thanks also to NHK and Kobe Shinbun Newspaper and other media who have covered our meeting. I am sure that by spreading this important message, we can make a difference.

Thank you once again and see you in the near future.