

Summary of Session Proceedings 10 June 2003

Opening Session

1. In his opening remarks, Mr. Katsuhiko Hara, Director for Disaster Preparedness, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan, underscored the importance of strengthening disaster reduction in Asia in view of the impact of disasters in the region on the world economy. He also cited the importance of hazard mapping, disaster assessment, and exchange of country experiences and skills in the effort to enhance capacities in disaster reduction.
2. In his opening remarks, Mr. Jaime McGoldrick, Chief, Asia and the Pacific Section, Response Coordination Branch, UN OCHA - Geneva, cited the increase in the intensity of disasters, which challenges existing coping capacities of countries. He explained the role of UN OCHA in addressing natural and complex disasters, including the support and assistance the office provides to countries.
3. In her opening remarks, Ms. Lauren Fredman, Bilateral Policy Analyst, USAID OFDA, emphasized the significance of an integrated, multilevel, and multidisciplinary approach to collaboration and cooperation in disaster reduction. She mentioned the importance of community participation in pursuing disaster reduction efforts.
4. In his keynote speech, Mr. Satoru Nishikawa, Executive Director, Asian Disaster Reduction Center, explained the aims and efforts of ADRC in strengthening the multilateral network for disaster reduction and the pursuit of TDRM in the region. He explained the thrust of ADRC on information sharing, capacity building, and international cooperation. Citing statistics on the socio-economic impact of disasters, he emphasized disaster reduction as a prerequisite for sustainable development in Asia. He also elaborated on the four essential strategies of the TDRM approach and showed the various disaster reduction activities of ADRC at regional and country level.

First Session: TDRM Approach: Country Experiences and Best Practices in Asia

5. Dr. Orlando Mercado, President, Philippine Institute of Investor Relations, spoke on multidisciplinary and inter-sectoral collaboration and cooperation in disaster reduction. He elaborated on the rationale for collaboration and presented some best practices in the Philippines. He presented as today's challenges the recognition of opportunities for enhancing development and the adoption of the holistic approach to disaster reduction through collaboration, commitment to action and political will.
6. Mr. Hidekazu Moroyasu, Deputy Director for Disaster Preparedness, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan, gave a presentation on strengthening disaster reduction capacity through reliable information system. He cited the importance of accurate prediction and strong networking in reducing human casualties, especially in volcanic eruptions in Japan. Moreover, he also briefly discussed the preparations for the forthcoming international conference in line with the Review of the Yokohama Strategies.
7. Mr. McGoldrick of UN OCHA - Geneva presented the humanitarian principles in disaster work and the role of UN OCHA. He elaborated on disasters as a growing global concern. In this regard, he defined the essence of various humanitarian principles and

the role of UN OCHA in natural disasters. He further explained the role of UN OCHA in the context of the whole disaster cycle.

8. Mr. Hiroyuki Sakakibara of Yamaguchi University, Japan, discussed the practical applications of risk management approach to disaster reduction. He defined risk, risk management, and risk sharing, as they relate to hazard, damage, uncertainty and probability. He also explained the concept of risk management as applied to disaster management, including the critical role of hazard maps.
9. Mr. Shri Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, spoke on enhancing disaster reduction capacity through legal frameworks and clarity of roles and responsibilities of stakeholders. He described the vulnerability of India to natural disaster risks and the existing institutional structures and legal framework that address the problem. He cited a number of initiatives underway in disaster reduction, including formulating a "road map", planning for disaster mitigation, preparedness and response, and strengthening information management, emergency services, and human resource development.eHHH
10. Mr. Tom Brennan, Regional Disaster Reduction Advisor, UNDP -Bangkok, spoke on the way forward as regards TDRM. He first cited the development of organized responses towards strengthening preparedness systems, enhancing local resilience, reducing vulnerabilities, and eventually adopting an integrated disaster risk management approach. Underscoring the importance of focusing on disaster risk, he elaborated on the disaster risk management approach and the process that helps protect development gains. Moreover, he presented four challenges we confront today: (1) integrating disaster risk management into national planning processes; (2) enabling disaster response agencies to assume disaster risk management; (3) mobilizing required resources; and (4) developing the necessary capacities for effective disaster risk management. Lastly, he proposed some next steps: (1) identify and quantify the socio-economic impact of disasters; (2) support organizational role in disaster response activities; (3) educate and seek support of development donors; and (4) augment training for disaster management agencies to include development planning.

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Second Session (A): Hazard Mapping and Vulnerability Assessment: Best Practices in Asia

1. Prof. Srikantha Herath, Senior Academic Programme Officer, Environment and Sustainable Development, United Nations University, presented the important considerations in quantifying hazards and risks for disaster loss reduction. He defined risk, vulnerability and hazard and their relationship, and explained examples in flash floods, river floods and urban floods. Moreover, he presented various models in quantifying hazards and risks, including damage estimates. He cited the case studies on the Yom River Basin in Thailand and the Ichinomiya River Basin in Chiba, Japan. In concluding, he mentioned that how urban vulnerability should be viewed remains a challenge to us today.
2. Dr. Jerry Velasquez, Coordinator, Global Environment Information Center, United Nations University, explained the concept of social vulnerability. He briefly explained the vulnerability problem with the increasing threat posed by fast growing population and population densities in Asian cities. In particular, he underscored the importance of taking people or the social dimensions into consideration in determining and assessing states of vulnerability and risks. He also presented various issues and methodology on quantifying social vulnerability.
3. Mr. Kenzo Hiroki, Head, Flood Disaster Prevention Division, Disaster Risk Management Center, National Institute for Land and Infrastructure Management, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Japan, gave an overview of the issues and process on flood hazard mapping. He explained the essence of hazard map as tool for disaster mitigation, the process for producing and distributing the map, and the role of disaster managers in using the map more effectively.
4. Mr. Ryosuke Kikuchi, Director, Infrastructure Development Institute, Japan, presented a framework for the hazard map manual. He elaborated on the components of the manual which included background, purposes, information contained in the map, evacuation plans, and distribution scheme. Moreover, he presented various related projects and activities, citing among others the initiatives of the Typhoon Committee.
5. Dr. Ernesto Corpuz, Chief Science Research Specialist, Volcano Monitoring and Eruption Prediction Division, Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, gave a presentation on the applications and advantages of hazard maps for volcanic eruptions in the Philippines. He elaborated on volcanic hazards and mitigation efforts, citing organizational framework and arrangements for disaster mitigation in the Philippines. He described the various uses of hazard maps by sector, activity and development needs. Showing the cases of Pinatubo Volcano and Mayon Volcano, Dr. Corpuz explained the hazard mapping procedure and approach for pyroclastic flows, lahar flows and volcanic ash, and the advantages of adopting digital formats. He concluded that hazard maps are indispensable, strategic tools in volcanic disaster mitigation as it allows rapid and efficient evacuation of populations at risk, and that they are also important in ensuring sustainable development.
6. Mr. Masaru Kunitomo, Senior Researcher, Erosion and Sediment Control Division,

Disaster Risk Management Center, National Institute for Land and Infrastructure Management, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Japan, discussed the applications and advantages of hazard maps for mitigating sediment-related disasters or sabo in Japan. He described the prevalence and causal factors of sediment-related disasters in the country, and the approach in determining hazard prone areas for debris flow, steep slope failure, and landslide. Moreover, he explained the effective use and sharing of hazard map information.

7. Dr. Michiko Sugai of Industrial Science Research Institute, Japan, discussed active fault mapping for earthquake disaster reduction in Japan. He mentioned the importance of preparedness, safe construction, and avoiding danger. He cited active faults and earthquake risk areas in Japan and described how they could be recognized using aerial and satellite photography, including three-dimensional imagery.