



ADRC Highlights

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Monthly News

Vol. 243
June
2013

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● Participation in International Conferences

4th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) and International Recovery Platform (IRP) participated in the 4th Global Platform for Disaster Reduction (GP), hosted by the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) from 21 to 23 May 2013 at the International Conference Centre in Geneva, Switzerland. The 4th GP brought together more than 3,500 participants from 171 countries, including representatives of national and local governments, inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, business, academia, and local communities.

The aim of the 4th GP was to continue the momentum on durable and sustained efforts by all actors to take shared responsibility in reducing risks and reinforcing resilience in our communities. The 4th GP provided an opportunity to review progress on the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) and to consult on the framework for the next term, the so-called “HFA2.”

The opening ceremony started at 9:30 am on 21 May in the main conference hall. Mr. Ueli Maurer, President of the Swiss Confederation, Mr. Jan Eliasson, UN Deputy Secretary-General, the Deputy Prime Minister of Namibia, and the Civil Defense Minister of New Zealand gave the welcome remarks. These were followed by about 170 official events, such as the official statements by participant countries and reports by participating organizations on their activities. That same afternoon, ADRC held a special meeting entitled “Regional Mechanisms for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia: Building Resilience through Innovation and Partnerships,” which it co-hosted with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and Asian Disaster Rescue and Response Network (ADRRN). These three organizations introduced the typical activities undertaken to promote their missions. (ADRC was established to serve as the hub of international cooperation between the central governments of member countries; ADPC was founded as the outreach arm of the Asian Institute of Technology; and ADRRN is a network of national and local civil society organizations concerned



Venue of 4th GP (from the UNISDR web site)



(LEFT) Mr. Ghadami, Head of NDMO (left) and Mr. Natori, ED of ADRC (from NDMO web site)



(RIGHT) Mr. Kameoka, Parliamentary Secretary for Disaster Management, declared that the next WCDR will be held in Sendai City, Japan.

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about disaster risk reduction (DRR).) And several participants stressed the importance of strong cooperation between Asian regional organizations such as ADRC, ADPC, and ADRRN.

There were also meetings held among participants during the conference period. On 22 May, the executive director of ADRC had an opportunity to meet with the delegate from Iran, Mr. Ghadami, Deputy Minister of the Interior and Head of the National Organization for Disaster Reduction (NDMO). As Iran became an ADRC-member country last December, Mr. Ghadami expressed high hopes of receiving support from ADRC to help it strengthen its DRR capacity. Both sides reaffirmed their mutual interests in developing cooperation between ADRC and NDMO. Later that day, information about this meeting was posted on the NDMO web site.

On 23 May, IRP hosted a forum on the lessons learned from the experiences of the Great East Japan Earthquake. Details are described in the next article.

At the closing ceremony, the chairperson, Mr. Dahinden, Director-General of the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, released the draft of the Chair's Summary, and Ms. Wahlström extended her gratitude to the participants. The Japanese government's delegate, Mr. Yoshitami Kameoka, Parliamentary Secretary for Disaster Management, declared that the next UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) will be held in March 2015 in Sendai City, Japan.

The 4th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction – IRP Side Event

On the third day of the session, the Cabinet Office of Japan and IRP organized a side event on “Lessons on Recovery from Mega-Disasters” which was attended by 124 people from ADRC, IRP partners, international and regional institutions, governments, and NGOs. It showcased effective recovery experiences from the governments of New Zealand, Japan, the US, and Pakistan. The event further explored measures for integrating recovery in development planning as well as efforts to achieve effective recovery strategy and frameworks. It also highlighted the key strategic recommendations on recovery for the Post-2015 DRR Framework (HFA2).



At the opening, Mr. Yoshitami Kameoka, Parliamentary Secretary of the Cabinet Office of Japan, referred to past efforts, including the publication of the Recovery Status Report on the Great East Japan Earthquake, and expressed an interest in sharing experiences internationally and contributing to global DRR. Furthermore, Mr. Akinori Sugimoto, Superintendent for Disaster Management of Hyogo Prefecture, delivered a message from Mr. Toshizo Ido, Governor of Hyogo Prefecture, stating that on the occasion of the Great East Japan Earthquake, Hyogo Prefecture, as a member of the Union of Kansai Governments (UKG), established an on-site emergency headquarters to offer assistance through a counterpart system, particularly in Miyagi Prefecture. In particular, Hyogo Prefecture continually supported the disaster hit areas by focusing on reconstruction, restoring local communities, and providing psycho-social care with the help of experts who experienced the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake.

This side event was moderated by Prof. Yasuo Tanaka of Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman/Kobe University and featured expert panelists, namely: Mr. Roger Sutton, Chief Executive, Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA), New Zealand; Prof. Yoshimitsu Shiozaki, Ritsumeikan University/Kobe University, Japan; David Trissell, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), US, and Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Nadeem Ahmed, Former Chairman, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Pakistan. Side event participants came up with several concrete examples of the need to ensure adequate attention on recovery in HFA2. First, it pays to engage the private sector in recovery. Second, legal and social frameworks for recovery can facilitate more sustainable efforts. Third, a recovery framework can guide local action.

With over 3,500 participants attending the Global Platform, IRP/ADRC took advantage of the opportunity to disseminate its knowledge products and tools. In particular, the recovery status on the Great East Japan Earthquake, along with other recovery reports and guidance notes on recovery, were showcased

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in the marketplace. For more information, please contact Mr. Kouchi at IRP (kouchi@recoveryplatform.org).

● Announcement**Business Continuity Management Booklet for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises**

ADRC has compiled a booklet on Business Continuity Management (BCM) for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It outlines ten easy steps to enable readers to develop their own BCM. The booklet and other ADRC publications are available online at <http://www.adrc.asia/publications/psdrr/>.

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