

**Session Summary**

# **Public Forum**

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*- Special Session by the Republic of Korea in cooperation with WMO -*  
**“Collaboration between Hydro-meteorological and Disaster  
Management sectors in disaster reduction”**



Opening Remarks by Mr. Won-Kyong Moon, Administrator,  
National Emergency Management Agency, Republic of Korea



Presentation by Mr. Satoru Nishikawa,  
Director for Disaster Preparedness,  
Cabinet Office, Japan



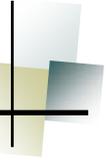
Presentation by Mr. Geun-Young Kim,  
Associate Professor, Department of Urban  
Planning and Architecture, Kangnam University



Panel Discussion



Panel Discussion



## Public Forum

### Special Session by the Republic of Korea in cooperation with WMO

Theme: Collaboration between Hydro-meteorological and Disaster Management sectors in disaster reduction

Moderator: Dr. Dugkeun Park, Senior Researcher, National Institute for Disaster Prevention, NEMA

#### [Panel Discussion]

Chair: Dr. M.C. Wong, Assistant Director, Hong Kong Observatory

Rapporteur: Ms. Haleh Kootval, Chief, Public Weather Services, Applications Programme Department, WMO

#### ◆ Opening Remarks

The Forum was opened by the opening remarks by **Mr. Won-Kyong Moon, Administrator, National Emergency Management Agency, Republic of Korea** and **Ms. Haleh Kootval, WMO**. Officials of the government and media representatives of the Republic of Korea participated in the Forum in addition to the participants from ADRC member countries.

#### ◆ Video Presentation

A video "Safe Korea, Active NEMA" to introduce the activities of NEMA, Republic of Korea were shown to the participants. Disaster situation in the Republic of Korea and NEMA's continuous efforts for reducing the damages were introduced.

#### ◆ Introductory Presentation

**Mr. Toshiyuki Sato, Director-General, International Planning & Broadcasting Department, NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation)** presented "The Role of Broadcasters in and for the time of Natural Disasters". He explained about a special workshop organized after the Indian Ocean Tsunami for Asian broadcasters to review what kind of information they were able to acquire at the time of Tsunamis

and how they reacted. Through the workshop, scarce knowledge of the nature of the tsunami or lack of the funds and basic contingency plans to cope with natural disasters heavily contributed to the huge numbers of casualties. He introduced NHK sent an expert to several international meetings to convey the important role of broadcasters in reducing casualties and economic damage derived from natural disasters and as the efforts at the second stage, they started working with individual broadcaster to make plans and manuals in preparation for possible natural disasters. Finally he concluded by citing broadcasters have much to do to minimize the damage from natural disasters.

#### ◆ Joint Thematic Presentations

Joint presentations by the National Meteorological-Hydrological Services and Disaster Risk Management representatives from Japan and the Republic of Korea were provided for introducing the importance of the strong linkage of the both agencies for the effective disaster risk management.

**Mr. Satoru Nishikawa, Director for Disaster Preparedness, Cabinet Office, Japan** briefly introduced the natural disaster situation and disaster management system in Japan at the

beginning of his presentation. Then, he explained about collaboration efforts between Met. Services and Disaster Management Authorities in Japan by giving examples of flood forecasting services and sediment disaster alert systems. In addition, he cited the importance of the collaboration among the agencies for quick response by Government in emergencies by giving a case of response to Typhoon Nabi in September 2005 as a good practice for the coordination.

**Mr. Geun-Young Kim, Associate Professor, Department of Urban Planning and Architecture, Kangnam University, and Dr. Jun-Hee Lee, Deputy Director, Earthquake Planning Division, Korea Meteorological Administration,** made joint presentation as the representatives of the Government of the Republic of Korea. Mr. Geun-Young Kim explained briefly about natural disasters and disaster risk management system in the Republic of Korea. He introduced the National Disaster Management System (NDMS), newly developing scientific and systematic national disaster management information system for effective response to disasters. Dr. Jun-Hee Lee explained the disaster information system to provide accurate warning against floods, earthquakes and Tsunamis. While, he cited there are more to be considered for the effective information sharing among related agencies for disaster reduction.

#### ◆ Panel Discussion

The session was chaired by **Dr. M. C. Wong, Assistant Director, Hong Kong Observatory** and composed of 12 panelists from 7 countries. The experts exchanged views and shared experience in the collaboration between National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and Disaster Management sectors in disaster reduction.

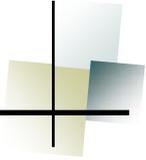
Of the 7 countries' representatives, only a few had legislations clearly defining the role of NMHSs in disaster risk management. All regarded NMHSs

indispensable part of the disaster risk management community. Collaboration and coordination at the national level between the two sectors went very well but disparities were observed at local levels. Advances in communication technologies had greatly helped in the timely dissemination of products and services from NMHSs to the disaster management authorities, but again difficulties were experienced in getting the message through to the local communities in some countries.

The panel recognized the dual nature of disaster risk management, namely, the science side and the human aspect and recommended that reaching-out programmes should be integrated into disaster risk management. The panel reckoned the importance of participative governance networking in managing disaster risks. It was further recommended that efforts should be expanded to ensure better understanding of warning by disaster managers, especially at the local level. Effective mechanisms would include face-to-face contacts, meetings, seminars, joint training sessions, web-based educational modules, drills and exercises.

To enhance the public knowledge on natural hazards and their impacts, the panel found the following are effective: pamphlets, booklets, public lectures, exhibitions and specific websites focused on children. The panel agreed that the media had an essential role in helping to reach out to the community, especially, in raising the public's awareness.

The panel encouraged collaboration between neighboring countries to promote cross-boundary sharing of disaster and warning information. Finally, the panel pledged all to join hands and work together to build a disaster-free Asia.



## Panelists and 5 Key Questions of the Panel Discussion

### Panelists:

[Bangladesh]

Mr. Ehsna Ul Fattah, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management  
Mr. MD. Abram Hossain, Director, Bangladesh Meteorological Department

[Indonesia]

Ms. Sriworo Budiati Harijono, Director General of BMG (Meteorological & Geophysical Agency)

[Japan]

Mr. Satoru Nishikawa, Director for Disaster Preparedness, Cabinet Office

[Republic of Korea]

Mr. Heung-Soo Cheong, President, Korean Disaster Information Association  
Dr. Byong-Lyol Lee, Deputy Director, International Cooperation Division, Korea Meteorological Administration

[Mongolia]

Mr. Badral Tuvshin, Director of Strategic Planning and International Relations Department, National Emergency Management Agency  
Dr. Damdin Dagvadorj, National Agency for Meteorology, Hydrology and Environment Monitoring of Mongolia

[Sri Lanka]

Mr. Nimal Dharmasiri Hettiarachchi, Director, Ministry of Disaster Relief Services, National Disaster Management Center (NDMC), Ministry of Disaster Relief Services, Sri Lanka  
Mr. Porakara Mudiyansele Jyatilaka Banda, Director, Department of Meteorology

[Thailand]

Mr. Suporn Ratananakin, Director, Research and International Cooperation Bureau, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Ministry of Interior  
Mr. Suparek Tansriratanawong, Director-General, Thai Meteorological Department

### 5 Key Questions:

1. In your country, do you have clear legislation and regulatory framework requiring close collaboration between the NMHSs and the disaster risk management authorities? If yes, how useful such a framework has proved to be?
2. To what extent the NMHSs and the disaster risk management community collaborate to identify the needs for products and services of the Meteorological Service in support of the disaster preparedness and response activities in your country. What joint mechanisms do you propose to ensure that the products and services of the NMHSs meet the needs of the disaster risk management authorities.
3. To what extent the disaster risk managers in your country rely on the hazard monitoring and warning products and services provided by the NMHSs. Through what channels these products and services are provided from the NMHSs to the disaster risk managers? What are the challenges in utilization of the technical information? What joint mechanisms do you propose to ensure that warnings are better understood and utilized by the disaster risk managers in the country? (e.g., joint training among forecaster and emergency managers, educational modules on hazards and their impacts, etc)?
4. What role can the NMHSs play in enhancing the disaster risk management authorities and the general public's knowledge on hydro-meteorological hazards and their impacts?
5. What are the extent of coordination between the NMHSs and the disaster risk management authorities in your country at the national to local levels. In your opinion how can the coordination be improved and what should it achieve for preparedness, response and recovery phases?

