

**Closing Speech**  
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It is an easy task to say a few words at the end of this workshop. I believe the key achievements in this workshop and the challenges for the future have already been very well addressed in the closing remarks of Mr. Tom Brennan and Mr. Satoru Nishikawa.

The value of training depends very much on the involvement of the participants. You have all contributed to making this workshop a success through your active participation in the group discussions and the plenum sessions. It has been encouraging to listen into these discussions, knowing that you shared your knowledge and gave inspiration to each other.

The Total Disaster Risk Management Approach needs ambassadors. We have strong hope that you all will be ambassadors for the ideas we try to advocate in the TDRM approach. To focus on disaster reduction in a period of time where the global impact of disaster is growing is important. Hence, we need to focus on how to reduce the impact of disasters and to enhance our coping mechanisms to deal with disasters. Sustainable development depends on our ability to reduce the risk of disasters.

As Regional Disaster Response Advisor of UN OCHA Kobe, it is my responsibility to focus on how we respond to disasters. However, I strongly believe that disaster reduction and preparedness are, in the long term, the best response. In responding to disasters, we should try to look at the underlying causes. If not, we might never be able to break out of a negative cycle, reducing the possibility for a sustainable development.

I hope we can meet again, not only in dealing with response to a disaster, but in sharing experiences and participating in initiatives to enhance disaster reduction in your home countries.

I would finally like thanking those of you who have been behind the scene. A lot of work has been done to prepare for and run this workshop. The workshop would not have been possible without the strong commitment and hard work of the staff of ADRC. Thank you for your good work and support. We have all appreciated your good work.

I wish the participants a good and safe return to your home and I hope you will enjoy your last day in Kobe.

Thank you.