

2. Information Sharing

2-1. International Conferences

2-1-1. 3rd Public Symposium on Progress towards Hyogo Framework for Action

The 3rd Public Symposium on Post-Disaster Recovery “Progress towards Hyogo Framework for Action” was held on June 30, 2006 in Kobe, Japan in commemoration of the first anniversary of the IRP. Co organized by the IRP Secretariat, ADRC, Cabinet Office of Japan, Hyogo Prefectural Government, UNDP, UN/ISDR and UN/OCHA Kobe, the event attracted 170 participants from 10 countries interested in the field of disaster reduction and recovery.

Refer to 6-3-1. for further details.



Fig.2-1-1 Scenery of the Conference

2-1-2. Public Forum “Winning Against Disasters”

Commemorating the International Day for Disaster Reduction (11 October 2006), A public forum entitled “Winning Against Disasters: Roles of Education, Development and Community Action for Sustainable Development” was held at UNU in Tokyo on 19 October 2006. Conducted in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the Hyogo Prefectural Government, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), NHK, the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO, the Asia Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU), and the International Recovery Platform (IRP) Kobe, the forum attracted more than 170 participants.



Fig.2-1-2 Scenery of the Conference

The objectives of the forum were to address ways to enhance public understanding of the need to strengthen disaster reduction capacity in Japan and around the world, and to further promote international cooperation on disaster reduction. In 2005, 168 governments adopted the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015) which sets the goals and priority actions that need to be taken. All available resources must be mobilized if we are to successfully implement this framework and create a world in which natural hazards can be managed in such a way that they do not become disasters. The forum discussed and explored the roles of education, infrastructure development, and community action in achieving this.

The forum started with presentations by Mr. Hans van Ginkel, Rector of UNU, Mr. Saidur Rahman, Director of the Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre (BDPC), and Ms. Maryvonne Plessis-Fraissard, Director for Transport and Urban Development, World Bank.

A panel discussion was then held among six experts, including Mr. Itaru Yasui, Vice-Rector of UNU, Mr. Koji Suzuki, Executive Director of the ADRC, Ms. Tomoko Shibao, Director of the Education Division at ACCU, and Ms. Charmine Koda, Director of the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC). At the end of the discussion, the moderator, Mr. Satoru Nishikawa, Director for Disaster Preparedness, Public Relations & International Cooperation, Cabinet Office of Japan, pointed out the importance of pursuing disaster risk reduction education in schools and strengthening school buildings themselves in achieving safe communities and implementing effective disaster risk management.

2-1-3. International Forum on Tsunami and Earthquake

The International Forum on Tsunami and Earthquake - progress of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and Recovery from Tsunami and Earthquake, took place in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, on January 15-16, 2007. The Forum was hosted by the International Recovery Platform (IRP) Secretariat, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), the Government of Japan, and Hyogo Prefecture in partnership with the Governments of Switzerland and Italy, UN/ISDR, UNDP, UN/OCHA, ILO, the World Bank, IFRC and UN-HABITAT. The forum was attended by about 300 participants from 34 countries and 20 international organizations, and was comprised of dignitaries, national and local officials, experts on disaster reduction and recovery, and other stakeholders.

Refer to 6-3-2. for further details



Fig.2-1-3 Scenery of the Conference