
responsible for convening IRP Steering Committee meetings and disseminating information on IRP activities and knowledge products.

* IRP members: Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), Cabinet Office of Japan, Centro de Coordinación para la Prevención de los Desastres Naturales en América Central (CEPREDENAC), Hyogo Prefectural Government, International Labour Organization (ILO), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy, Swiss Agency for Development and Coordination (SDC), the World Bank, United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), World Health Organization (WHO).

6-3. IRP Activities in FY 2018

6-3-1. International Recovery Forum 2019

Introduction

The International Recovery Forum 2019 focused on approaches to realize the benefits of building back better in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction, and to ensure that everyone is included, so that no one is left behind. Building back better has been embraced by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 as one of four key priorities for action. Building back better offers a critical opportunity to realize potentially wide-ranging benefits in recovery, including reduction of future losses, improvements in standards, practices, and technologies, stimulus for economic activity, and progress in other dimensions of development, to name a few. Yet, critical questions remain for decision makers, including how these benefits can be realized, how resources should be allocated, who should benefit, and how to ensure no one is left behind.

The International Recovery Forum 2019, “**Attaining the Build Back Better Dividend**”, convened distinguished speakers from governments, the private sector, academia, and international and civil society organizations to share their insights and experiences and to deliberate on these key questions. **Mr. Josef Leitmann**, Chair of the IRP Steering Committee and Lead DRM Specialist at the World Bank, opened the Forum, followed by welcome remarks from **Mr. Taku Kodaira**, Deputy Director-General for Disaster Management in the Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan, and **Mr. Kazuo Kanazawa**, Vice Governor of Hyogo Prefecture. The speakers affirmed the significance of hosting this Forum in the context of the 24th memorial of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, as an opportunity to build on the wealth of knowledge and experience that has accumulated in the time since this earthquake, and this

community's efforts to build back better. The Government of Japan's efforts to build back better, particularly through a recent series of disasters, have been informed in part by learning from Kobe's recovery experience. It was further noted that the Forum is a part of a larger global discussion on building back better that continues through the forthcoming World Reconstruction Conference 4 and Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, both to take in May of this year, in Geneva, Switzerland.

Themes and Format of the Forum

The Forum was designed to address the conference objectives through the following themes:

- Strategies to Realize the Build Back Better Dividend:
- Ensuring an Inclusive Dividend in Recovery

The main substantive sessions opened with a **keynote session** featuring two presentations. **Ms. Rita Missal**, Policy Specialist with UNDP, contextualized the discussions ahead with global disaster data and trends, detailing the growing impact of disasters around the world, and the challenges for recovery presented by persistent exclusion and inequalities. **Mr. Haruo Hayashi**, President of the National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience, set the stage for the Forum with a **keynote presentation**, presenting a framework for building back better developed for the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and the evidence of its results. Based on lessons learned from a multitude of disasters that have struck Japan, the plan was the first in Japan to frame recovery in terms of three goals: physical recovery, economic recovery, and life recovery. It has become clear that these three goals are interdependent, and further rely on local empowerment and revitalization of communities and economies.

The first theme was addressed through a panel discussion moderated by **Mr. Leitmann**. The session included an opening presentation from **Mr. Leitmann** on the benefits of building back stronger, faster, and more inclusively. Panelists included Ms. Sandra Nedeljkovic, Deputy Director of the Public Investment Management Office for the Government of Serbia; **Mr. Miki Yoshida**, Deputy General Manager of Urban Solutions Development, Social Innovation Business Division at Hitachi, Ltd; **Ms. Setsuko Saya**, Director of the International Cooperation Division, Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan; **Mr. Shankar Gopalan Nair**, Chief Executive Officer of Habitat Technology, India; and **Mr. Nobuyuki Kurita**, Chairperson of Japan Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster.

The panel tapped into the collective wisdom and experiences of leaders from national governments, the private sector, and civil society. It delved into the ways in which countries and communities have learned from recovery experiences to develop new policy and institutional solutions, technological and social innovations, and culturally appropriate approaches to maximize the benefits of building back better.

The second theme was taken up by a **panel discussion** moderated by **Mr. Arghya Sinha Roy**, Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist at the Asian Development Bank. The panel was composed of **Mr. Gombojav Ariunbuyan**, First Deputy Chief of the National Emergency Management Agency for the Government of Mongolia; **Ms. Sandra Schilen**, Executive

Director of the Huairou Commission; **Mr. Suprayoga Hadi**, Primary Planner in the National Development Planning Ministry of the Government of Indonesia; **Mr. Shigeo Tatsuki**, Professor at Doshisha University; and **Ms. Kumiko Fujiwara**, Executive Director and Peer Counselor with Kobe Be Suketto.

The panel discussed the importance of inclusion to leave no one behind, and as a key enabler of a resilient recovery for everyone. Reflecting on recent experiences and research, the panel agreed that inclusion must start long before disasters occur, as institutionalizing inclusive processes and policies takes time to develop and take root. The panel argued for people-centered, and seamless approaches, so that people do not fall through the cracks created sectoral silos.

Although inclusion and build back better strategies were addressed in separate panels, it was clear throughout the Forum that inclusion is an essential part of any strategy to build back better in order to achieve the best outcomes for recovering communities. The discussions touched on a broad range of experiences and lessons, from which five key themes emerged.

Five key themes to Attain the build back better dividend

Build Forward Better. The notion of “building forward better”, which was championed in the IRP Forum last year, proposes that countries and communities should implement build back better measures now, and not wait for disasters to strike. This year’s Forum panelists affirmed that notion from the perspective of inclusion. Building forward better for inclusive recovery means addressing exclusion, preexisting inequities, and underlying vulnerabilities before disaster strikes. Research presented at the Forum indicated that pre-disaster disadvantages affect how people recover from the disasters, the time it takes to recover, and may also magnify these vulnerabilities. Addressing underlying vulnerabilities and social disadvantages during normal times is a form of pre-disaster mitigation, boosts resilience, and improves recovery outcomes.

Continuity planning is essential for both business and public services. One of the lessons gleaned from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake experience was the disruption to local businesses not only slowed the economic and life stages of recovery, but also in the longer term, many of these business and industries never recovered. This experience and those since have prompted the Government of Japan to enact policies that require businesses to conduct business continuity planning. The Forum also shared an example of innovative continuity measures in a pilot smart city, where energy systems are designed to route stored energy to keep businesses and critical public functions running in the case of a disaster. It was also noted that social service continuity planning is also absolutely essential. In the absence of social service continuity plans, those who are supported by social services and care providers can fall through the cracks between systems, slowing their life recovery or worse.

Prepare for inclusive recovery. Forum panelists urged that inclusion must start long before disaster strikes. Building back better inclusively depends on institutionalizing inclusion – developing mechanisms, systems, financing and other institutional infrastructure that engenders inclusion. It depends on building relationships, developing stakeholder capacities, buy-in, and trust with communities, civil society, and other stakeholders. It also takes time. It was noted that

efforts to build inclusive processes in Indonesia have been ongoing for more than 15 years.

Engender Cooperation and Coordination. When disasters strike, local and national governments, civil society, the international community and more mobilize to support response and recovery. Experience indicates that with a multitude of organizations seeking to support impacted communities to recover and build back better, cooperation and coordination are essential, but in the chaos of a post-disaster environment, it is a much more challenging feat. There must also be mechanisms to share information about needs, activities, financing, and more. In the absence of such mechanisms and the capacities to cooperate, coordination between national governments and local governments may be ad hoc, and efforts by non-governmental actors can be fragmented and inefficient, undermining efforts to build back better.

Build back better through people-centered, inclusive recovery. People-centered approaches to disaster recovery adopt the needs and perspectives of those who have been impacted by disasters. Panelists and participants both underscored the need for culturally-appropriate recovery policies and solutions. Engaging all stakeholders in recovery planning and decision-making enables the development of acceptable solutions for impacted communities that meets standards for disaster resilience. Panelists noted that building back better requires recovery to be seamless. They emphasized that people do not live their lives in the policy silos societies create – their gender, poverty, disabilities and capabilities are interrelated and intersect. Moreover, panelists discussed a recent case from Japan, in which disconnected social services and disaster systems created gaps in planning and service delivery when disaster struck. Recovery that focuses on people can meet people’s needs by not defining them by their individual identifying characteristics.

Closing

In the closing session, **Ms. Shoko Arakaki**, Chief of Branch for Partnerships, Inter-governmental process and Inter-agency Cooperation at UNDRR, reflected on the rich discussions of the day with several key points. She encouraged the participants to breakdown silos, wherever they occur, including data silos to ensure that no one is invisible. She encouraged attendees to reach out to the unconvinced and those who disagree in order to truly develop a whole-of-society approach to inclusion. **Ms. Setsuko Saya**, co-Chair of the IRP Steering Committee, closed the Forum, thanking the 168 participants for their active participation and support for the Forum.



Fig. 6-3-1 International Recovery Forum 2019

6-3-2. IRP/ADRC Engagement at the at the 2018 AMCDRR

At the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR), 3-6 July 2018 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, IRP/ADRC organized and supported a series of events to highlight recent developments on “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.

Side Event: Recovery as an Opportunity to Prevent Risk

IRP/ADRC organized a side event at the AMCDRR to showcase recovery initiatives, pre- and post-event, that contribute to preventing risk and sustaining development.

Panelists discussed the ways in which recovery contributes to resilience through “build back better” efforts, while giving due consideration to specific contexts, and recognizing unique features of different locations in terms of vulnerabilities and risk factors. Mr. Shinichi Takahashi, Vice Mayor Sendai City, opened the event, describing three recovery initiatives to strengthen resilience following the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011. The IRP Secretariat reported on the outcomes of the International Recovery Forum 2018, which focused on Building Back Better in Urban Resilience.

The interactive panel members included Ms. Myat Moe Thwe, Director, Department of Disaster Management, Government of Myanmar; Mr. Arghya Sinha Roy, DRM Specialist Asian Development Bank; and Mr. Mahesh Pradhan, Programme Officer UN Environment. Ms. Thwe reflected on recovery efforts from Cyclone Nargis, and the opportunities they presented to strengthen community resilience in housing, infrastructure, and livelihoods. Mr. Roy explained that post-disaster assistance for recovery can create opportunities to strengthen resilience but success is dependent on longer-term commitment; robust, flexible approaches for reconstruction; good governance arrangements; adequate and timely availability of financing; and facilitating knowledge and strengthening partnerships.

Mr. Pradhan reported that effective Disaster Waste Management during the recovery process

can enhance resilience by integrating disaster contingency planning in national and city-level waste management strategies; improving routines for sorting, collecting, and storing disaster waste; reducing the impact of waste on the environment during recovery; and utilizing engineered landfills. Ms. Setsuko Saya, Director, Cabinet Office Japan and co-Chair of IRP Steering Committee, moderated the event. Reflecting upon the proceedings,

Ms. Saya underscored the importance of strengthening resilience by preparing to build back better pre-disaster. Ms. Saya urged participants to take preparations to build back better one step further, and “build forward better”, underscoring one of the recommendations of the 2018 IRP Forum, as vulnerabilities should be addressed today.



Fig. 6-3-2 Side Event

Ignite Stage: Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning: Lessons and Challenges

IRP/ADRC argued that effective recovery begins before disaster happens. Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning (PDRP) addresses common recovery issues associated with time, resources, and capacity. The presentation highlighted five lessons on PDRP, notably: recovery strategies and decisions can be made now; the planning process facilitates stronger stakeholder relationships; it helps explore modalities for financing recovery; it ensures accountability; and it promotes build back better for resilience. However, in practice, PRDP is often not conducted frequently enough; communities fail to recognize the value; often a lack of local resources or mandate to encourage participation; it is not integrated in DRR plans as most are stand-alone plans; and it requires regular conduct of drills and revision of manuals. PDRP raises awareness and appreciation of the operational value of recovery preparedness. It enables effective coordination structure and facilitates rapid, informed action in an otherwise demanding and chaotic environment following a disaster. It requires commitment, including consistent drills and updated manuals.

Market Place: IRP a Network for “Build Back Better”

The IRP booth at the Marketplace showcased IRP knowledge products, publications, and

good practices in build back better in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction. IRP distributed 300 IRP brochures, 320 USBs and CDs containing knowledge products on recovery, 20 copies of Guidance Notes on Recovery for Private Sector, and over 150 copies of IRP Herald to the more than 500 people who visited the booth. The booth exhibited posters, banners, video, newsletters, flyers, and guidance notes on recovery.

Technical Session 4: Preparedness and Build Back Better

The AMCDRR Technical Session focused on Preparedness and Build Back Better. Among the key messages shared by the panelists included the following highlighted actions to contribute to Build Back Better:

- Assess and improve: In Nepal, the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) enables the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) to understand the impacts of the earthquakes and identify what groups of people are most in need. It informs what projects need priority and improvement. In Kumamoto Prefecture, the assessment led to the adoption of “Creative Reconstruction”.
- Engage community and “leave no one behind”: The Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) engages the community in recovery. NRCS’s experience adds value to the national recovery programs through consensus on the recovery framework.
- Reduce environmental impacts: Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) highlighted that recovery is a development issue, and like development projects, recovery projects must reduce environmental impacts using tools such as Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Integrated Strategic Environmental Assessments (ISEAs).
- Enhance Capacity: One of the programs under ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) is the ASEAN Standards and Certification for Experts on Disaster Management (ASCEND) designed to ensure that recovery managers possess essential capacities to carry out respective tasks.
- Specify what is “better” recovery: The EC specified coverage, time, collaboration, and financing as qualifiers for “better” in recovery.

Special Parallel Event: Enhancing Resilience through Disaster Waste Management and Building Back Better

IRP/ADRC spoke in this special event to highlight the importance of enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to Build Back Better in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. The presentation focused on how disaster waste can be an asset to recovery and efforts to build back better, supporting its arguments with cases documented in IRP’s Guidance Note on recovery for Environment. The presentation looked at how disaster waste can often be recycled or repurposed to supply reconstruction and efforts to build back better, and reduce stress on landfills. Disaster waste can often be sold to introduce much-needed cash into recovery, and green waste can be composted. Investment in ecosystems and in resilience projects, including Building Back Better, is a major opportunity for development and climate finance.

6-3-3. Experiences of Integrating “Build Back Better” into DRR Plans

IRP/ADRC Shared In support of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign, IRP/ADRC dispatched a resource person to the “Urban Risk Reduction and Resilience: Capacity Development for Making Cities Resilient to Disasters” workshop, 17-20 April 2018 in Gujarat, India. The event was jointly organized by the National Disaster Management Authority of India (NDMA), and the Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM) in collaboration with UNDRR ONEA-GETI.

Forty-one participants, including city government officials and representatives from the NDMA, attended the four-day workshop, which aimed to guide government planners in integrating the Ten Essentials for Making Cities Resilient into their respective DRR Plans. These “Ten Essentials” can be categorized into three groups of actions.

Commit to Resilience:

Political leaders need to voluntarily commit to make the municipality resilient to disasters. Leaders who make a commitment to resilience can facilitate the following enabling essentials: (1) organize for disaster resilience; (2) identify, understand, and use current and future scenarios; and (3) strengthen financial capacity for resilience.

Improve Activities for Resilience:

Lessons from past experiences show that building resilience is a continuous process, where activities are regularly improved to adapt to recent trends and conditions. Activities under the following operational essentials need greater consideration: (4) pursue resilient urban development and design; (5) safeguard natural buffers to enhance the protective functions offered by natural ecosystems; (6) strengthen institutional capacity for resilience; (7) understand and strengthen social capacity for resilience; and (8) increase infrastructure resilience.

Prepare for Disaster:

Cities and municipalities that are resilient to disaster begin response and recovery efforts even before a disaster happens. They institute mechanisms and systems beforehand to address anticipated challenges from a disaster. Preparedness activities are highlighted in the following build back better essentials: (9) ensure effective preparedness and disaster response; and (10) expedite recovery and build back better.

IRP/ADRC shared experiences and lessons, particularly for Essential 9 (Ensure effective preparedness and disaster response) and Essential 10 (Expedite recovery and build back better), which were mostly drawn from IRP Guidance Notes on Recovery.

At the end of the workshop, participants developed suggested actions and projects to strengthen resilience for their cities and communities. For instance, to prepare for the projected increase of heat waves, many local governments suggested exploring cool-roof and passive ventilation techniques to achieve thermal comfort in residences (Essential 9). Additionally, pre-contracts for housing materials (e.g., lumber, roof, and ventilation) or pre-agreements of support among neighboring local governments can be undertaken to expedite recovery efforts (Essential 10). The suggested actions and projects will be further deliberated among

stakeholders of their respective local governments before finally integrating it into their DRR Plans.



Fig. 6-3-3 Group Photo in the conference

6-3-4. IRP/ADRC Delivered Keynote Speech at the 1st APTIK International Conference

The Association of the Indonesian Catholic Universities (APTIK), in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the Universitas Atma Jaya Yogyakarta (UAJY), invited IRP/ADRC to deliver a keynote speech about disaster recovery as an opportunity to enhance resilience and achieve the benefits of building back better. IRP/ADRC focused in particular on the ways in which recovery contributes to “Resilience in Poverty Alleviation and Environmental Mitigation”, the overarching theme of the 1st APTIK International Conference on Poverty and Environment.

Over 100 professors, lecturers, and graduate students from APTIK member universities participated in the conference. Most participants shared research findings and programs on poverty alleviation and environmental mitigation – showcasing the role of universities in providing policy and program recommendations to both the public and private sectors.

In its keynote speech, the IRP Secretariat addressed the benefits of building back better in recovery, including: preventing future losses and reducing vulnerabilities; enabling faster recovery and creating co-benefits to the environment; and minimizing adverse impacts to poor people through inclusion in the recovery process.

Secondly, it identified critical actions to build back better, including: having clear and adequate implementation arrangements; ensuring up-to-date policy on recovery; considering context-specific institutional arrangements; and putting in place predictable funds for recovery.

Finally, it offered insights on how to sustain the benefits of building back better, including: regularly amending recovery policies and regulations; regularly conducting pre-disaster mitigation; and regularly conducting drills and simulations.

The speech concluded by emphasizing the importance of preparedness to build back better

that can be carried out through pre-agreements, pre-disaster recovery planning, drills, and simulations in order to achieve resilient recovery.



Fig. 6-3-4 Conference

6-3-5. IRP/ADRC Shared Insights to Achieve Resilience of Transport Systems at the 11TH EST Forum

The Government of Mongolia, along with UNCRD and other partners, convened The Eleventh Intergovernmental Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) Forum in Asia, from 2-5 October 2018 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, to discuss the role of EST in “Sustainable Urban Design and Development”.

The Forum sought to address increasing pressure on transport systems to deliver safe and efficient movement of people and goods in the context of rapid urbanization in Asia. The discussions emphasized how cities can manage significant demand for transport and freight within the constraints of current infrastructure and development. It further addressed the ways in which cities can ensure the continuity of transport operations in the context of disasters.

The conference organizers invited IRP/ADRC to the Forum to offer insights on achieving resilient transport systems in the context of disaster risks and climate change. In its presentation, the IRP Secretariat offered national and city governments options to improve resilience of their transport systems, by sharing relevant content from its guidance notes.

The IRP Secretariat recommended maintaining a disaster loss database. Governments typically record the damages to transport infrastructure but not the losses from disasters. However, if governments maintain a disaster loss database, they can facilitate greater understanding of risk and enhance resilience. Disaster loss data give indications about resilience levels, and offer insights regarding: (i) vulnerability of key transport assets to hazards; (ii) resource requirements for reconstruction of transport assets and structures; and (iii) continuity of transport operations in case of disaster.

The IRP Secretariat recommended performing pre-disaster mitigation. Governments can strengthen critical transport infrastructure by upgrading or retrofitting these structures to reduce

vulnerability. This action requires regular assessment of the conditions of transport systems to address structural deficiencies, exposure, and vulnerability to hazards.

Finally, the IRP Secretariat recommended that governments “build back better in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction”. Governments can heed the guidance from the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction by ensuring that the reconstruction of transport infrastructure and assets conforms to national and global standards to withstand the impacts of future hazards.

Over 300 officials, from national and local governments, regional and international organizations, UN agencies, development banks, academia, research institutes, NGOs, and the private sector, participated in the Forum. The geographic representation included 25 countries in Northeast, Southeast, and South Asia and the Russian Federation.



Fig. 6-3-5 Conference

6-3-6. Disseminating IRP/ADRC Knowledge Products at the Third National Conference on Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction 2018

The Cabinet Office of Japan hosted the Third National Conference on Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction 2018 (“Bosai Kokutai”), 13-14 October in Tokyo, Japan. The purpose of the annual conference is to raise public awareness, to learn and share experiences about disaster risk reduction, and to promote self-help and mutual assistance. This year, the conference focused on the theme of, “Preparing for large - scale disasters: Strengthening a network of collaboration in a community”.

Of the estimated 12,000 participants, approximately 300 visited the IRP booth, which was jointly organized with UNDRR

Visitors to the IRP booth included national and local government officials, university professors, and private sector representatives. The IRP Secretariat shared knowledge products and information about the Platform and its work.



Fig. 6-3-6 Exhibition Booth