



ADRC Highlights

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Monthly News

Vol. 260
November
2014

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● Participation in International Conferences

ADRC's Collaboration with the World Bank - ADRC and IRP Participated in "the 2nd World Reconstruction Conference" -

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), in cooperation with the International Recovery Platform (IRP) organized a number of the technical sessions at the second World Reconstruction Conference (WRC 2) in Washington D.C., 10-12 September 2014. Hosted by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), a member of IRP, the conference was



aimed at building consensus on resilient recovery as an imperative for sustainable development and poverty reduction. It also discussed innovative approaches for post-disaster recovery and reconstruction to further inform the deliberation of Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

At the opening, Dr. Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank, emphasized the importance of including disaster risk reduction in building back better disaster recovery principles, focusing specifically on developing countries at high risk. In that regard, he expected the conference to deliberate on a way forward on disaster recovery, particularly in fragile contexts, and highlight the role of recovery in poverty reduction and shared prosperity.

The three IRP/ADRC technical sessions contributed greatly in the discussions to achieve the objectives of the conference through the recommendations from the panelists and participants. In Session 1: *Making Post-Disaster Recovery Efficient and Effective: Elements of Good Recovery for Articulation in Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*, the recommendations to aid governments in facilitating effective recovery are as follow: (i) having stable fund for recovery; (ii) using scientific information to support policy decisions; and (iii) collaborative efforts among all stakeholders, including the private sector.

In Session 8: *Ten Years after Tsunami: A Retrospective*, the recommendations to improve recovery operations include the following: (i) ensuring speed and focus on recovery of livelihoods; (ii) creating greater participation of community in recovery planning and implementation processes; (iii) linking recovery from tsunami to long-term development; and (iv) adopting simple measures of impacts of tsunami recovery programs.

In Session 16: *Role of Private Sector in Recovery: The Case for Private Sector Engagement in Recovery for Post-2015 Framework for DRR*, emphasized that private sector is a key factor in recovery because they understand the context and have the expertise to solve problems. This session recommended that private sector can be effectively engaged through the following actions: (i) providing opportunity for private sector to invest in recovery as means of sustaining businesses; (ii) promoting pre-contract agreements and pre-disaster recovery planning; and (iii) building long-term and sustainable relationship between public

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and private sector.

Included in the conference was the 15th Steering Committee meeting of IRP which mainly discussed its future role in the implementation of Post-2015 Framework for DRR as well as IRP's preparations for the International Recovery Forum in January 2015 in Kobe and World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015 in Sendai. One potential future role of IRP is to serve as a global mechanism for coordinating recovery policies and recovery processes.

Speakers at the closing plenary imparted key actions to move forward. Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction UNISDR, outlined the following recommendations: (i) bridging the segregation gap between climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) that are exhibited in research initiatives and in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery planning; (ii) reconciling response and recovery approaches for hazards and conflicts; (iii) recognizing of the critical role of local governments and communities in DRR and recovery by encouraging national governments to motivate and support local responses; and (iv) promoting collaboration among multi-stakeholders in recognition of the complexity of recovery process.

Ms. Rachel Kyte, Vice President and Special Envoy for Climate Change, World Bank Group, indicated that: (i) resilience is all about people: the more we understand about people the more we understand about communities and their dynamics; (ii) it's not just about money: while actors need to make sure that there are finances to properly respond, governments must have the capacity to allocate, disperse, and protect funds; (iii) initiatives and messages should be "practical and simple"; and (iv) foster effective partnerships to reduce the burden.

Mr. Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Member of Parliament, People's Republic of Bangladesh, delivered the Conference Statement: Strengthen Resilient Recovery and Reconstruction in the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction aimed at advancing consensus, national and internationally, on the critical role of resilient recovery for sustainable development and poverty reduction. He ended his presentation saying, "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail".

The WRC2 will inform the next round of deliberations at the second Preparations Committee meeting in November in Geneva leading to the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015 in Sendai, Japan where the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction will be adopted. For more information, please contact IRP Recovery Expert, Mr. Potutan (gerald@recoveryplatform.org).

● Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

ADRC DRR Policy Peer Review FY2014

Since 2009, ADRC has been conducting DRR Policy Peer Reviews to help develop the DRR capacity of ADRC-member countries through the promotion of information sharing and the strengthening of relationships among member countries. The target project selected for review this year, the sixth since the Peer Review process was launched, is a project aimed at seismic safety capacity building at nursing homes and orphanages in the northern part of Armenia. After the country report was submitted, a reviewer team comprised of the following three individuals visited Armenia to conduct interviews: Dr. Kazuyoshi Ohnishi (Associate Professor, Graduate School of Engineering, Kobe University, Japan), Dr. Linsheng Gu (Professor and Executive Director, Institute for Disaster Management and Reconstruction (IDMR), Sichuan University - Hong Kong Polytechnic University, China), and Mr. Junji Moriwaki (ADRC Researcher).

The team visited the National Survey for Seismic Protection Agency, which is involved in DRR activities, to examine its DRR development efforts in Armenia. The team then conducted inspections of nursing homes and orphanages, after which it prepared a draft report of its survey results highlighting its specific findings (e.g., "A map of evacuation routes and places is posted on the walls" and "The orphanage



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has established a rule that older students should assist younger students during disasters”) and recommendations (e.g., “Need to replace the furniture so it does not impede evacuation routes” and “Maintain ongoing cooperative relationships with local communities in anticipation of the potential need for cooperation during emergency situations”). A workshop was also held to gather opinions and comments used in finalizing the report as well as to share good DRR practices from Japan and China with local participants (for example, Armenian facilities troubled with labor shortages were taught a Japanese approach to evacuating residents effectively). This proved to be a very good opportunity for participants to share information and ideas with one another.

This project aims to develop a mutual learning process among ADRC-member countries, rejecting conventional models of one-way learning. After its survey mission ends, the reviewer team compiles a survey report, which it sends to the countries examined as well as to other ADRC member countries, so as to enhance cross-fertilization.

ADRC would like to express its sincerest gratitude to all of those who have made such important contributions to this project.

Research on Tsunami Disaster Awareness Among Residents of Indonesia

In recent years, large-scale earthquakes and tsunamis have been occurring in Indonesia and Japan. These countries share similar geographic conditions and very high disaster risks. To reduce disaster risks, it is important to study the level of disaster awareness among residents, particularly their awareness of earthquakes and tsunamis. For this research project, two target areas in Indonesia were selected. One was Sukabumi, where it is predicted that a large-scale disaster will occur in near future. The other was Banda Aceh, where the Sumatra Earthquake occurred in December 2004.



In the Sukabumi district, a 100-item questionnaire survey was conducted around the center of the city of Pelabuhanratu. It showed that local residents have only a limited level of disaster awareness because of their limited past experiences with tsunamis. Also, only a few tsunami disaster drills have been conducted in the recent past. The results suggest that more active disaster awareness programs and activities are needed in this area.

The 100-item questionnaire survey was also conducted in Banda Aceh. Four tsunami evacuation buildings were constructed and many evacuation drills have been conducted since the tsunami that struck this region. However, budgets for disaster management efforts have been gradually decreasing. Funding for human resources and disaster management programs at research institutions are also weakening. Better approaches to DRR should be developed so as to maintain the disaster awareness of residents.

There is a disparity between Sukabumi and Banda Aceh in terms of their level of disaster awareness and activities as a result of their past real-life experiences. However continued disaster management activities, as well as reminders of the importance of such activities, are needed in both areas. (Note: This project is part of the Hyogo Earthquake Memorial 21st Century Research Institute.)

Visit of Nepal Foreign Affairs Minister and his Party

On October 7, Mr. Mahendra Bahadur Pandey, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal came to Japan upon invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Minister Pandey and his party visited The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Memorial Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (DRI) in Kobe, where ADRC is also located.

As requested by Japan’s Foreign Affairs minister, key officials at ADRC including Executive Director Mr. Natori, Senior Administrative Manager Mr. Sasaki, and ADRC Visiting Researcher from Nepal Mr. Koirala had accompanied Mr. Pandey and his party during the visit.

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During the visit, lectures about DRI projects were given. The Minister had shown sheer interest on the training on disaster management for practitioners and the utilization of research findings on disaster reduction as he asked questions on how move these initiatives forward. The visit also provided the Minister and his party to visit the Earthquake Museum including the display facilities, such as the "1.17 Theater" and "The Memories Floor of the Earthquake Disaster".

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