

# **Conference Summary**



Closing Session



Summary of the Conference  
by Mr. Ki-Sung Bang, Director-General of  
Headquarters of Recovery and Relief, NEMA,  
Government of the Republic of Korea



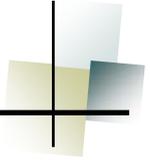
Closing Remarks delivered by Mr. Joseph Chung,  
Senior Regional Officer,  
UN/ISDR Asia and Pacific



Closing Remarks by Mr. Fumio Takeda, Deputy  
Director-General for Disaster Management,



Closing by Mr. Won-Kyong Moon, Administrator,  
National Emergency Management Agency,  
Government of the Republic of Korea



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## Closing Session

### ◆ Summary of Conference

To conclude the Conference, the Summary of the Conference was read out by **Mr. Ki-Sung Bang, Director-General of Headquarters of Recovery and Relief, NEMA, Government of the Republic of Korea**

### ◆ Closing Remarks

In closing, message from **Mr. Salvano Briceno, Director, UN/ISDR** was delivered by Mr. Joseph Chung, Senior Regional Officer, UN/ISDR Asia and Pacific.

Following the message, **Mr. Fumio Takeda, Deputy Director-General for Disaster Management, Cabinet Office of Japan** extended his congratulations on the success of the Conference and his expectation for further promotion of the HFA implementation based on the discussion during the 3-days Conference.

Finally, **Mr. Won-Kyong Moon, Administrator, National Emergency Management Agency, Government of the Republic of Korea** praised the Conference for promoting the HFA and expressed his gratitude to all the participants and people involved for the successful conclusion of the Conference.

## Conference Summary

The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2006 took place in Seoul, Republic of Korea on 15 to 17 March 2006. The focus was kept on the implementation of the outcome of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR), Japan 2005: Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 – 2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (HFA).

146 participants comprising dignitaries from the Republic of Korea and Japan, government officials of 25 countries, representatives of UN and international organisations, NGOs, and the civil society participated in the conference. The current implementation status of disaster risk reduction initiatives in Asia was reviewed and innovative strategies, guidelines and tools in support of the implementation of the HFA were presented and discussed during the conference.

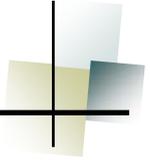
The ACDR 2006 was hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea in partnership with the Government of Japan, the United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN/OCHA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC).

The unstinted support of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) of the Republic of Korea, through Administrator, Mr. Won-Kyong Moon, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), through Executive Director, Mr. Masayuki Kitamoto, was largely responsible for the success of the conference. The Honorable Senior Vice-Minister Chiken Kakazu delivered a congratulatory message at the opening ceremony on behalf of the Government of Japan.

The presentations and discussions demonstrated significant progress in implementing the HFA at the country and regional levels. However, much remains to be done in realizing the goal of resilient nations and communities. Therefore, it was decided to pursue, among others, the following course of action to achieve the strategic goals of the HFA.

### **1. Support the implementation of the HFA priorities for actions**

The conference identified impediments to the implementation of the 5 priorities for action of the HFA and proposed strategies to overcome these. The participants of the ACDR 2006 expressed collective support and commitment for the implementation of the HFA at the country level. The participants emphasized the urgent need to translate the HFA into local languages to overcome the language barrier.



## **2. Develop a strategic national action plan to implement the HFA.**

The participants recognized the impediments and constraints to disaster risk reduction in their respective countries and the need to adopt concrete and practical measures for successful implementation of the HFA. These measures should include development of appropriate and effective disaster risk reduction mechanisms, tools and guidelines for implementing the HFA, including organizational development, strategic policy and planning, partnerships among stakeholders and capacity development. The Guidelines for Implementing the Hyogo Framework “Getting Started” developed by the ISDR secretariat will assist the countries and other stakeholders in taking practical steps to implement the HFA.

## **3. Promote a comprehensive, integrated and holistic approach to disaster risk reduction through the following strategies:**

- a) Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in development and promoting multisectoral cooperation among stakeholders

The participants acknowledged the importance of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in development and promoting collaboration among all stakeholders in order to achieve disaster risk reduction goals. These stakeholders include key government ministries, NGOs, UN and international organizations, donors, private sector, media, academia and research institutions, local governments, and community organizations. It was agreed to promote this to integrate disaster risk reduction in national development plans, programmes and strategies. A matrix to identify critical inputs in terms of budget, institutional resources and multisectoral partnerships was considered as a useful tool for mapping the process of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction at national level. The Total Disaster Risk Management (TDRM) approach developed in consultation with key stakeholders was articulated as a means of supporting the implementation of the HFA.

- b) Integration of disaster risk reduction in all phases of the disaster risk management

The participants recognized the importance of integrating disaster risk reduction in development activities and in all phases of the disaster risk management cycle. They recognized the need for constantly strengthening disaster response and response preparedness as well as the reform currently going on among humanitarian stakeholders, and the critical role of UN/OCHA in this field. They also appreciated the efforts of the International Recovery Platform (IRP) to promote risk reduction in post disaster recovery efforts. The overarching Early Recovery principles presented by UNDP, Post Disaster Needs Assessment Methodologies by UN/ISDR, Vulnerability Assessment Mapping presented by WFP, and post disaster livelihood strategies by ILO were taken note of as valuable instruments for reducing risk in disaster response and recovery strategies.

c) Enhancing early warning systems and efficient sharing of disaster risk information

The participants noted the importance of timely disaster risk information and multi-hazard early warning systems for protecting the lives and livelihoods of populations at risk. The mapping of hazards and vulnerabilities with tools and promoting public awareness were considered important interventions in support of the HFA at national and local levels. The participants were informed of the commitment of WMO to the HFA, in particular, the priority area 2. In this context, WMO's efforts to support the activities of the national meteorological and hydrological services to ensure a better understanding of hazard risks, warnings of hazards and the enhancement of public knowledge on natural hazards and their impacts were fully acknowledged by participants. Development of Disaster Reduction Hyperbase offers an opportunity to systematically disseminate mitigation technology to governments and practitioners. Application of indigenous knowledge, science and technology was considered crucial for effective disaster prevention.

d) Crosscutting Issues

Gender sensitive policies, community participation and involvement of NGOs throughout the cycle were considered as critical for success of disaster reduction.

#### **4. Conclusion**

The participants reaffirmed their commitment to implement disaster reduction policies in order to achieve the goals of the HFA.

The ACDR 2006 recommended to continue the momentum through mutual exchange and sharing of country experiences and to review the progress of the implementation of the HFA priorities with respect to benchmarks.

