
2. Information Sharing

2-1. International Conferences

2-1-1. Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2006

The “Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2006” was held from 15 to 17 March 2006 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The Conference was organized by the Government of Republic of Korea, Government of Japan, United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN/OCHA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC). It was participated by 146 people including high dignitaries and officials from Republic of Korea and twenty-four other countries, mainly from Asia, along with representatives of UN and international organizations, media, and NGOs.

The ACDR 2006 aimed to review the progress made, identify the challenges, and promote the implementation of disaster risk reduction in the context of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, with a view to ensuring sustainable social and economic development in the Asian region. For further information on the ACDR 2006, please refer to the webpage of the Conference (<http://web.adrc.or.jp/acdr2006seoul/index.html>).

2-1-1-1. Outline of the Conference

The outline of the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2006 is as follows:

- (1) Date: March 15 (Wed.) - 17 (Fri.), 2006
- (2) Organizer: Government of Republic of Korea, Government of Japan, United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN/OCHA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)
- (3) Participants: 146 (government officials from ADRC member countries, representatives of international and regional organizations and others)
- (4) Venue: Lotte Hotel, Seoul, Republic of Korea

2-1-1-2. Brief Summary of the Conference

March 15 (Wed.)

10:30-12:00 Opening Session

<Opening Remarks>

ACDR 2006 officially began with the opening remarks of Administrator Won-Kyong Moon of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) of the Republic of Korea, the host country. Administrator Moon welcomed the participants with expressed appreciation for the attendance. He cited the work of the ADRC in promoting discussions and information sharing as well as international cooperation and coordination in disaster risk reduction. He cited also the importance of the conference as it aims to review the progress made by countries in line with the implementation of the Hyogo



Fig.2-1-1-2-1 Opening Remarks by Mr. Won-Kyong Moon, Administrator, National Emergency Agency of the Republic of Korea

Framework of Action. Mr. Moon conveyed his sympathy to the victims of the Indian Ocean Tsunami and expressed hope that through the unified strength of countries and the guidance of the HFA, the problem of disasters could eventually be overcome and the vision of a safer global village is attainable.

<Congratulatory Addresses>

On behalf of the Government of Japan, Honorable Senior Vice Minister Chiken Kakazu, congratulated and gratefully appreciated the Government of the Republic of Korea, as host, and the Asian Disaster Reduction Center, the United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the ISDR, and the World Meteorological Organization, as co-organizers. Citing recent disaster events, the Minister underscored the importance of each country's work on disaster risk reduction, particularly in reducing social vulnerabilities to natural hazards, towards building a sustainable and safe society. He considered the conference as an important opportunity for the HFA to be implemented in every country. Lastly, Minister Kakazu conveyed the value of disaster risk reduction as an appropriate area for international cooperation and the value of this conference in helping the participating countries improve their respective capacities through shared and applied information and technical knowledge.

Ms. Haleh Kootval, chief of the Public Weather Services and Applications Programme Department delivered a message from Mr. Michael Jarraud, WMO Secretary General. The message affirmed that the development and integration of risk knowledge and early warning systems as an integral component of disaster risk management activities could reduce considerably the loss of human life and socio-economic damages caused by natural hazards. Thus, established and improved early warning systems and the application of relevant and available technologies could prevent natural hazards from translating into disasters. WMO, it was stated, is deeply committed to advancing the HFA, particularly the second priority area of identifying, assessing and monitoring disaster risks and enhancing early warning systems. WMO promotes the establishment of multi-hazard early warning systems, the strengthening of linkages among national and local authorities and early warning agencies, and strategic partnerships at international and regional levels along this HFA priority area for action.

<Keynote Speeches>

In his keynote address, Mr. Salvano Briceno, director of UN/ISDR, expounded on the efforts of the ISDR on the implementation of the HFA. With ISDR at the cornerstone, Director Briceno cited the leadership role of the UN/ISDR in strengthening operational and implementation systems at country and local levels. He cited the need for a coordinated, result-based system and developing the ISDR system as a showcase of the UN Reform. He also cited the essential leadership role of governments and national stakeholders, along with the support role of the UN system, international and regional organizations and NGOs. Looking forward, Mr.



Fig.2-1-1-2-2 Keynote Speech by Mr. Salvano Briceno, Director of UN/ISDR

Briceno explained the developments toward the establishment of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP/DRR), its component activities and timelines, citing this current conference as an important input to the consultation process. Moreover, Mr. Briceno explained the current priorities of ISDR with respect to HFA and recent progress made in various regions. Lastly, he reported on the progress of the evaluation and strengthening of early warning systems in the countries affected by the Indian Ocean Tsunami. Dovetailing the address, the newly produced ISDR film, *Everybody's Business*, was shown. It conveyed the message

that disaster risk reduction is everybody's concern and must be considered in making personal decision everyday.

In his keynote address, Mr. Masayuki Kitamoto, executive director of ADRC, expressed his sincere gratitude on behalf of ADRC to all the participants, to the Government of the Republic of Korea as host, and to UN/ISDR, WMO, UN/OCHA, and UNDP for their collaboration. He cited the enormity of the disaster problem in Asia, the many impediments to sustainable development, and the importance of disaster risk management in overcoming these problems and in realizing sustainable development. With reference to the World



Fig.2-1-1-2-3 Keynote Speech by Mr. Masayuki Kitamoto, Executive Director, ADRC

Conference on Disaster Reduction held last year and the HFA priorities for action, Mr. Kitamoto reported on the various initiatives and activities pursued by ADRC to accomplish the said priorities. These included the promotion of the TDRM Approach to Asian countries, the development of the Community-based Hazard Mapping as a tool for multi-stakeholder cooperation in disaster risk reduction, the assistance to countries concerned in establishing the tsunami early warning system in the Indian Ocean, and the establishment of the database of post disaster recovery good practices under the International Recovery Platform.

13:30-18:00 Part I “Current Status”

Theme: Review of the current status of the implementation of the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the context of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) for the countries in the Asian region.

Chair: Prof. Won-Cheol Cho, School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Yonsei University, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Rapporteur: Mr. Emmanuel de Guzman, Consultant, ADRC

<Introduction to Part I>

Part I of the conference convened with Prof. Won-Cheol Cho of the Yonsei University-School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, presiding as chair. Mr. Briceno and Mr. Joe Chung briefly gave an overview of the HFA and challenges for implementation. Mr. Hajime Nakano of ADRC explained the mechanics of the group discussions on the Review of the Current Status of HFA Implementation.

<Getting Started: Implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)>

Mr. Praveen Pardeshi, UN/ISDR Senior Advisor, presented “Guide for States on How to Implement Disaster Risk Reduction in the Context of the Hyogo Framework for Action”. He explained the rationale and nature of the guidelines as well as its intended users. As a practical tool, the guidelines is intended to support national efforts in implementing HFA and to be used by senior government officials, local government authorities, advocates and professionals at the country level. Moreover, Mr. Pardeshi presented the structure of the guidelines and the underlying principles. The guidelines are set to be posted on the ISDR website in October this year and contributions to the formulation process are welcome.

<Group Discussions (5 groups)>

Participants divided into five groups, each comprised of country delegates and discussed the current status, impediments and problems encountered for implementation of HFA under the following themes:

- (1) Ensuring disaster risk reduction (DRR) is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation (HFA Priority area #1)
- (2) Enhancing disaster risk information, early warning system, effective risk communication, and public education for DRR (HFA Priority area #2 & #3)
- (3) Strengthening national and local capacities for vulnerability & risk reduction, disaster mitigation, response, and recovery (HFA Priority area #4 & #5)

Following the group discussions, representatives of five groups presented the result of the discussion to the plenary. In general terms, the following are the major points or issues cited concerning (1) implementation status, (2) impediments; and (3) proposed solutions:

(1) Implementation Status

THEME 1: Ensuring DRR is a national and local priority

- Establishment of organization and effective disaster risk management and coordination mechanisms (beyond response and relief)
- Process underway for legislative framework, policy and road map development for DRR
- Movement towards comprehensive, integrated, holistic, end-to-end approach; multi-dimensional, multi-sectoral, multi-hazard strategies



Fig.2-1-1-2-4 Group Discussion on HFA implementation in each country

THEME 2: Enhancing disaster risk information communication, early warning and public education

- Integration of DRM into school curricula
- Increasing public and consumer awareness and education on risks and safe environments
- Partnerships in hazard mapping and risk assessments
- Applying available technologies for local early warning systems
- Improving warning dissemination to public through media
- Implementing disaster risk management planning at community level

THEME 3 Strengthening national and local capacity for vulnerability and risk reduction

- Integration of DRR into poverty reduction, livelihood and community development
- Establishment of national institute for disaster risk management, training centers, and HRD programs
- Increased involvement of corporate sector in DRR
- Town planning for disaster risk reduction
- Development of risk reduction guidelines, codes and standards
- Contingency planning and emergency fund allocations
- Multilateral arrangements for emergency response

(2) Impediments & Issues

- Lack of laws, policy, and appreciation of DRR concept as a new concept
- How to integrate DRR into development, a pervading issue.
- How to further decrease casualties and damages (from tsunamis and earthquakes)
- How to accomplish seismic retrofitting involving the private sector and the general public
- How to broaden and enhance involvement of all in DRR, including community groups, parent-teacher associations, and business groups, among others

- Limitations in receiving external assistance
- How can we sensitize and motivate sectors and groups, including banks, politicians to support DRR and resource mobilization.
- How to improve the science of forecasting
- Use of traditional knowledge
- Accuracy, timeliness, and adequacy of disaster risk information and disaster impact information

(3) Proposed Solutions

- Enhance awareness, motivation and involvement of various sectors and groups in DRR, especially those previously uninvolved
- Strengthen national structures, empower local governments, enhance coordination systems
- Donor commitment and institutional support for integration of DRR in socio-economic development
- Review building codes and structural standards
- Enactment of modern, relevant laws, policies, codes, standards, guidelines
- National budget allocation for DRR
- Involve NGOs
- Nationwide movement for DRR actions encouraging self, mutual, and collective help
- Continue and sustain cooperation and partnerships, especially in information, knowledge, experience and expertise sharing
- Promote women involvement in DRR
- Promote education and training, especially for policy makers and practitioners
- Sustain dialogues and interactions through regular forums, meetings and exercises

March 16 (Thurs.)

09:10-12:10 Public Forum: Special Session by the Republic of Korea in cooperation with WMO

Theme: Collaboration between Hydro-meteorological and Disaster Management sectors in disaster reduction

Moderator: Dr. Dugkeun Park, Senior Researcher, National Institute for Disaster Prevention, NEMA

<Opening Remarks>

The Forum was opened by the opening remarks by Mr. Won-Kyong Moon, Administrator, National Emergency Management Agency, Republic of Korea and Ms. Haleh Kootval, WMO. Officials of the government and media representatives of the Republic of Korea participated in the Forum in addition to the participants from ADRC member countries.

<Video Presentation>

A video “Safe Korea, Active NEMA” to introduce the activities of NEMA, Republic of Korea were shown to the participants. Disaster situation in the Republic of Korea and NEMA’s continuous efforts for reducing the damages were introduced.

<Introductory Presentation>

Mr. Toshiyuki Sato, Director-General, International Planning & Broadcasting Department, NHK (Japan Broadcasting



Fig.2-1-1-2-5 Public Forum

Corporation) presented “The Role of Broadcasters in and for the time of Natural Disasters”. He explained about a special workshop organized after the Indian Ocean Tsunami for Asian broadcasters to review what kind of information they were able to acquire at the time of Tsunamis and how they reacted. Through the workshop, scarce knowledge of the nature of the tsunami or lack of the funds and basic contingency plans to cope with natural disasters heavily contributed to the huge numbers of casualties. He introduced NHK sent an expert to several interanational meetings to convey the important role of broadcasters in reducing casualties and economic damage derived from natural disasters and as the efforts at the second stage, they started working with individual broadcaster to make plans and manuals in preparation for possible natural disasters. Finally he concluded by citing broadcasters have much to do to minimize the damage from natural disasters.

<Joint Thematic Presentations>

Joint presentations by the National Meteorological-Hydrological Services and Disaster Risk Management representatives from Japan and the Republic of Korea were provided for introducing the importance of the strong linkage of the both agencies for the effective disaster risk management.

Mr. Satoru Nishikawa, Director for Disaster Preparedness, Cabinet Office, Japan briefly introduced the natural disaster situation and disaster management system in Japan at the beginning of his presentation. Then, he explained about collaboration efforts between Met. Services and Disaster Management

Authorities in Japan by giving examples of flood forecasting services and sediment disaster alert systems. In addition, he cited the importance of the collaboration among the agencies for quick response by Government in emergencies by giving a case of response to Typhoon Nabi in September 2005 as a good practice for the coordination.

Mr. Geun-Young Kim, Associate Professor, Department of Urban Planning and Architecture, Kangnam University, and Dr. Jun-Hee Lee, Deputy Director, Earthquake Planning Division, Korea Meteorological Administration, made joint presentation as the representatives of the Government of the Republic of Korea. Mr. Geun-Young Kim explained briefly about natural disasters and disaster risk management system in the Republic of Korea. He introduced the National Disaster Management System (NDMS), newly developing scientific and systematic national disaster management information system for effective response to disasters. Dr. Jun-Hee Lee explained the disaster information system to provide accurate warning against floods, earthquakes and Tsunamis. While, he cited there are more to be considered for the effective information sharing among related agencies for disaster reduction.

<Panel Discussion>

Chair: Dr. M.C. Wong, Assistant Director, Hong Kong Observatory

Rapporteur: Ms. Haleh Kootval, Chief, Public Weather Services, Applications Programme Department, WMO

The session was chaired by Dr. M. C. Wong and composed of 12 panelists from 7 countries (please refer to the below attached list of the panelists). The experts exchanged views and shared experience in the collaboration between National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and Disaster Management sectors in disaster reduction.

Of the 7 countries’ representatives, only a few had legislations clearly defining the role of NMHSs in disaster risk management. All regarded NMHSs indispensable part of the disaster



Fig.2-1-1-2-6 Panel Discussion in the Public Forum

risk management community. Collaboration and coordination at the national level between the two sectors went very well but disparities were observed at local levels. Advances in communication technologies had greatly helped in the timely dissemination of products and services from NMHSs to the disaster management authorities, but again difficulties were experienced in getting the message through to the local communities in some countries.

The panel recognized the dual nature of disaster risk management, namely, the science side and the human aspect and recommended that reaching-out programmes should be integrated into disaster risk management. The panel reckoned the importance of participative governance networking in managing disaster risks. It was further recommended that efforts should be expanded to ensure better understanding of warning by disaster managers, especially at the local level. Effective mechanisms would include face-to-face contacts, meetings, seminars, joint training sessions, web-based educational modules, drills and exercises.

To enhance the public knowledge on natural hazards and their impacts, the panel found the following are effective: pamphlets, booklets, public lectures, exhibitions and specific websites focused on children. The panel agreed that the media had an essential role in helping to reach out to the community, especially, in raising the public's awareness.

The panel encouraged collaboration between neighboring countries to promote cross-boundary sharing of disaster and warning information. Finally, the panel pledged all to join hands and work together to build a disaster-free Asia

List of Panelists

[Bangladesh]

Mr. Ehsna Ul Fattah, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management

Mr. MD. Abram Hossain, Director, Bangladesh Meteorological Department

[Indonesia]

Ms. Sriworo Budiati Harijono, Director General of BMG (Meteorological & Geophysical Agency)

[Japan]

Mr. Satoru Nishikawa, Director for Disaster Preparedness, Cabinet Office

[Republic of Korea]

Mr. Heung-Soo Cheong, President, Korean Disaster Information Association

Dr. Byong-Lyol Lee, Deputy Director, International Cooperation Division, Korea Meteorological Administration

[Mongolia]

Mr. Badral Tuvshin, Director of Strategic Planning and International Relations Department, National Emergency Management Agency

Dr. Damdin Dagvadorj, National Agency for Meteorology, Hydrology and Environment Monitoring of Mongolia

[Sri Lanka]

Mr. Nimal Dharmasiri Hettiarachchi, Director, Ministry of Disaster Relief Services, National Disaster Management Center (NDMC), Ministry of Disaster Relief Services, Sri Lanka

Mr. Porakara Mudiyanselange Jyatilaka Banda, Director, Department of Meteorology

[Thailand]

Mr. Suporn Ratananakin, Director, Research and International Cooperation Bureau, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Ministry of Interior

Mr. Suparek Tansriratanawong, Director-General, Thai Meteorological Department

Part II “Towards the Future: Commitments and Innovation”

Theme: Towards the provision of relevant guidelines and tools to assist the implementation of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the context of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) in the Asian region.

13:30-14:30 Introduction to Part II & Presentations of proposed process design for development of Strategic National Action Plan for Countries in Asia and Pacific Regions (SNAP)

Chair: Mr. Kamal Kishore, Regional Disaster Reduction Advisor, UNDP/BCPR

Rapporteur: Mr. Amod Dixit, Executive Director, National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET)

<Introductory Presentation>

Mr. Joseph Chung, Senior Regional Officer, UN/ISDR Asia made an introductory presentation on ISDR’s perspectives and Strategic National Action Plan (SNAP) for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) in Asia. He explained that it is important to promote HFA with relevant and achievable actions and in this regard, SNAP for DRR would be adoptable in Asia since it is designed for Asian countries based on available experiences. He concluded by citing crucial aspects to promote SNAP in Asia are as (1) Identification of a nodal agency for DRM, (2) Convening multi-stakeholder consultations, and (3) Development of a roadmap/national framework for DRM.



Fig.2-1-1-2-7 Introductory Presentation to Part II session by Mr. Joseph Chung, ISDR

<Country Presentations on the implementation of SNAP>

[Bangladesh]

Mr. Ehsanul Haque Fattah, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Food & Disaster Management, Bangladesh and Dr. Aslam Alam, Training & Awareness Raising Specialist & Deputy Team Leader, Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme, United Nations Office of Project Services (UNOPS), Bangladesh presented the current status of the implementation of SNAP in Bangladesh as follows:

- ◆ Identification of a nodal agency for DRM
 - Ministry of Disaster Management, Relief and Food is the executing agency for a Comprehensive Disaster Management Program (CDMP)
- ◆ Convening multi-stakeholder consultations
 - The 1971 cyclone, and the 1988 flood (loss ~5 bln \$) and other disasters forced government and people to embark upon a new concept on Disaster risk management. From that time Bangladesh started many initiatives including those recommended by HFA.
 - Steps taken seriously, comprehensive DM formulated, implementation started April 2004
 - Bangladesh started implementing HFA even before HFA - now aligning program with HFA
 - MOFDA’s Mission: to bring a paradigm shift to a culture of prevention, mindset change

- ◆ Development of a roadmap/national framework for DRM
 - CDMP: 5 focus areas, several components, several implementing partners: PPPDU, DMB, BCD&FS, DOE, FAO/DAE
 - Identification and/or mobilization of financial resources for a national risk reduction agenda
- ◆ Systematic engagement of national - international stakeholders
 - CDMP has an advocacy advisory group and emphasizes partnership & networking of all leaders in Bangladesh involved.



Fig.2-1-1-2-8 Introduction of the progress of SNAP in the Philippines

[Philippines]

Ms. Crispina Abat, Chief, Planning Division, Office of Civil Defense, Philippines introduced the progress of SNAP in Philippines as follows:

- ◆ Identification of a nodal agency for DRM
 - National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) is the national node for DRR
- ◆ Development of a roadmap/national framework for DRM
 - Comprehensive DM plan includes mitigation, preparedness, response and rehabilitation
 - Formalization of Institutional and Legislative Systems (ILS) for Disaster Risk Management: PD 1566, Sec 1: Declaration of basic principles that guides all aspects of DRR
- ◆ Challenges
 - DRR needs to be integrated into formal education curricula at all levels
 - Capacity building needs especial focus
 - Need to consolidate the gains of NDCC and others
 - The proposed DRM Act should be completed and endorsed.
 - Integrate DRR in strategic planning
 - Further course need to be charted for achieving Programs and financial sustainability
 - Need a focus on Structural mitigation

[Vietnam]

Mr. Nguyen Sy Nuoi, Deputy Director, Department of Dike Management and Flood Control (DDFSC), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam explained as shown below:

- ◆ Identification of a nodal agency for DRM
 - Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control (CCFSC)
 - National Committee for Search and Rescue (NCSR)
- ◆ Convening multi-stakeholder consultations
 - SNAP of Vietnam considers Flood, flash flood, and Typhoon
- ◆ Development of a roadmap/national framework for DRM
 - Red River Delta: Radical reduction has identified short, medium, and long-term priorities
 - South Viet: living with flood
- ◆ Lessons
 - DRR is a national /local priority
 - Multi-sectoral CCFSC
 - Government-Donor-NGO partnership
 - 2006-10 National Plan assigns priority to DRR
 - DRR is also priority in SED of MARD
 - Substantial allotment of resources from the government for DRR, etc.

Mr. Kamal Kishore, chairperson of this session pointed out the common issues in three presentations as follows:

- The need for rapid development of Human Resources is a priority for most countries
- Most countries face the challenges of formalizing partnership among government agencies, NGOs, academia, donors,
- The experience of Vietnam in formalizing partnership among donors, NGO and government is an excellent replicable good example
- There is an urgent need to Change in mind-set
- DRR a recognized priority by all. There is the need to ensure that DRR efforts do not compete with ongoing development efforts
- Improving policy and legal environment is an urgent priority in most countries of Asia, especially the developing countries
- More robust hazard and risk reduction programs should be formulated and implemented to meet the challenges set forth by the HFA.

14:30-15:35 Presentation & Discussion 1 “Disaster Risk Reduction for Sustainable Development”

Themes: (1) Mainstreaming DRR into government policies, social and economic development
(2) Promotion of information/knowledge sharing, networking, and partnerships

Chair: Mr. Kamal Kishore, Regional Disaster Reduction Advisor, UNDP/BCPR

Rapporteur: Mr. Amod Dixit, Executive Director, NSET

Ms. Tine Ramstad, Regional Programme Officer, UN/ISDR Central Asia made a presentation titled “Mainstreaming of DRR into national development policies, plans and programs.” She stressed the importance of adjustment of HFA to local condition, involvement of multi-stakeholders in national platforms, and benchmark and measurement of achievements. Mainstreaming is not easy and understanding the goal may be difficult for many actors, however, HFA allows every stakeholder to find oneself in one of the categories of action. Possible challenges in mainstreaming as she mentioned were;

- National Adjustments, and continuous efforts are required
- Roles and responsibilities should be assigned to all
- National Platforms need to be made
- National Lead is essential
- Fundamentals of National Platform should include
- Multisectoral approach
- Key ministries, private sector, NGO, Media should be involved
- HFA expresses Shared roles/responsibilities
- Allows all to influence development of policies and /legislations
- Coordinated mechanism
- Implementation
- Matrix of priorities needs to be defined.

Mr. Shingo Kochi, Researcher, ADRC introduced “ADRC Member Country Profiles” and “TDRM-Good Practices” booklets both of which were edited and compiled by ADRC, aiming to propose guidelines and tools to assist disaster risk reduction in the context of the HFA in the Asian Region. The first issue of “ADRC Member Country Profiles” booklet covers information on disaster risk reduction from the 25 ADRC member countries. Those are (1) Natural hazards likely to affect the country, and recent major disasters, (2) Disaster Management system, (3) Disaster management plan, (4) Budget size on national level, (5) Progress and Situations of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), and (6) Projects on disaster reduction headed by the Ministry in the last 2 years, as well as (7) Counterpart of ADRC

Along with the introduction of “ADRC Member Country Profiles”, Mr. Kochi also re-capped the importance of TDRM (Total Disaster Risk Management) concept. In order to ensure the effective application of the TDRM approach, it is essential to learn lessons from the

good practices around us both nationally as well as internationally. Given this, ADRC published “TDRM Good Practice” the first edition and the supplement version. The first issue has 28 Good Practices in 15 Asian countries, while the supplement version has 12 Good Practices in 7 Asian countries. Through further information/knowledge sharing, networking, and partnership, he expected that those ADRC publications “Country Profiles” and “TDRM: Good Practices” are tools to promote the implementation of HFA.

Secondly, Dr. Hiroyuki Kameda, Visiting Researcher, Earthquake Disaster Mitigation Research Center, National Research Institute for Earthquake

Science and Disaster Prevention (EDM-NIED), outlined the project “Disaster Reduction Hyperbase” which is a web-based facility disseminating disaster reduction technologies to support nations for HFA implementation. He mentioned that the successful network and process requires intergovernmental consultation (expensive), and community action (e.g. mangrooving in Vietnam, etc.) - first identified by the EqTap project as Green belt technology.

Mr. Kazuya Kaku, Advisor to the Director, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) presented his presentation on “Sentinel-Asia Project for establishing Disaster Management Support System in Asia-Pacific Region.” The project is the first step for disaster management support system to be carried out in 2006-2007 and aims to utilize earth observation satellite data (ALOS<JAXA>, MODIS<NASA>, etc.) for disaster management. It will be promoted through Internet-based, disaster-related information distribution backbone, cooperation with Digital Asia Project, capacity building activities by AIT and JAXA, and best-efforts & voluntary initiative by participating agencies/organizations.

Following the introduction of JAXA’s project, Mr. Masaru Arakida (ADRC) talked the details of the ALOX Rapid Response System and presented as example how a high-tech method can be used for DRR.



Fig.2-1-1-2-9 Presentation & discussion 1 “Disaster Risk Reduction for Sustainable Development”

16:15-17:45 Presentation & Discussion 2 “Enhancement of Preparedness, Response & Recovery”

- Themes: (1) Enhancement of early warning mechanism
 (2) Strengthening disaster preparedness for effective response
 (3) Guidelines and tools for effective post disaster recovery

Chair: Mr. Terje Skavdal, Head, UN/OCHA Bangkok

Rapporteur: Mr. Deepesh Sinha, National Emergency Response Coordinator, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI)

<Early Warning System>

Ms. Haleh Kootval, Chief, Public Weather Services, Applications Programme Department, WMO delivered the presentation titled “Role of World Meteorological Organization and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in Advancing the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015,” in order to enhance effective disaster risk management through multi-hazard approach for early warning of weather, water and climate. She emphasized that early warning systems must operate continuously, transparent, timely, integrated and flexible way to cover other hazards. There are key challenges in terms of legislative, organizational, financial, technical & operational, capacity building & training, and cultural aspects. WMO will support in disaster preparedness and mitigation efforts by enhancing capacities, establishing strategic

partnerships and information sharing and resource mobilization.

Then, making a presentation on “Enhancement of Preparedness and Response,” Mr. John McHarris, Adviser, Disaster Preparedness and Response, World Food Programme (WFP), Bangladesh highlighted WFP and partner activities that contribute to the EPR within the context of the HFA, especially in Bangladesh. He said that EPR requires broad and inclusive partnerships with emphasis on coordination and the focus must be on identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning and strengthen disaster preparedness at all levels. He put emphasis on the 1) Integration of EPR with larger DRR strategy of Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme, 2) National government’s leading role in the implementation of DRR and HFA to greatest extent possible, 3) Capacity building for GOB and partners at all levels, making sure that capacity building efforts from multiple organization are well coordinated and contribute to larger coherent comprehensive DRR national plans and implementation.



Fig.2-1-1-2-10 Presentation & discussion 2
“Enhancement of Preparedness,
Response & Recovery”

<Response and Recovery Process>

Mr. Kamal Kishore, Regional Disaster Reduction Advisor, UNDP/BCPR underlined the importance of 1) focusing on most vulnerable, 2) Restoring capacities by rebuilding livelihoods, 3) Engaging other stakeholders like private sector, 4) Ensuring independent and self-efficiency, 5) Transparency and accountability in coordination, and 6) Reducing disaster risk. Then, early recovery can be simplified in augmenting relief efforts, by supporting spontaneous recovery efforts of the affected people, laying the foundation for long-term recovery and ensuring risk reduction. He pointed out some issues like clear definition of Early Recovery, Relief v/s Recovery during immediate days of disaster, Surging capacity at local, national and regional level, and development and practice of good information management tools, as major challenges for effective recovery.

Mr. Praveen Pardeshi, Senior Adviser, UN/ISDR’s presentation focused on identification of opportunities to mainstream risk reduction through needs assessment methodology. In order to achieve this, he stressed the needs of 1) Linkage of humanitarian relief and development phase during methodology and documentation of practices for Governance sector assessments, 2) Establishment of predefined roles as per comparative advantages including risk mitigation needs and strengthening capacities, and 3) Ownership among stakeholders with data collection, assessing indicators and monitoring. He added key challenges, such as local government and community participation, Disaster Risk Reduction as part of Recovery Plans and Information sharing with large number of stakeholders.

Introducing the experience of livelihood recovery programme in Sri Lanka, Ms. Claudia Coenjaerts, Senior Socio Economic Reintegration Specialist, International Labor Organization (ILO) explained “Jobs for recovery,” which can be the cement for better preparedness and disaster risk reduction. The programme consists of 3 phased approaches: 1) Safety nets: Preparedness for continuity of work and livelihoods after disasters, 2) Temporary job creation: Use of Cash Transfer and similar financial instruments to revive work, especially of women early on, and 3) Local Economic Recovery: Ways of investing in local labour markets - construction, housing, etc. - for recovery. To ensure sustainable response & recovery, she emphasized the great importance to build local as well as national capacity consistently and to facilitate coordinated and sustainable approach to livelihood and employment.

Dr. Anil K. Sinha, Programme Advisor, International Recovery Platform (IRP) gave the

participants a profile of IRP as an institutional mechanism to address recovery in pursuance of HFA. He underscored the need to ensure that disaster risks should not be rebuilt in the process of recovery and to ensure better and effective coordination among large number of actors/players in a post disaster situation. To achieve these, following challenges should be confronted; 1) recognition of the various dilemmas (speed v/s safety) and striking a balance, 2) recognition of various actors crucial for post disaster recovery and building a linkage between them for overall better synergy, and 3) Ensuring consortium from emergency and relief phase to recovery phase towards DRR for sustainable development.

March 17 (Fri.)

08:30-10:15 Presentation & Discussion 3 “For Safer Communities”

Themes: (1) Capacity development for DRR at all levels

(2) Building of a People-based Culture of Prevention

Chair: Dr. Jemilah Mahmood, President, MERCY Malaysia

Rapporteur: Ms. Takhmina R. Turaeva, Advocacy Focal Point, UN/ISDR

Chair, Dr. Jemilah Mahmood greeted all the participants of the conference and introduced the topic and the aim of the discussion along with the presenters. Dr. Mahmood underlined the significance of the role of community participation and capacity development in realization of the priorities for action of Hyogo Framework for Action. She indicated that capacity development and community participation are cross cutting issues in promoting the five priorities for action of HFA (specific focus of priority three and five).

Dr. Puji Pujiono’s presentation theme “Preparedness and Response for Safer Communities: From TDRM, HFA and HR” concentrated on the OCHA’s interest, mandate and role in TDRM approach, focusing on the importance of adopting the TDRM throughout the disaster cycle as well as its relevance for local communities. Also, Dr. Pujiono emphasized the vitality of effective coordination, stating that “International assistance could become a disaster in itself if not coordinated properly”. Lastly, the presentation focused on the effective response and preparedness issues (priority area #5 of HFA), mentioning the role and function of UNDAC missions to other countries.

Second speaker, Dr. Shoichi Ando presented “UNCRD Programs on Community Based Disaster Management” in this session. Dr. Ando highlighted major disasters occurred since 1970 worldwide and the damages they caused in numbers of deaths. He described UNCRD’s major tasks and aims, which directed into enhancing the capacity of local people and governments with various partners for making communities safer, underlining the fact that some groups of population are even more vulnerable to disasters than others. Furthermore, Dr. Ando explained the concept and importance of global Earthquake Safety Initiative (GESI) project with 41 cities worldwide as well as provided information on the UNCRD’s new planned programs for the year 2005-2006, part of which is “Anti-seismic Building Code Dissemination (ABCD)” project and its challenges.



Fig.2-1-1-2-11 Presentation & Discussion 3 “For Safer Communities”

Next presentation was by Mr. Akihiro Teranishi from ADRC on “Education for Disaster Preparedness in Primary Schools” project in Thailand and its main activities, which included development of tsunami education materials for schoolchildren, thus, integrating disaster education in school curriculum as well as creating a teachers’ guide for building teachers

capacity. Mr. Teranishi acknowledged the fact that “knowing is not enough”, but being able to effectively educate, i.e. methodologies and interactive methods of teaching are crucially important. He pointed out that one of the most important features of the project, the applicability of the information materials for other countries; however translation, replacement of pictures and photos would be needed.

Finally, Dr. Amod Dixit delivered a “NSET for Earthquake safer communities” presentation. It is aimed at capacity building for disaster risk reduction at all levels and building of people-based culture of prevention. Therefore, Dr. Dixit indicated “training programs for all” as a major concept for capacity building, i.e. educating children and training teachers, technicians and self-builders (masons) as well as policy/decision makers therefore, building a culture of prevention. In addition, Dr. Dixit emphasized the challenges of the project, underlying the fact that “knowledge is not adequately available to the vulnerable” and that “larger part of the population are usually not involved in disaster risk management”. He also pointed out that created awareness brings demand increase for capacity building and for specialized NGO’s in DRM.

After the last speaker, Dr. Mahmood summarized all the mentioned above concerns and challenges in implementing projects towards realization of HFA priority actions #3 and #5. She pointed out the importance of education in schools stating: “Educate children and they will educate families”. Then, the chair opened the floor for questions, comments and recommendations. In general terms, the following are the major points discussed:

- Procedures to follow for inviting UNDAC mission to a country for assessment of emergency preparedness, etc.;
- Contingency Planning of UNOCHA: Safer Communities vs. Early Warning Systems;
- Anti-Seismic Safe Building Codes provision and dissemination;
- Posting Tsunami Teachers Guideline on the Internet;
- Enhancing the role of Mass and Media: engaging media more diligently in disaster risk reduction.

10:45-11:45 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.

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.

2-1-1-3. 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.

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.



Fig.2-1-1-3-1 Participants of the ACDR 2006

2-1-2. The 8th ADRC Steering Committee

On the occasion of the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2006, the 8th ADRC Steering Committee was held as follows.

- (1) Date: March 15 (Wed.) 9:00-9:30
- (2) Participants: 60 (government officials from 23 member countries & 2 advisor countries of ADRC)
- (3) Venue: Lotte Hotel Seoul, Seoul, Republic of Korea
- (4) Outline:
 - The Chair of the ADRC Steering Committee, Mr. Satoru Nishikawa, Director for Disaster Preparedness of the Cabinet Office of Japan announced that Pakistan newly joined ADRC and expressed his deep sorrow at the disaster caused by the South Asia Earthquake last October.
 - The financial report for fiscal year 2004 and the budget plan for fiscal years 2005 and 2006 were approved. The Chair also entrusted the Chairman to administrate the operation of the ADRC in the fiscal years of 2005 and 2006, considering the balance of incomes and expenditures.
 - Mr. Masayuki Kitamoto, Executive Director of ADRC, explained the guidelines and the way of application both of the “ADRC Cooperative Projects” and “Visiting Researcher Program.”
 - Executive Director of ADRC expressed his deep gratitude to the Government of Republic of Korea for hosting ACDR 2006 and member & adviser countries also applauded with thanks
 - Mr. Nurakhmet Bizhanov, Representative from Kazakhstan, announced that Kazakhstan was considering inviting the next ASIAN CONFERENCE ON DISASTER REDUCTION (ACDR 2007). The Chair requested approval of the participants and declared that the proposal of Kazakhstan was approved with applause.

2-1-3. International Seminar on Post-Disaster Recovery

The International Recovery Platform (IRP) held the three-day “International Seminar on Post-Disaster Recovery” in Kobe, Japan, from May 11 to 13, 2005 co-organized with the Cabinet Office of Japan, United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN/OCHA), International Labor Organization (ILO), World Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Executive Committee for the International Seminar on Post-Disaster Recovery (Hyogo Prefecture and ADRC). The Seminar was a success, attracting a total attendance of more than 300 individuals including about 80 from 15 countries overseas and international organizations.

Refer to 6-3-1 for further details.

2-1-4. 2nd Public Symposium on Post Disaster Recovery

The IRP Secretariat and the ADRC co-hosted the “Second International Seminar on Post-Disaster Recovery-Lessons on recovery learned from recent major disasters” at the International Conference Center (Chuo-ku, Kobe, Japan) on January 19, 2006, co-organized with the UNDP, UN/ISDR, UN/OCHA Kobe, Cabinet Office, and Hyogo Prefectural Government. The Seminar had a total attendance of 182 individuals engaged in disaster management or interested in post-disaster recovery from Japan and 20 countries. The Seminar Program included a keynote speech, a video presentation (recorded message), progress and activity reports on recovery programs, and a panel discussion.

Refer to 6-3-2 for further details.