



# ADRC Highlights

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## ➤ International Seminar on Post-Disaster Recovery Drew to a Successful Close

International Seminar on Post-Disaster Recovery was held, following opening of the International Recovery Platform (IRP) office, from 11 to 13 May 2005 in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, co-organized by United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN/OCHA), World Bank (WB), International Labour Organization (ILO), Cabinet Office of Japan, Hyogo Prefectural Government, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC). The objectives of the Seminar were;

- (1) To present the current situation of recovery operations in countries affected by natural disasters and highlight the activities on recovery contributing to sustainable economic and social development.
- (2) To identify gaps and challenges in promoting efficient and effective recovery through incorporation of risk reduction.
- (3) To review the current recovery operations of the Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami.

Consisting of plenary and parallel sessions, video conference and public forum, the Seminar gathered over 300 participants including 80 from abroad throughout the Seminar.

### □ Opening Ceremony of IRP office

On the morning of 11 May 2005, an opening ceremony of IRP office space was held in Kobe. Representatives in the ribbon-cutting were UNDP, UN/ISDR, UN/OCHA, ILO, Cabinet Office of Japan, Hyogo Prefectural Government, and ADRC.



### □ Public Forum on Recovery was held on 12 May 2005 in Kobe

In the context of International Seminar on Post-Recovery, "Public Symposium on Recovery -What are the challenges and solutions for effective recovery?-" was held on 12 May, 2005 at Hyogo House in Kobe. The symposium was intended to draw the attention of the public to the proposed IRP's efforts. It also contributed to producing an action plan of IRP.

Following the keynote speech by Dr. Allan Lavell, representatives from Indonesia, the Maldives and MERCY Malaysia (NGO) made presentations on their experiences in recovery from the recent tsunami in the Indian Ocean. Facilitated by Ms. Helena Molin Valdes of UN/ISDR, a panel discussion was held with five panelists and four commentators, and discussed three main points: a) Reflection on the existing gaps in promoting efficient recovery, b) Proposals for supporting, solutions, mechanisms and frameworks for assisting post disaster recovery, and c) International support to close the gap between relief and development.



#### Opening Speech:

Mr. Toshizo Ido, Governor of Hyogo Prefecture  
Dr. Shigeru Itoh, Chairman of ADRC

#### Keynote Speech:

Dr. Allan Lavell, Secretary General, Latin American  
Social Science Faculty (FLACSO)

#### Presentations from countries:

Dr. Oktorialdi, BAPPENAS, Indonesia  
Mr. Mohamed Imad, Director, Ministry of  
Planning and National Development, Maldives  
Dr. Jemilah Mahmood, President of MERCY,  
Malaysia/Chairperson of ADRRN

#### Panel Discussion:

Mr. Toshizo Ido, Governor of Hyogo Prefecture  
Mr. Fumio Takeda, Deputy Director-General,  
Cabinet Office of Japan  
Mr. Ian O'Donnell, ProVention Consortium  
Dr. Johan Schaar, Special Representative for the  
Tsunami Operation, IFRC  
Mr. Larry Roeder, Policy Adviser on Disaster  
Management, US Department of State

#### Commentator:

Mr. John Richardson (Australia),  
Ms. Farah Najam (Dubai Humanitarian City),  
Dr. Gianmarco Macchia (Italy),  
Mr. Thomas Schaefer (GTZ)

#### Facilitator:

Ms. Helena Molin Valdes, Deputy Director, UN/ISDR

#### Comments and closing remarks:

Ms. Norah Niland, Chief, Policy Development Section,  
UN/OCHA

For more information on the Seminar, please ask Mr. Murata ([murata@adrc.or.jp](mailto:murata@adrc.or.jp)).

If you have comments or requests for this Newsletter, please write to ADRC at the address on the right.

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