

6. International Recovery Platform

As a pioneering member of the International Recovery Platform (IRP), ADRC supports IRP activities, including co-hosting the IRP Secretariat in Kobe, Japan.

6.1. Overview

IRP was established following the Second UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan in 2005 to support the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) by addressing the gaps and constraints experienced in the context of post-disaster recovery. After a decade of functioning as an international source of knowledge on good recovery practice, IRP refocused its role as an "international mechanism for sharing experience and lessons associated with build-back-better".

IRP is not an operational body. So, it does not directly implement project activities. Instead, it functions as a platform for interested partners to periodically meet to exchange lessons and ideas that will promote recovery best practice and learnings as well as capacity building. Its activities are governed by a Steering Committee and supported by a small Secretariat based in Kobe Japan and hosted by the Japanese Government, the Hyogo Prefectural Government, ADRC, and UNDRR.

IRP works towards supporting greater advancements in the field of resilient recovery and build-back-better by:

- bringing together a broad range of senior policy makers and practitioners to exchange experiences and facilitate discussion on resilient recovery challenges and build-back-better opportunities at the annual International Recovery Forum
- advocating for closer cooperation with development partners, regional intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, and regional platforms for disaster risk reduction in promoting and building capacity for achieving effective build-back-better outcomes
- sharing of information through its inter-active website

IRP is governed by the Steering Committee, where membership is decided by consensus. Steering Committee members contribute towards the approved activities of IRP, by means of commitment of funds or in-kind contributions. The Steering Committee members can request the Chair for technical experts or specialist to attend meetings on an ad-hoc basis to provide specialist inputs as and when deemed necessary. The members of IRP Steering Committee are: ADB, ADRC, Cabinet Office Japan, CEPREDENAC, Hyogo Prefectural Government Japan, ILO, MOFA-Italy, SDC-Switzerland, the World Bank, UN-

Environment, UNCRD, UNDP, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UNDRR, UNOPS, and WHO (Figure 6.1. Logos of IRP SC members)



Figure 6.1. Logos of IRP SC Members

6.2. Activities

In 2020 and early 2021, IRP/ADRC implemented a range of activities to advance its goals in the fields of resilient recovery and build-back-better.

6.2.1. International Recovery Forum 2021

Annually, in January, IRP organizes the International Recovery Forum (Forum) to exchange experiences and facilitate discussion on challenges to resilient recovery, and opportunities for building back better. The online Forum was held in a hybrid modality on 22 January 2021, on the theme, “Building Back Better from Compound Disasters: Practical Cases and Lessons for Recovery from Natural Hazards and COVID-19”. Attended by 340 participants from 49 countries, the Forum featured keynote presentations and panel discussions on early lessons learned in recovery, and opportunities to build back better, greener, more equitable and resilient from COVID-19 and compound disasters.

As a global health crisis, COVID-19 has undoubtedly impacted many aspects of society and the economy. The unprecedented socioeconomic impacts that it has caused have undermined development progress and threatened the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Simultaneously, countries are confronted by the challenges of managing compound risks from the COVID-19 pandemic and natural hazards. In view of this, the Forum organized two panel discussions that aim to achieve two objectives:

The first objective is to examine priorities and opportunities to build back better, greener, and more resilient from COVID-19 and compound disasters. Panelists discussed strategies for building back better, greener, and more resilient from the COVID-19 pandemic and natural hazards. Discussions included consideration for institutional, financial, and implementation support for launching a green and resilient recovery while balancing immediate recovery