

6. International Recovery Platform

ADRC is among the founding members of the International Recovery Platform (IRP), and continues to support IRP's work, including co-hosting the IRP Secretariat with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the Hyogo Prefectural Government (Annex 2: Overview of IRP).

6.1 International Recovery Forum 2024

The International Recovery Forum 2024 concluded successfully in Kobe, Japan, on 25 January 2024, marking a big step forward in global efforts towards resilient recovery from disasters. Hosted by the International Recovery Platform (IRP), this Forum, themed "Accelerating Progress with Building Back Better: Resilient Recovery in the Face of Rising Climate Risks," brought together nearly 350 participants on-site and online from 70 countries, including national and local government officials, disaster risk reduction practitioners, and experts to foster dialogue on practical, scalable solutions to the challenges countries have faced with post-disaster recovery and building back better. The Forum featured pre-events on the 24 January, including a side-event, "Empowering Community-Based Disaster Management", and a workshop for all participants and speakers on "Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning".



Figure 6.1 Chair IRP Steering Committee Mr Ronald Jackson, UNDP (left) with the panellists

During the Forum, delegates addressed numerous recovery challenges. They highlighted the critical role of capacity building and the exchange of recovery knowledge and good practices. The discussions also focused on supporting nations in preparing for and improving recovery processes, highlighting the need to empower countries and communities with the necessary knowledge, capacities, and strategies to rebuild stronger, faster, and more inclusively before disasters strike. Furthermore, the commitment to inclusive recovery planning was a prominent theme, stressing that recovery programs must be tailored to the specific needs and goals of impacted communities and involve them directly in the planning process. This ensures that resilience strategies are co-created with those most affected, promoting sustainable development and resilience against future events while ensuring that no one is left behind.

The International Recovery Forum 2024 featured 33 speakers representing 17 countries. Speakers in the pre-event day included Mr. Sanjaya BHATIA, Head, UNDRR Global Education and Training Institute (GETI), Ms. KANBARA Sakiko, Professor of Kobe City College of Nursing, Mr. Gerald Potutan, Senior Researcher,

Asian Disaster Reduction Center, and Mr. Ryoma KAYANO, Technical Officer, World Health Organization Center for Health Development (WKC).

The opening session included Mr. HATTORI Yohei, Vice Governor on behalf of Mr. SAITO Motohiko, Governor of Hyogo Prefecture, Ms. OHASHI Makiko, Director on behalf of Mr. UEMURA Noboru, Deputy Director General for Disaster Management, Cabinet Office of Japan, Mr. Ronald JACKSON, Chair of the IRP Steering Committee (UNDP), and Mr. Sujit MOHANTY, Chief of Branch, Intergovernmental Processes, Interagency Coordination and Partnerships (UNDRR). Mr. Paul ROSENBERG, UNDRR Kobe Office, gave a presentation on the Challenges and Ways Forward Addressing Priority 4 to set the context for the discussions in the subsequent sessions.

The first panel session, “Understanding the Barriers in Resilient Recovery” delved into the experiences of diverse countries, to understand the key challenges they have experienced with recovery since the adoption of the Sendai Framework. The discussions sought to identify high-impact, modifiable challenges that should be prioritized and addressed in order to improve recovery outcomes for impacted communities. The session was moderated by Ms. Simonetta SILIGATO, Senior Advisor, Office of the Regional Director, Bangkok (UNOPS). Speakers included Mr. Osama Ibrahim MUHAMMED, Chief Engineer, Ministry of Environment, Iraq; Mr. Charles KALEMBA, Commissioner, Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), Malawi; Mr. Dave GAWN, Chief Executive, National Emergency Management Agency, New Zealand; Mr. Robert ERNESTA, Director General, Disaster Management Division, the Seychelles; and Ms. Zorana ZEC, International Relations Officer, Sector for Emergency Management of the Ministry of the Interior, Serbia.

The second panel session, “Opportunities to Build Back Better through Recovery Preparedness” discussed good practices and evidence of what works with



Figure 6.2 Panellists of the first session

recovery preparedness. The session sought to learn from countries’ experience, and how it informed preparedness for recovery from future events. The session was moderated by Mr. Sujit MOHANTY. Panel 2 speakers included, Ms. Michelle FORBES, Director, National Emergency Management Organization, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Ms. Melissa PEXTON, Deputy Commissioner, Strategy and Emergency Management Command at Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Western Australia; Mr. Mafua-’i-Vai’utukakau MAKU, Director, National Disaster Risk Management Office, Tonga, Ms. Vasiti SOKO, Director, National Emergency Management Office, Fiji; and Mr. Daniel OBOT, Director, Disaster Risk Reduction, National Emergency Management Agency, Nigeria.

The 2024 IRP Forum featured three parallel sessions on key topics. The first parallel session, “Japan’s Experience and Contributions to Building Back Better from the Past and the Future” was moderated by Mr.

Kazushige ENDO. Speakers included Mr. ONO Yuichi, Professor, Tohoku University; Mr. NISHIKAWA Satoru, JICA Senior Coordinator; Ms. Momoko NISHIKAWA, Programme Management Officer, Intergovernmental Processes, Interagency Coordination and Partnerships, UNDRR; Mr. MURATA Masahiko, Professor, Kansai International University; and Mr. SHAW Rajib, Professor, Keio University. The second parallel session, “Capacity and Bespoke Needs of Countries for Uptake of



Figure 6.3 Panellists of the second session

Recovery Preparedness Measures”, was moderated by Ms. Keiko SAITO, World Bank. Speakers included Mr. Charles KALEMBA, Mr. Osama Ibrahim MUHAMMED, Mr. Dave GAWN, and Mr. Mustapha Habib AHMED, Director General, National Emergency Management Agency, Nigeria. The third parallel session, “Innovative Options to Finance Resilient Recovery” was moderated by Mr. Steven GOLDFINCH, Asian Development Bank. It included speakers Mr. Andrew MINACK, First Assistant Coordinator-General, Programs and Policy Division National Emergency Management Agency, Australia, Mr. Mafua-’i-Vai’utukakau MAKA, Ms. Zorana ZEC, and Ms. Motlalepula PITSO, Director, Disaster Preparedness and Response Coordination, South Africa. The third panel session, “Accelerating Progress with Recovery Practice in Small Island Developing States” sought to understand the unique challenges for SIDS with resilient recovery and building back better, as well as good practices and “what works” with building back better in the SIDS context. The session was chaired by Mr. Ronald JACKSON. The panel included Mr. Robert ERNESTA, Mr. Mafua-’i-Vai’utukakau MAKA, Ms. Michelle FORBES, and Ms. Vasiti SOKO.

The fourth panel session, “Practical Strategies for Scaling up Global Progress with Priority 4”, brought together the day’s proceedings for a deeper discussion on how to scale up identified opportunities, and how to address common challenges. The session was chaired by Mr. Abhilash PANDA, Deputy Chief, Intergovernmental Processes, Interagency Coordination, and Partnerships, UNDRR. Speakers included Ms. Vasiti SOKO, Ms. OHASHI Makiko, Mr. Mustapha Habib AHMED, and Mr. Andrew MINACK. The session also brought the chairs of the parallel sessions into the discussions as well as the IRP Steering Committee members for their views.

Finally, the speakers at the closing session were Mr. Abhilash PANDA, and Ms. OHASHI Makiko, who spoke on behalf of Mr. MURAKAMI Takeo, IRP Co-chair and Director, Cabinet Office of Japan.

6.2 Contributions to the G20 Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction

The Secretariat of the G20 Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction requested the International Recovery Platform to develop two knowledge products as inputs to the three G20 DRR working group meetings held in 2023.

The IRP Secretariat, in collaboration with IRP Steering Committee members, produced “Good Practices in Financing Recovery and Building Back Better”. This recovery brief provides recovery practitioners with lessons and good practices on financing post-disaster recovery, recovery preparedness and building back better. Detailed through 31 case studies from 18 countries, the brief addresses key elements that are critical for recovery financing. It aims to inspire countries to address recovery finance challenges through examples of good practice and the application of lessons learned throughout the financing process.

Additionally, for the third meeting of the G20 WG on DRR, IRP Secretariat supported the development of “Building Back Better - Practice review and knowledge-building for frontier Issues”, a knowledge product led by IRP Steering Committee members Asian Development Bank, United Nations Development Programme, and UNDRR. This document provides a detailed review of the current state of knowledge and frontier issues related to building back better in recovery. The key objectives of this paper are to reflect the breadth and depth of how BBB has come to be understood and made actionable during disaster recovery, and to crystalize and illustrate, drawing on specific case studies, both learnings and outstanding quandaries that warrant concerted attention going forward.



6.3 Knowledge Management

IRP continues its efforts to maintain the largest online database of recovery resources on the internet.

In 2023, the IRP Secretariat expanded the online library to more than 1,841 recovery-related publications, tools, and guidelines, curated to support research and learning. The resources are shared with Prevention Web to facilitate wider access and use. The IRP Secretariat added to the library 29 post-disaster needs assessments, 33 PDNA guidance documents, and 41 disaster recovery frameworks, along with 9 specific DRF guidance materials. The IRP Secretariat expanded its library of specialized recovery collections, which aggregate all available resources on notable recovery experiences. Within this library, the Secretariat developed a dedicated collection focused on the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

6.4 8th National Convention for the Promotion of Disaster Reduction

IRP participated in the 8th National Convention for the Promotion of Disaster Reduction (Bosai Kokutai 2023). The Bosai Kokutai 2023 was held in Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture, and was organized by the Executive Committee for the National Conference on Disaster Prevention 2023, and led by the Cabinet Office of Japan in cooperation with Kanagawa Prefecture, Yokohama City, Yokohama National University. This event has been held since FY2016 and is now in its eighth year. The purpose of this event is to raise awareness of disaster prevention and to share knowledge and experiences about disasters in order to enhance disaster preparedness. It serves as an opportunity to raise awareness of disaster prevention at the individual and community levels. At the conference, IRP showcased its activities to promote building back better through an exhibition booth, engaging the international community. The booth featured a display of IRP's recovery

guidance notes and leaflets that outline its initiatives. Additionally, IRP distributed the IRP Herald, various knowledge products, and emergency whistles promoting the IRP website.

6.5 2024 Sendai Symposium for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Future

IRP participated in 2024 Sendai Symposium for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Future (Sendai Bosai Mirai Forum 2024). The Sendai Bosai Mirai Forum 2024 was held in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture, organized by the City of Sendai. This event provides a platform for citizens to engage in learning about disaster prevention and to share their initiatives. It aims to ensure that the lessons learned and experiences from the Great East Japan Earthquake are preserved and passed on to future generations.

The IRP Secretariat hosted an exhibition booth to showcase its initiatives and advance the concept of building back better. The booth featured an array of materials including recovery guidance notes, informational leaflets detailing IRP's activities, copies of the IRP Herald, and various knowledge products. Additionally, emergency whistles with an IRP QR code were distributed to promote engagement and awareness.



Figure 6.4 IRP Booth at the Bosai Mirai Forum 2024