

## **6. International Recovery Platform (IRP): History and Current Activities**

### **6-1. The Establishment of IRP**

While the capacity of the UN system for disaster response and humanitarian assistance are widely recognized, there is currently a vacuum in terms of the UN's capacity and system-wide mechanisms for post-disaster recovery efforts, particularly those with a risk reduction focus.

Experience increasingly affirms that the post-disaster recovery phase provides a critical opportunity to shift the focus from saving lives to restoring livelihoods, and is an important time for introducing measures to reduce future disaster risk. Effective recovery can help close the gap between relief and development, and can transform disasters into opportunities for sustainable development. This occurs when efforts are made to support local and national recovery processes at an early stage, when risk reduction considerations are factored into all recovery activities, and when the synergies between development, humanitarian, and other actors involved in the response phases are properly channeled. A successful recovery effort, then, is predicated on having advance agreements and mechanisms in place so that the recovery process is effectively conceived and managed, and is initiated in a timely manner. This includes such measures as appropriate assessment methodologies, pre-established resource mobilization mechanisms, surge capacity to support UN Country Teams, and standing coordination mechanisms.

Shared concerns related to the UN approach and processes for post-disaster recovery have resulted in the formulation of a joint initiative, the International Recovery Platform (IRP), by the UN system, ADRC, and other partners, with the encouragement and support of Japan as well as other donors and key program countries. This initiative was discussed at the 2005 UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) during session 4.9 on Post Disaster Recovery. Representatives from the ADRC, UNDP, UN-HABITAT, ILO, and other concerned UN agencies expressed their respective agency commitments and support for the proposed international platform for recovery. The meeting resulted in a recommendation for the establishment of the IRP.

In four months after the WCDR, the International Seminar on Post Disaster Recovery, in support of IRP, was held at Hyogo House on 11-13 May 2005. IRP was officially established in Kobe, Japan.

### **6-2. The Governance Structure of IRP**

IRP consists of 17 governments, UN agencies, and international organizations including ADRC (as of March 31 2020).<sup>\*</sup> IRP focuses on the following three priority activities for recovery: (a) Knowledge Management and Advocacy, (b) Training and Capacity Building and (c) Enhancing Recovery Operations.

As described in IRP Strategic Framework 2015-2020, IRP Secretariat is located in Kobe and

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

\* IRP members: Asian Development Bank (ADB), 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 2019**

### **6-3-1. International Recovery Forum 2020**

#### **Introduction**

International Recovery Forum 2020 ~Building Back Better through Resilient Infrastructure~ was held on 28th January, at Hotel Okura Kobe. 172 participants from 24 countries and 23 organizations attended the forum.

The International Recovery Forum 2020 drew upon the insights and experiences of governments, private sector, and international organizations to discuss common and emerging challenges and solutions for infrastructure recovery. The Forum featured distinguished keynote speakers and two panel discussions. The first panel focused on preparedness for infrastructure recovery, and harnessing the opportunity to invest in resilient infrastructure before disaster strikes. The second panel explored past and ongoing recovery initiatives to build resilient infrastructure to withstand future disasters.

#### **Opening Remarks**

Mr. Jared MERCADANTE, Chair, IRP Steering Committee and Disaster Risk Management Specialist, Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GRDRR) at the World Bank opened the forum, followed by Welcome Remarks from Mr. KANAZAWA Kazuo, Vice Governor, Hyogo Prefectural Government and Mr. MURATE Satoshi, Assistant Vice-Minister for Disaster Management, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan.

#### **Keynote Session**

The main substantive sessions opened with a keynote session featuring two presentations.

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